

BACHELOR OF ARTS (GENERAL)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Level 100

ASC 100: Introduction to Sociology

Sociology as an academic discipline and a social science; Origin and development of Sociology, branches of Sociology, its relation to other sciences, basic Concepts in Sociology; leading founding fathers of Sociology; Henri de Saint Simmon, Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Weber, Marx, and Cooley. Social processes and the relation between man and society, nature and functions of various social institutions; importance of sociological research and methods.

ASC 101: Introduction to Social Anthropology

Introduction to various branches of anthropology such as archaeology, physical and biological aspects of anthropology, linguistic, economic, ethnological and cultural anthropology, anthropological research methods, founding fathers of anthropology; Malinowski, Levi-Strauss, Taylor and Margaret Mead. Culture, cultural change, use of symbols in communication. Social structure in traditional and modern societies, traditional and modern social institutions. Social change in Africa including urbanization and related social alterations.

ASC 103 Social Structure of African Societies

Concept of social structure; determinants of social structure; rationale of social structure; The nature of the social structure during the traditional, colonial and post-colonial periods in Africa. Traditional social, economic, political and cultural organizations. Comparative analysis of the kinship factors of these African societies. The impact of colonization and post-colonial factors: education, evangelism, communication, technology and globalisation on the African social structure.

Level 200

ASC 204 Introduction to Sociological Theory

Concept of theory; purpose and importance of theory; nature and types of theories in social sciences. Origins and evolution of Sociological theories, Classical sociological theories and proponents; different schools of thought as they have evolved in the field of Sociology: evolution, functionalism, structuralism, conflict, social exchange, symbolic interactionism, ethnomethodology, phenomenology and feminism. Contemporary sociological theoretical perspectives.

ACU 201 Introduction to Social Statistics

Introduction to social statistics, basic concepts in statistics, principles of statistical applications, types of statistics, sources of statistical data, function and limitations of statistics. Qualitative and quantitative data, operationalization, scales of measurements, standardization, measures of central tendency, and dispersion; population and sampling distributions, point and interval estimates; measures of association; data analysis procedure and presentation.

ACU 202 Introduction to Social Research

Concept of research, historical development of research, significance of research, characteristics of research, principles of research, research process; inductive and deductive methods, research designs, sampling techniques; preparation of proposals; research problem, research objectives and

questions, literature review, theoretical perspectives and conceptual framework, research design, methods of data collection and analysis, modelling, report writing, field work requirements, ethical issues in social research; Qualitative and quantitative analysis and data presentation.

ASC 205 Rural Sociology

Emergence and growth of rural sociology as a discipline. Theoretical perspectives and classical approaches to studies of rural communities. Nature and types of rural societies; community leadership. Rural livelihoods; pastoralism and resource management, peasantry, migration and land tenure systems, integration into the informal and global economy. Aspects of rural labour and new technologies, historical rural development; rural transformations. Case studies of rural development and planning: Harambee, Ujamaa, Common man's charter, Special Rural Development Programme, District focus strategy. Redefining rural development: governance, transparency, accountability; participatory rural appraisal. Case studies of social action funds: Constituency Development Fund, rural electrification, educational fund, youth enterprise fund. Challenges in rural development.

Level 300

ASC 320 Urban Sociology

Concepts: urban sociology, urbanization. Principles of urban social organization and structure, theoretical approaches of urban growth and urbanization. Factors of urbanization. Indicators of urbanization, urbanism as a way of life, social consequences of urbanization. Urban livelihood. Urbanization in Africa; and other developing countries; The role of local authorities in urban planning and management. Policies and planning strategies, nature of access to valued facilities. Rural-urban continuum. Impact of globalization on urban life.

ASC 301 Sociology of Marriage and the Family

Family as a social institution. Origin and development of marriage and the family; theoretical approaches to marriage and family, types of marriages and families with special reference to Africa. Family and other institutions. Aspects of marriage and family such as bride-wealth, dowry, kinship, divorce, remarriage and family law. Functions of the family: cross cultural child upbringing, fostering and adoption. Internal dynamics of the family; gender, power and family workforce. Family and social change, role of family in social development. Challenges in marriage and family. Dealing with challenges: guidance and counselling, mentoring adolescents. HIV/AIDS and the family.

