Sociology:

Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology I: Society & Culture (3 credits)
This course is an introduction for beginning students to the discipline of sociology. It traces the development of the discipline, its theoretical underpinnings, methods and key issues as cultures from early pre-industrial gathering-hunting societies, to ‘modern’ post industrial cultures, to the new ‘post-modern’ world are studied. The course provides students with an insight into the foundations and principles of social order, social control and social institutions and other essential basic sociological concepts.

Soc 102: The Individual and Society (3 credits)
This course examines psychology as a discipline and introduces students to the bio-psychological and socio-cultural factors in the development and behaviour of the individual in society. Topics will include the nature of psychology and what psychologists do, the nervous system, sensation, perception, the developing child and society, culture, socialization, individuals and groups, social influence, and deviance and social control.

Soc 201: Foundations and Issues in Sociology (3 credits)
This course further introduces the beginning student in sociology to the discipline. It starts with a brief discussion of the history and subject matter of sociology as a science. Introductions to the theories of major thinkers such as Marx, Durkheim and Weber, follow. Theories and methods are then applied to a selection of sociological issues, including: class, ethnicity, gender, poverty, teenage pregnancy, delinquency and child labour. The course concludes with a brief introduction to the emergence of contemporary postmodern theory challenging the role of the analysis of human social behaviour.

Soc 202: Social Statistics (3 credits)
The focus of this course is inferential statistics. It will build on the foundation gained in Basic Statistics (Descriptive Statistics), which served as an introduction to statistics and treated topics like the measures of central tendency. The focus of this course therefore will be on the teaching of stronger statistical techniques.

Soc 203: Social Psychology (3 credits)
The course initially examines the origin, the nature and methods of social psychology as an academic discipline. Thereafter certain substantive and basic social processes such as social condition, the self and self-perception, person perception, attribution and the humanising process of socialization are studied. Other key concepts of concern to be examined are interpersonal attraction and altruism, aggression, groups and group dynamics, attitudes, leadership, leadership styles and social interaction in everyday life.

Soc 204: Social Structure of Ghana (3 credits)
The course examines the social structure of modern Ghana from the perspective of social change processes such as Islamic and Christian influences, colonialism, education, population dynamics, urbanization, economic and occupational transformations, nationalism and political convulsions since independence. The emphasis will be on the basic institutional structures,
social stratification, ethnic pluralism, urbanization and rural-urban migration, civil society organizations, political parties and district assemblies.

**Soc 301: Sociological Theory 1 (3 credits)**
In this course the role of theory in our everyday lives as well as in the lives of those who have created social theory is considered. Students will be taught that there is not one theory about who we are, where we come from, how we know what we know and how individuals and societies work. The different theoretical perspectives in sociology to be studied include: structural functionalism, structuralism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, materialism, feminisms, and post-modernism.

**Soc 302: Research Methods (3 credits)**
This course deals with how sociologists set about doing research and how they arrive at conclusions. It will introduce students to proposal writing and budgeting, instrumentation and their uses in data collection and processes, application of statistics to the analysis of data and how inferences are made from data. Students will be expected to undertake some practicals to apply the classroom knowledge to field experience.

**Soc 303: Social Change with Special Reference to Africa (3 credits)**
This course examines the changing processes that have engulfed African societies since the advent of Europeans through colonial and post-independence times to the present. There will be a focus on the various theories of social change vis a vis the change processes in Africa.

**Soc 304: Deviance and Social Problems (3 credits)**
The course covers behaviours and attributes for which individuals are regarded as objectionable in a particular social system, as well as some particular deviant behaviours which, for one reason or the other, are regarded as social problems to the extent that they threaten societal order, stability and survival; and for which those with power and authority call for appropriate action to solve them. It will examine the various social psychological and sociological perspectives on deviance and social problems in general, and also how they are applicable to the analysis of contemporary social problems in Ghana.

