

University of Ghana
Department of Sociology
Sample Spring Courses

SOCI 302 Perspectives in Social Theory

Structural Functionalism; Conflict Theory; Marxism; Neo-Marxism and Critical Theory; Symbolic Interactionism; Ethnomethodology; Exchange and Rational Choice Theories; Micro-Macro Debates; Recent Integrative Developments in Sociological Theory.

SOCI 304 Groups, Organizations and the Individual

Group dynamics from a social psychological perspective: intra-group process; the dimension of group structure; communication; role; influence and power structure; collective influence on individual behaviour; de-individuation and the spread of group effects; intra-group and inter-group conflict and its resolution; organizational behaviour; social influence processes and social exchange; environmental influence on social behaviour and the social developmental implications of social psychology.

SOCI 306 Quantitative Methods in Social Research

Populations and samples; frequency tables and graphs; measures of central tendency (mode, median, mean); describing the variability of distributions; Introduction to Inference: the normal Curve; distribution of sampling means; standard error of estimates; Inference with the Normal Curve: hypothesis testing and interval estimation; confidence interval using the normal distribution; hypothesis testing with the normal curve; Inference with the 't' Distribution: the 'ts' distribution and unbiased estimates; relationship between the normal and 't' distribution; degrees of freedom when estimating parameters; when to use the 't' distribution; confidence interval using the 't' distribution; Inference with the Chi-Square Distribution: the chi-square test for goodness of fit; the chi-square test for independence; Predictive Techniques: the regression model; criterion of best fit; calculating the slope; calculating the Y intercept; estimating the regression line; using the regression equation for prediction; Correlation: correlation as a descriptive technique; correlation as an inferential statistics.

SOCI 308 Poverty and Rural Development

Imperatives of African rural development; Development and underdevelopment in theory and comparative perspectives; Globalization and the political economy of rural poverty; Rural poverty indicators; The roles of the state in rural development; Social infrastructure and rural development; Women, children and rural poverty alleviation; The land question and rural development; NGOs and local initiatives in the rural sector; Environmental issues in rural development; A critique of selected rural development projects

SOCI 310 Culture and Development

Cultural Approach to Development; Culture, and Socio-economic development; the dynamics of global cultural industries; culture, governance and regulation; culture and city economies; culture and sustainable tourism; culture, governance and human rights; culture and health; culture education and skills for living; culture and social capital; Culture and development, the intangible aspects for development: cultural values, time, trust, property rights, Rule of law, investment codes (institutions and enabling environment).

SOCI 312 Population Studies

Introduction to Population studies; History of World population Growth and Development; Elements of Demography - Population Composition, Structure and Characteristics; Population Theory - The Malthusian Population Theory, The Demographic Transition Theory; Fertility, Reproductive Health, Family Planning and HIV/AIDS; Mortality; Migration; Population Growth and Development in Ghana; Population Policies.

SOCI 314 Sociology of Deviant Behaviour

Predisposition of individuals to deviate from social norms; the 'causal' theories include the bio-social and psychological explanations; definition; historical trends: the positivists; measurement of crime; crime statistics; psychological theories; biological theories: twins studies; somatotypes; theory of anomie; differential association; sub-cultural theories; principles of criminal law (concept of crime); white collar crime.

SOCI 316 Medical Sociology

Health as a human value; Medical Sociology: Rationale and Scope; Culture, Health and Illness; Medical pluralism and hierarchy of resort; The doctor – patient encounter; Pharmaceuticals in the Developing World; Socio-cultural aspects of women's Health; The hospital as a social system; Technology and the Sociology of health care; The socio-cultural context of nursing in Ghana; Theoretical Perspectives in Medical Sociology/Anthropology

SOCI 402 Societies and Cultures of Africa

Introduction to the people and culture of Africa; Clanship and descent among specified cultures; Stratified politics in Burundi and Rwanda; Traditional political structure among specified cultures; Traditional and modern economic structures among specified culture; Religion; Witchcraft; The Afrikania Mission; Syncretism and Charismatic in African religions.