ASC 321 1 Social Change (prerequisite ASC 200)

Major concepts and indicators of social change, major sources of social and cultural change in Africa. Planned and unplanned social change. Resistance to social change. Selected theories and models of social change such as evolutionary theory, conflict theory; diffusion theories; modernization, world system theory, globalization, and globalisation. Micro and macro analysis of the impact of technological change on education, population growth, economy, health, mass communication and social structure.

ASC 306 Demography and Population Studies

Foundations of demography and population studies; theories and methods in population studies. Trends in world population. Composition and distribution of population growth with emphasis on Africa. Population growth and its relation to socio-economic development, labour force, population policies, globalization and citizenship, population management and gender issues. Role of national and international organizations in population management. Population control: tools, methods, policies, law and culture. Population projection techniques. Major demographic components; morbidity, mortality, fertility, migration. Sources and evaluation of demographic data.

Sem I Electives

ASC 322 Social Problems

The discipline of social problems; elements of social problems: individual, social damage, offence and power groups; types of social problems: micro and macro; Causes, persistence and opportunities of social problems; sociological study of social problems; theories and perspectives: functionalism, conflict, cycle of poverty, social exchange; morality and social problems; moral entrepreneurship; gender and social problems; youth and social problems; race, ethnicity, religion, locality; interpersonal relations as a source of social problems; Societal dynamics and social problems; Understanding contemporary social problems; individualism in modern society; social policy and strategies for dealing with social problems.

ASC 323 Fundamentals of Gender and Society

Concepts: sex, gender; social construction of gender; construction of femininities and masculinities, gender equity and equality. Evolution of gender studies: women studies, feminism and feminist theories, overview of the history of the women's movement. Approaches to gender and development: women in development, (WID) women and development (WAD) and gender and development (GAD). Women's versus men's participation in various sectors: agriculture, industry. Gender disparities in leadership, politics and the professions. Gender and social stratification, Gender issues in contemporary society; gender mainstreaming; challenges to women empowerment.

ASC 324 Contemporary Sociological Theories (Prerequisite ASC 200)

Purpose and nature of sociological theory; theory in research design and practice, meta-theorising, model building, Logic and techniques of constructing social theories, interpretation of data with applied theory, grounded theory, application and relevance of social theories to development, theory construction as an ongoing process. Contemporary perspectives: neo-classical, neo-marxist, post-modernism, interactionists, systems and neo-systems, feminist theories, middle range theorists, meta theories, world systems theory.

ASC 325 Criminology

Definition of crime and deviance. Theories of crime and deviance. Nature, causes and types of crimes and deviance. Sexual, occupational crimes, crimes against the person and crimes against the State. Organized crime and victimless crime. Deviant behaviour, juvenile delinquency. Societal reaction to crime, deviance and delinquency, types of punishment, methods of crime control and prevention, formal and informal agencies of control. Effects of crime, victimology. Cross-cultural comparisons of crime situation in developed and developing countries. ICT and cross border crimes, gender and crime.

ASC 326 Community Development

Definition of concepts; community, community development. Community development and other disciplines. Theories, principles, approaches and practices of community development.

Assumptions of community development. Communication, community leadership and attitude change. Change agencies and change agents. Community mobilization. Project conception, planning, development, implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation. Various contexts of community development. Engendering community development. Challenges in community development.

ASC 327 Sociology of Health and Illness

Concepts: health, illness, and wellness; history and scope of medical sociology, medical sociology and other disciplines; theories, models and perspectives in health care; culture and health, social stratification and health; health behavior and attitudes, illness: symptoms, illness and individual performance, illness behavior; Social epidemiology: identification, incidence and prevalence, and eradication of illnesses and diseases; effects of diseases on development; social systems and health, aging and illness and burden of disease, gender and illness, illness and sick role behavior, healing; Reproductive health issues; Organization of medical practice and services, health and medical care in developing countries; traditional healing and culture, alternative healing and alternative healing practices, health care systems and policy, delivery of health care, ethics in health care provision.

ASC 328 Sociology of Childhood

Concept of child and childhood; principles of development and growth of children in community; Conceptual frameworks in child rearing; Childhood and socialization processes; Childhood and kinship; Child rearing practices in Kenya; foster care; childhood roles, responsibilities and obligations; The Conventions of the Rights of the Child; the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the African Child; Challenges of childhood in communities; Life skills; Role of state in fulfilling rights of children; Child protection and children in need of protection.