**Soc 305: Society and Development (3 credits)**
The course explores “development” as a theoretical construct and as a part of human history. Concepts of development such as: modernization, progress, development, ‘first world’, third world’ will be studied. History, analysis and everyday experiences will be used to review living arrangements of human populations prior to colonial intrusion, the rise of the nation-state and capitalism, the effects of expansion of capital and the need for it to accumulate. Imperialism and its ramifications will provide key insights into the history of present-day new nations. Important also is an acquaintance with the use of “race” and gender in the ideologies and realities of the slave trade, the colonial situation and independence struggles. The roles of religion, education, the arts and family will be explored, and conditions after emancipation and colonial occupation and the process of neo-colonialism, “development” programmes and connections with the world economy will be evaluated.
**Soc 306: Stratification, Class and Conflict (3 credits)**
This course introduces students to the dimensions of social inequality in societies. It considers such dimensions as bases for divisions of two or more layers of a relatively homogeneous population between which are differences in privileges, rewards, restrictions and obligations. The course will distinguish the principal forms of stratification as being those of slavery, caste, estate and class and consider both classical and contemporary explanations of social stratification, particularly from the functionalist and conflict (Marxist) perspectives. Lectures and discussions will range across the dimensions and principal forms of social stratification, their characteristics and complexities. In particular, the dimension of class would be focused upon, examining the power and authority structures that give rise to conflicts.

**Soc 307: Rural Sociology (3 credits)**
This course seeks to promote a deeper understanding of rural society. It will equip students with tools of understanding that allow effective analysis of rural people in their relationships with others in rural society and beyond it. The course will examine the various definitions of rurality and the structure and characteristics of rural areas, particularly in developing countries. Indicators of rurality such as poverty and out-migration, as well as socio-economic realities in rural areas will be discussed. Other topics will include theoretical approaches to rural planning and rural development, with special reference to Ghana and other African countries.

**Soc 308: Social Movements and Revolutions (3 credits)**
The course examines the theories and concepts of social, political and religious movements and revolutions. Causative factors and effects of these movements, ideological orientations of the movements, the role of personalities and the masses in revolution shall be taught. Historical and empirical causes shall be examined thoroughly at tutorials.

**Soc 309: Complex Organisations (3 credits)**
The course covers a broad spectrum of theories, beginning with the classical approach to the study of bureaucracy, a particular type of formal organization, through post-classical approaches to the present. The effort will also be made to enable students appreciate the nature and consequences of the individual and group relationships within complex organizations, drawing on specifically selected industrial, political and social service organizations in Ghana.

**Soc 310: Politics, Government, and the State (3 credits)**
The focus of this course is to examine the nature and distribution of power, forms and origins of political thought, the nature of governance and the evolution of the state and its nature. Politics and society in contemporary Africa will be the relevant empirical data for the examination of political transitions and patterns of change as well as Africa in world politics.

**Soc 311: Introduction to Gender Studies (3 credits)**
The course is designed to introduce students to the sociology of gender. It introduces a critical approach to examining the social construction of gender. Topics will include the analysis of
sociological determinants and consequences of gender—that is, how societies assign specific expectations, advantages, and disadvantages to people on the basis of the biological fact of their sex. Other topics will include the different perspectives on gender inequality and the role of social institutions such as family, religion, education, and media in creating the experience of gender in society.

**Soc 312: Sociology of Health and Medicine (3 credits)**
The course will be devoted to the investigation of a common phenomenon in developing countries – i.e. the co-presence of scientific and traditional medical systems. The aim is to explain the nature of the interrelationship between scientific and traditional medical systems, to discover the continuing functions of traditional medical practice, and to expose some of the determinants of the pattern of articulation between the medical systems and the larger society. Although the focus of the course is directed to Ghana, implications for other developing countries will be considered.

**Soc 313: Socialization (3 credits)**
This course deals with the family and then follows the process of socialization throughout the life course of a person. Topics will include culture and society, the various socialization agents such as: religious organizations, peer groups, the media, music, educational systems and the community. Emphasis will be on a person’s class, gender and ethnic affiliation as the various forms of socialization are analysed.

**Soc 314: Sociology of Work and Occupations (3 credits)**
The course involves the analysis of work as a central human activity and social phenomenon; its functions and meanings, and associated problems. Also to be studied are some relevant theories of work attitudes and motivation. The occupation-profession continuum as a conceptual model will be studied alongside occupation/career choice and socialization. The Ghanaian occupational structure, the Ghanaian worker and his/her problems will be examined.

