American social life emphasizes an individual level perspective and as a result, many of us tend to overlook the role of broader social influences in shaping the self and life chances. Examines the social, economic, political and technological forces that influence our behavior, decisions and perceptions of ourselves. Particular attention is given to exploring current topics, the rules that govern social interaction and group behavior and to issues involving class, race, gender and religion. Not open to students who have earned credit for SODI 2200. Falls and Springs. (SSDI)