ASC 329 Sociology of Sexuality

Concept of sex and sexuality, theories of sexuality, sexuality and culture, sexual identity and the sexual body, sexual behaviour and relationships, Sexual functions and dys-functions; Sexual morals, orientations and deviations in society; sexuality and fertility: dating, courting, teenage pregnancies; sexuality across the life span (child, adolescence, adult, old age), sex and sexuality in marriage, gender and sexuality, sexuality and the media, sex as a social and medical issue, (commercial sex, pornography), sexual abuse and exploitation, sexually transmitted diseases, reproduction and conception, sex and reproduction, infertility, birth control, abortion, State and sex control Acts e.g. The sexual offences Act.

ASC 330 Social Stratification and Mobility

Social stratification: concepts and types. Social inequality and its factors; race, ethnicity, gender, religion, caste, age and social class. Basis of inequality. Theoretical approaches to social stratification, application of class theories in Africa. Effects of stratification on social and economic development. Race, ethnicity, citizenship and social stratification, differentiation and mobility. Mobility: vertical, horizontal, spatial, occupational. Models of mobility, barriers to mobility. Mobility trends in different societies.

ASC 331 Sociology of Communication

Definitions. Meaning of communication, types of communication: mass media, ICT, interpersonal, verbal and non-verbal. Components of communication. Theories of human communication. Communication processes; social functions and effects of communication, societal delineation, socio-cultural implication of the debate on the New International Communication order. Communication for public relations, media policy and law; ethics and communication. Barriers and

problems of communication, social impact of ICT based communication. Risks of communication and development. Community media and its roles.

Level 400

Core Courses

ASC 401 Law and Society

Concept of law and of society; social foundations of law, theoretical perspectives: sociological jurisprudence, legal formalism, positivism, realism and pluralism. Law and other social sciences; theoretical perspectives in law and society; Sources and process of law; types of laws: customary, civil, International, criminal, family, industrial, labour and company; functions of law in traditional and contemporary society; dynamics of law; gender and law, law and social control. Social effects of various types of laws. Human rights, animal rights, law and the environment, law and other major social institutions. Law and social change.

ASC 420 Group Dynamics

Concept of group dynamics, theoretical perspectives, types and characteristics of social groups, the structure and functions of social groups, group formation, process and development, assimilation processes, inter-group and intra-group relationships. Group leadership, group life cycle, group conflicts and resolution. Groups as agents of social change, group communication. Collective behaviour.

ASC 404 Environmental Sociology

Definitions: environment and ecosystems. Environment and Sociology. Origin and growth of environmental sociology. Types of environments. Theoretical perspectives; environmental determinism. Environmental hazards: pollution, desertification, fire, floods and drought. Population and environment; competing land use systems, social participation, gender and environment. Environmental policy, laws and conventions. Environment planning and assessment, education, the role of UNEP and other institutions. Contemporary issues in environment: recycling, GMOs, Ecofeminism, NEMA; Agenda 21; sustainability; Geopolitical and ethical issues.

ASC 421 Dissertation

Students to undertake research and write a report on a topical issue in sociology

ASC 422 Sociology of Development

Definitions of concepts: development, underdevelopment. Historical basis of development and underdevelopment. Development theories and perspectives, Development cooperation: foreign aid, multilateral and bilateral relationships, policies and programmes. Development indicators: economic, social-cultural. Distribution of resources, impact of globalization: G-8 politics, world trade patterns. Social-economic and cultural factors impinging on the attainment of meaningful development. Alternative strategies of development.

ASC 407 Sociology of Work and Industry

Definitions of concepts, work and industry interface. Models and theories of work and industry, socialization into work roles, occupation mobility, work and employment, work and leisure, work and gender, quality of working life, alienation, re-skilling and de-skilling, technology, gender and division of labour, comparative characteristics of work and industry in African countries, social welfare systems and retirement, occupational hazards, labour laws, brain drain. Organizational management, work ethics, tripartite agreements, contracts and wage guidelines. Unionism, associated disputes and their resolutions.