**Soc 315: Sociology of Ageing (3 credits)**
This course will introduce students to the study of the sociology of ageing. This will be achieved by examining ageing as a process consisting of stages of life, and reflected in body age, and cohort/generations. The course also examines the history of ageing and old age; the life course perspective from childhood to old age; the social construction of ageing; the social psychology of ageing; old age as a social problem; and the future of adult life. The interrelations between these and their impact on individual identities and societal institutions will be analysed.

**Soc 316: Rural Sociology Practicum (3 credits)**
The course will cover supervised experiences and field trips to development agencies, rural villages, and district assemblies. In this course students will be required to bring to bear methods of observation that they have learnt in other courses and write a short report based on their experiences during the practicum.

**Soc 317: Sociology of Sports (3 credits)**
This course adopts a sociological approach to sports by interrogating sport as both a form and practice of culture. Sport in this course will be looked at as a social institution that is related to other ones (i.e., the media, education, the family, the economy), which reflect and influence our thoughts about society. A wide array of contemporary issues will be investigated, with emphasis placed upon the complex intersection of sports with power relations that influence the formation of our everyday understandings, experiences and identities related to gender, race and nation.

**Soc. 318: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 Credits)**
The course begins with an examination of the theories and methods of the study of culture vis a vis the environment, pointing to the diversity of the patterns of human behaviour as well as the universality of the basis of those patterns of behaviour to man and which distinguish the human being from other primates. Comparative ethnographic data from different parts of the world will be used to illustrate salient points to students.

**Soc 319: Family and Kinship (3 credits)**
This course will study family and kinship from a cross-cultural perspective to identify the characteristic differences between marriage, the family and kinship structures of both developing and complex industrialized societies. The study will be within the framework of different theoretical orientations such as structural functionalism, conflict, symbolic interactionism, and social exchange. There will be a detailed examination of problems facing the family and of the factors contributing to the changing patterns of family, and kinship structures: marital conflicts and divorce, remarriages and step-families.

**Soc 320: Demography I (3 Credits)**
This is an introductory course to Demography. It will expose students to the calculation of basic demographic rates and ratios, and will demonstrate to students how relationship between demographic processes (fertility, mortality, migration) and demographic variables (size, composition, distribution) of any given area are important. The course will mainly dwell on the various measures of demographic processes.

**Soc 321: Race, Ethnicity and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)**
This course is designed to sensitise students to the various issues surrounding the contemporary categorization of people by the concepts ‘race’, ‘ethnicity’, ‘minority’, ‘group’, and ‘refugee’. The concepts will be deconstructed, following a historical and theoretical analysis. Issues suggested by the above categories will be discussed in the light of possibilities of more equitable distribution of the world’s resources.

**Soc 322: Feminist Theory and Methodology (3 credits)**
This course introduces students to the major trends in feminist theory and feminist research methods, beginning with Liberal, Radical and Marxist feminisms, and embracing contemporary Postmodern and Postcolonial theories. Topics will include the contributions of ‘Third World’ and ‘African feminisms’, as well as ways in which social science research methods and pedagogy have been transformed by the use of
contemporary feminist ideas. Emphasis will be on the use of feminist theory, methodology and pedagogy in the analysis of male/female relations in a sociological context, and the application of this new knowledge to the study of the social world.

**Soc 323: Family Violence (3 credits)**
This course seeks to help students develop a critical understanding of force and violence within the family structure. Emphasis will be on violence between spouses, and between children and parents; and on the prevalence, the character and the causes of such violence. Topics will include society’s reaction to family violence, its policies of control and treatment, and the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and women.

**Soc 324: Gender, Politics and the Law (3 credits)**
The focus of this course is the intersections between gender, politics and the law, the manner in which political, legal institutions and other structures of power perpetuate gender inequalities and the variety of activism that has developed. Topics will include the family as a ‘private’ sphere, the state and its intersections with the law and family, marriage and gender relationships, issues of legal pluralism, and the politics of abortion, contraception and HIV/AIDS drugs. Emphasis will be on a critical analysis of Western and African scholarship, and students will be encouraged to create theories that are relevant to African realities.

