

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

FACULTY MEMBER:

TERM:

COURSE TITLE: Social Change

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 318

PREREQUISITE: SOC 101 or PSY 101

OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT:

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Why and how do societies change? What are the drivers of change, and how do people adapt to changing social norms? What must people know about changing the world to make it a better place? In this course, students will be challenged to evaluate their future as part of a world undergoing continuous social change by examining its historical and contemporary patterns. Through exploration of sociological theory and real-world outcomes, students will critically assess why and how social change occurs, examining reasons such as diffusion, acculturation, globalization, conflict and competition, bureaucratization, urbanization, modernization, ideological changes, technological changes, economic changes, changes in political power, and changes in legal power. Students will analyze the impact of individuals and groups on social change and consider their ability to influence and implement constructive social change.

II. COURSE RATIONALE:

We live in an era of profound and continuous social, economic, and cultural change. Understanding how, when, and why societies change will help students identify, analyze, and understand social change and its impact on their personal lives, professional lives, and lives as members of society. Understanding social change in the context of globalization and our interconnectedness will help students adopt a globally focused paradigm when considering their role as citizens of the world.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of current theories of social change, including Conflict Theory, Structural-Functional Theory, and Interpretive-Symbolic Theory.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- A-1 Define the significant components of the three theories.
- A-2 Critique the theories.
- A-3 Apply the theories to social change.

GOAL B:

The student will compare the reasons social change occurs, such as diffusion, acculturation, conflict and competition, bureaucratization, urbanization, modernization, globalization,