ASC 423 Sociology of Science and Technology

Concept of science, technology; sociology, science and development; sources of scientific knowledge; science as a social movement; society and science and technology; sociology of technical change; social construction and scientific knowledge; science and technology and culture; influence of social and cultural values on development of scientific knowledge; technology development and use; social change and technology; issues in technology transfer and power relations; social effects of technological innovations- cloning, GMOs; science and social policy; Cyber space and ethics; Ethical issues in science, scientific research and technological innovation.

ASC 424 Sociology of Non Governmental Organisations

Concepts of NGOs, CBOs, and civil society. Origins and characteristics of NGOs; formation and coordination of NGOs; role of NGOs; laws governing NGOs; contribution of NGOs to national development; advocacy and lobbying; leadership and management of NGOs; conflict management; power and politics of NGOs; NGOs and governance; project management; NGOs' organisational growth, capacity building and management; NGO culture; challenges of NGOs; emerging trends in NGOs.

ASC 425 Political Sociology

Definitions and concepts. Origins of Political Sociology. Political sociology and other disciplines. The founders of political sociology. Theoretical foundations of political sociology. Basic political processes. Political ideologies and party politics, political and social institutions; politics, gender, youth and leadership, political participation, electioneering, distribution of power, resources and inequality. Leadership patterns and social control, cross-cultural political comparisons of developed and developing countries. Political systems, globalization and social change. Politics, ethnicity and citizenship.

ASC 426 Sociology of Organizations

Meaning, nature and functions, levels, characteristics, typologies of organizations. Theoretical approaches. Organization processes and structure. Organization goals, values and development. Organization leadership: gender, power and authority. Organization culture, behaviour and change. Controls in organizational change. Organizational environment, effectiveness and efficiency.

ASC 408 Sociology of Ageing

Meaning of ageing. Cultural differences in perceptions of old age, demographic factors, age cohorts and population pyramids. Theoretical perspectives of ageing, stages of ageing. Youth-non youth relationships. Labelling theory and perspectives on ageing. Socialization for old age, retirement and associated effects, older persons and health challenges, care systems for older persons; traditional and modern policies and practices. Activity versus disengagement; self-perception by the aged, alienation and loneliness. Approaching death.

ASC 427 Sociology of Youth

The concept of youth and adolescence, characteristics of the youth, roles of the youth in society, theories of the youth; structural explanation, generation theory, functionalist theory, social reproduction theory, individualistic explanations, life -course perspectives, high modernity, youth, family and citizenship, youth and dependence, destinations of different youth groups, youth in social structure, youth and citizenship rights and responsibilities, inequality of access to consumer

citizenship, citizenship by proxy, changing patterns of transition, technical education and the youth, youth and inheritance; youth and health; youth and popular culture; challenges facing the youth.

ASC 428 Social Policy Analysis

Definition of policy; Relationship between Social Policy and other sciences; Origins and background of social policy; Models and major issues in social policy: Universal and selective considerations, freedom, equality, justice and choice; The process of policy formulation; Methods and tools for systematic policy analysis and comparison of contemporary strategies of policy formulation of policy study: Social policy and public policy, Social work; Social administration; Cases of Kenya's social policy: social protection and cash transfers; challenges in social policy administration.

ASC 429 Culture and Development

Concept of culture; evolution of cultures; cultural identity (ethnic, national, racial and religious), cultural diversity and relativism; theories of culture and development; cultural myths and development; culture and ideologies; African culture and the development debate; cultural assimilation, displacement and culture syncretism, culture and social change; culture shock; culture and globalization; culture and gender; deviance and issues of subculture; culture and human rights.

ASC 430 Collective Behaviour

Concept of collective behavior; nature of collectives – crowds, mob, public, and social movements. Importance of collectives; theories of collective dynamics – Le bon crowd psychology, contagion, convergence, emergent norm theory, deindividuation; theory of rumour transmission; stereotypes of collective behavior; role of social movements in society; social movements and social power relations; Gender issues in collective behavior; morality of collective behavior; collective behavior and ICT, challenges in managing collective behavior.

ASC 410 Sociology of Knowledge

Definitions and concepts: social foundations of knowledge. Theories of knowledge: epistemology, positivism. Knowledge, ideology, social construction of reality, intellectual forces in knowledge generation, intellectuals and milieu, paradigm shifts in knowledge generation: classical, medieval, enlightenment, renaissance. Metatheories, oriental, African. Perspectives of knowledge, knowledge creation, dissemination, storage and application. Validation of knowledge, intellectual property rights.