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

Level 300
ASC 320 Urban Sociology

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 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

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

ASC 326 Community Development
Definition of concepts; community, community development. Community development and other disciplines. Theories, principles, approaches and practices of 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**


**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**


**ASC 421 Dissertation**

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

**ASC 422 Sociology 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

ASC 408  Sociology of Ageing

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**