**Soc 325: African Women in Colonial Society (3 Credits)**
This course will explore encounters of African women with European colonialism and focus on the ways in which women negotiated that range of political, economic and social forces embraced by the term ‘colonial’. The course will explore the advances and achievements of African women in the face of colonialism, and examine this against the backdrop of critiques such as those by Fanon, Memmi and others.

**Soc 401: Sociological Theory II (3 credits)**
This course builds on Soc 301 and examines sociology as a scientific discipline. It discusses the idea of sociology as a science/philosophy, how sociological theories are arrived at, the historical and socio-cultural context in which theories are formulated and how sociologists explain the social world. The course looks at the nature, the procedures and problems of science in general and sociology as well as the philosophy and sociology of knowledge and science.

**Soc 402: Chieftaincy and Society (3 credits)**
This course examines, from traditional and historical perspectives, the role played by chiefs in the political, economic, social and religious organization of African societies, the importance of chiefs as administrators, military commanders, judges, custodians of corporate property, ritual heads, and sanctuaries of tradition and culture. Other topics include the extent to which social change has influenced these functions, and also the degree to which the chieftaincy institution has impacted on the affairs of the modern African state.
**Soc. 403: Industrial Psychology (3 credits)**
The course generally seeks to demonstrate ways in which psychology has been applied to business and industry. It involves the examination of personnel and human resources practice vis a vis jobs in organizations as well as maintaining the worker on the job and improving his/her performance through training, effective management, career development and motivation.

**Soc 404: Population, Health and Development (3 credits)**
This course deals with the assessment of health status of populations in clinical, epidemiological and sociological contexts. It also examines interrelationships between health and population structure and dynamics, and the effects of population processes such as mortality, morbidity migration and fertility on population structure, health care delivery and socio-economic development strategies.

**Soc 405: Gender and Sexuality (3 credits)**
This course focuses on sexual behaviour as socially developed rather than as a biological given. It examines the ways through which humans become sexual beings and shows how this process is ‘gendered’. The course also examines theories of gender acquisition and explores ways in which societies both limit and exploit sexual expression, with a specific focus on feminist and other critiques. It discusses the different sexual careers of women and men, and the growing variety of sexual expression found in the world today, within the context of social change; trends in sexual behaviour in contemporary Ghana, with reference to modern methods of contraception, the influence of religion, changing roles of women and men, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

**Soc 406: Industrial Sociology (3 credits)**
The course introduces students to the analysis of the social structure of industry as an entity which conditions inter-personal relations, and which in turn influence individual behaviour inside and outside the industry. Such analyses will be set against the historical, cultural, ecological and demographic context within which industries exist and operate.

**Soc 407: Sociology of Education (3 credits)**
The course examines education as a social institution with consequences for the individual and the social system. It examines the socio-political origin of mass schooling, the private and social benefits of education, as well as the consequences of education on cultural, economic, political, and social development.

**Soc 408: Organisational Behaviour (3 credits)**
The course concentrates on the analysis of individual and group behaviour in organizations, and the structures that influence management decision-making and management styles. It will involve relevant psychological concepts such as perception, learning, motivation and attitudes as they relate to work and behaviour within organisations. Other relevant areas of concern for study are socialization into organizations, leadership and leadership styles, power and influence, and communication and decision-making in organizations. Ghanaian organizational life will be critically examined in class discussions.
**Soc 409: Communication and The Media (3 credits)**
The course is concerned with traditional and modern forms of mass communication and their media. In particular, it examines the role of communication and the media in social, cultural, political, and economic development, as well as the relevance of communication in Distance and Non formal education.

**Soc 410: Sociology of Tourism and Recreation (3 credits)**
The course examines tourism and tourist behaviours, and their consequences for both guests and hosts from sociological and psychological perspectives. The emphasis will be on varieties of tourism experience, socio-cultural impacts on destination areas and critical analysis of empirical tourism studies of some Third World destination areas.

**Soc 411: Demography II (3 Credits)**
This course focuses on the theoretical and empirical literature on the Demographic and Sociological aspects of the components of population growth and change. Emphasis will be placed on fertility, mortality and migration and how they interact to effect population change. The concept of family planning and problems related to it will be examined. Other topics include Current health issues that affect populations, such as HIV/AIDS and poliomyelitis.