SOCI 404 The context of Development and Underdevelopment

A study of the preconditions; facilities; impediments; and consequences of social changes and development in third world countries; The nature of attitudes of tradition and of inertia: social change and cultural lag; Interrelationship of institutional arrangements; nature and functions of religion and social values; Family and kinship networks; Science and technology; Social groups and social stratification; The nature and emergence of elites; Kinds of leadership and political institutions; Population; Urbanization and education; Aid and development: who benefits? Structural adjustment and its socio-economic and political implications; Women issues and social development; The quality of life; Indicators for the assessment and evaluation of desirable social goals; Development as ideology; The social and psychological costs and consequences of development.

SOCI 406 Industrial Sociology II

Theories of industrial relations: the systems theory; Marxist model; social action model; human relations model etc; Forces that influence the pattern of industrial relations; conflicts and conflict management; Trade Unions: Aims and objectives; Growth and development; Union and members; Unions and managers; Government and the unions; Trade unions in the developing world especially Africa; The problems they face; the differences in social characteristics; growth and roles of trade unions in the developing world and the developed world; Trade unions in Ghana: an analysis of the various industrial relations Acts e.g. those of 1958, 1965, 1971 etc.; The urban African industrial worker: a discussion of the earlier image and the later image of the urban African industrial worker; A discussion of some of the studies on him.

SOCI 408 Demographic Analysis

The definition; nature and scope of demography; Sources; Uses and limitations of population data: population census; sample surveys; vital registration; population registers; non-traditional sources (parish registers, baptismal records; administrative records); international sources; availability of population data in sub-Saharan Africa; Some basic demographic methods: The balancing equation; rates and ratios; the rate of population growth; standardization; Population composition: Analysis of sex structure; analysis of age structure; age-sex pyramid; educational characteristics; economic characteristics; ethnic characteristics; The life table: Assumption; types and functions; the conventional life table (construction; interpretation and use); Introduction to migration analysis: internal migration and moves; international migration;

SOCI 412 Contemporary Social Theories

Philosophy of Positivism and Phenomenology; Structuralism in Sociology; Structuralism: The Consensus Approach, i.e. Functionalism and Neofunctionalism; Structuralism: The Conflict Approach, i.e. Neo-Marxism: Critical Theory and Cultural Analyses of Modern Societies, the ideas of Habermas, Historically-oriented Marxism; Interpretative Tradition in Sociology: the Definition of the Situation: the Social Construction of Reality, Ethnomethodology, Symbolic Interactionism, Dramaturgical Analysis and other ideas of Erving Goffman; Exchange and Rational Choice Theories; Feminist Sociological Theory; Structuralism Sociolinguistics, Poststructuralism, the ideas of Michel Foucault, i.e. Knowledge, Truth and Power; Structure versus Agency Debates, Micro-Macro Questions and Contemporary Integrative Developments in Sociological Theory; Postmodernism and Postmodern Social Theory.

SOCI 416 Penology

Concept of Penology; Correctional Concepts; The Cultural Context of Punishment and the Treatment of Offenders; Socialization and Social Control; Computing Crime Statistics and Correctional Statistics; Correctional Populations and Correctional Staff; Theories of Deviance; Sanctions: Physical; Economic; Social and Psychological. Principles of Punishment: What Works? Jails; Detention and Community Corrections: The Prison Experience; Correction of Juvenile Offenders; Capital Punishment (The Death Penalty)

SOCI 418 Culture and Reproductive Health

Definition of basic concepts - Culture, Reproductive Health. Approaches – The Cultural Approaches; The Empowerment Approach; Development Approach; Reproductive Health Trends and Prevalence of the Components of Reproductive Health; A Focus on HIV/AIDS, Inequalities and Reproductive Health – Gender inequalities, biological differences, individual and households, societal level and Policy level inequalities. The Cultural Contexts of Reproductive Health – family and kinship, marriage, status of females, culture and sexuality, cultural practices, issues of vulnerability; Socio-Economic Issues – Poverty and unemployment Education and literacy, women's equity issues; Health care situation; Cultural and Societal Diversities in Reproductive Health; Reproductive Health Services or Programmes Policy Issues.