Course Description
This course provides a survey of the discipline of Sociology: its histories, theories, and applications. Sociology is the scientific study of societies and the social worlds that individuals inhabit within them. Sociologists study human social activities, ranging from ideologies (beliefs, values, etc.), identities (group identifications, cultures, etc.), interactions (social construction of realities, presentations of selves), inequalities (socioeconomic status, gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, etc.) and institutions (families, economies and occupations, religions, health, etc.). The discipline of Sociology provides diverse perspectives and methods to understanding social phenomena. In this introductory course, we will explore how social forces shape individuals, and how individuals construct and change social systems. As students, you will be tasked with developing a sociological imagination: the capacity to think systematically about how things we experience as personal problems are really social issues that are widely shared by others born in a similar time and social location as us.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental sociological theories and concepts
- Critically evaluate and understand the way social institutions shape our lives, behaviors, and interactions with others
- Apply scientific principles to understand the social world through sociological research methods
- Identify patterns and causes of social inequality in the U.S. related to social class, race and ethnicity, and gender