**Soc 412: Women and Development (3 Credits)**
This course introduces students to the discourse on women in the development process. It traces the processes and theoretical thought that led to the concepts of Women in Development (WID), Women and Development (WAD), Gender and Development (GAD), Women, the Environment and Development (WED). The differential effects of development processes on women and men will be discussed, and feminist critiques on various approaches to development, such as modernisation and structural adjustment.

**Soc 413: Marxist Sociology I (3 credits)**
This course will introduce students to basic tenets of Marxist thought such as historical and dialectical materialism, alienation, class conflict, false consciousness, production relations, and the labour theory of value. Other topics include Marxist interpretations of the state, religion, and how society works; the sociological relevance of Marxist thought and its applicability for Africa.

**Soc 414: Marxist Sociology II (3 credits)**
The course will expose students to the fundamentals of the Political Economy of Capitalism and Socialism. Areas to be addressed include the subject matter of political economy; commodity production, commodity and money; essence of capitalist exploitation, forms of surplus value, capitalist reproduction and crises of economic over-production; imperialism, its essence, main features and place in history; the general crises of capitalism; construction and stages of development of socialism as a system; planned development of socialist economy; socialist relations of production in agriculture; essence of socialist reproduction and socio-economic problems of developing countries.
**Soc 415: Social Planning (3 credits)**
This course will examine the meaning, history and role of social planning in national development. It will cover the methods and modes of planning, its critiques, and problems of participatory planning in developing societies. Selected case studies of planning approaches to poverty reduction, health, medical care and development, education and gender and development will be analysed.

**Soc 416: Sociology of Religion (3 credits)**
This course explores myth, ritual and symbol in social contexts with special consideration of the contemporary African scene. Attention is given to religious evolution in the light of social change and also to the relationship between religious organisations and other social institutions. Themes to be discussed will include Christianity, Islam and the resurgence of new religious movements in the African world (including the Diaspora).

**Soc 417: Urban Sociology (3 credits)**
The course examines the process of urbanization and urbanism as a way of life from a sociological perspective. The emphasis will be on urbanization in the Third World and its problems. The course will examine basic historical processes, which have shaped cities including spatial differentiation. The formation of communities, metropolitan decentralization and urban poverty will be analysed.

**Soc 418: Sociology of Law and Criminal Justice (3 credits)**
The course covers the structures and processes of criminal justice systems. It introduces students to the definition and classification of crime, constitutional rights of individuals, and the various components of the criminal justice system in Ghana (law enforcement, administration of justice, corrections and juvenile justice). It further explores the networking involving the public as well as the political processes that influence the criminal justice system.

**Soc 419: Practicum (Applied Sociology) (3 credits)**
This course will cover supervised experiences in research organizations, development agencies, health care organizations, social welfare and non-governmental organizations. Students will be required to observe and analyse the organisational structure and workings of the institutions they visit, and will be expected to utilise observation skills acquired in their research methodology course. They will be required to write an analytical report based on their practicum experiences.

**Soc 420: Conflict and Conflict Resolution (3 credits)**
This course introduces students to an analysis of social and political conflicts, with particular reference to Africa. Conflict will be viewed and discussed following a social context approach. Such an approach focuses on the historical and cultural settings as well as the social context of conflicts, the process of conflict resolution, and possible consequences of conflicts. Theoretical approaches to conflict will be examined. Students will be introduced to basic conflict management, negotiation and mediation.
**Soc 421: Sociology of Death and Dying (3 Credits)**
Death is an occurrence that no member of society can escape. It is a universal experience. In this course students will embark upon a cross-cultural study of the social structures and processes involved with death and dying, and they will be encouraged to reflect upon and analyse the cultural and social order that in turn influences individual action.

**Soc 424: Environmental Sociology (3 Credits)**
This course examines the impact of human societies on their physical environment and of physical environments on human societies. It explores sociological perspectives on environmental issues as well as the history of the environmental movement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The political economy of consumption, production and regulation, and the relative effects of technology, social change, and social organization on environmental degradation will be examined. Specific topics include resource scarcity, pollution, fossil fuel dependence, disasters, and risk assessment.