Sociology (SOC)

Courses

SOC 001 Introduction to Sociology 4 Credits
Patterns of social interaction, group behavior and attitudes provide a focus on the relationship of the individual to society. Social structure and social change within the institutions of society provide a focus on the relationship of society to the individual. The influences of social class, gender and race are explored at each level of analyses. Theories, methods and research results provide micro and macro models for understanding society.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 100 Seminar in Sociology 1-4 Credits
Topics in sociology.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 103 (AAS 103) Race and Ethnicity in the Contemporary U.S. 4 Credits
Examines race and ethnicity from a sociological perspective. Focus on the role of the major racial and ethnic communities in modern American society. Explores the roles of race and ethnicity in identity, social relations, and social inequality. Topics include racial and ethnic minorities, assimilation, prejudice and discrimination, identity, and the social construction of the concept of "race."
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 104 (POLS 104) Political Sociology 4 Credits
An introduction to political sociology through an examination of the major sociological questions concerning power, politics, and the state. Covers questions concerning state formation, nationalism, social movements, globalization, political culture and participation, and civil society.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 105 Social Origins Of Terrorism 4 Credits
Examines the social, religious, and political foundations of terrorism by studying the roots of terrorism historically and cross-nationally. We will look at the differing kinds of terrorism, including political terrorism in the Middle East, antiabortion terrorism in the United States, ecoterrorism, and religious and state terrorism throughout the world. Students will have a chance to better understand the beliefs of terrorists, conditions that produce and sustain terrorism, and the origins of political violence more generally.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 106 (AAS 106, LAS 106) Race and Ethnicity in the Americas 4 Credits
How is it possible that someone who is officially considered black in the United States can embody different racial identities throughout current Latin America? Even more, how is it possible that people considered white nowadays were not officially so in early twentieth-century US (although they were viewed as white in the Latin American context at the same time period)? This course offers a historical comparative analysis of the nature and dynamics of race between the United States and Latin America.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 110 (WGSS 110) Women's Work in Global Perspective 4 Credits
This course brings to the forefront the intersections of race, class, gender, and nation with women's employment around the world. We will examine women's paid and unpaid work in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa in an effort to understand the striking persistence of gender inequality over time and across the world. Topics of study include: work and family relations, women's domestic labor, factory work, and agribusiness. In addition, we will explore the ways in which women have organized for changes in work and in their communities in order to conceive of possibilities for the future of women's work.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 112 Development of Social Theory 4 Credits
This course introduces some of the most influential theoretical ideas in sociology. It focuses on understanding the differences among several classical theoretical traditions and their strengths and weaknesses in analyzing societies. It also helps students learn to apply social theory to contemporary sociological research and problems, learning the ways theory can be used to answer questions and problems societies face today.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 114 (ASIA 114) Social Issues in Contemporary China 4 Credits
Dramatic economic, cultural and social changes are underway in China today and have aroused much debate among social scientists, East and West. The following social issues are critical for understanding China's development trajectory: inequality and poverty; rapid demographic shifts; provision of health care services; provision of education services; and becoming an "information society." We will explore how these issues intersect with old hierarchies in China, urban-rural differences, and gender differences.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 116 (GS 116, JST 116) Jewish Community and Identity 4 Credits
A century ago, large Jewish communities existed throughout the world, including North Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and South America. Today, over 80% of all Jews live in North America or Israel. This course focuses on these historical changes in Jewish communities and the transformation of Jewish identities and social life in recent years, particularly in the U.S. and in Israel.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 118 (WGSS 118) Race, Gender, and Work 4 Credits
Race, Gender and Work is a class designed to help students understand racial and gender inequalities as they relate specifically to work and employment. We explore the origins and histories of inequalities, the ways in which inequalities persist and/or change today, and what steps might be taken toward creating a more equal society.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 125 Social Psychology of Small Groups 4 Credits
Theories and empirical research regarding interpersonal behavior in small groups. Classroom exercises and group simulations.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 127 (WGSS 127) Human Sexuality 4 Credits
Students in this course view human sexuality through a sociological lens. This includes theory, research methods, and topics such as LGBTQ identities, family formation, sex work, teenage sexuality, sadomasochism, and sexual technologies. We pay particular attention to ways in which sexual behavior is regulated, as well as social constructions of "the normal." Course material focuses on the United States, although students are encouraged to bring cross-national perspectives into papers and class discussions.
Attribute/Distribution: SS
SOC 130 Sociology of Sports 4 Credits
This course provides an encompassing explanation of the process of globalization in the twentieth century through exploring the diffusion of sports, inquiring whether the sports has been connected to multiple forms of Empires, i.e. colonialism and imperialism. To do so, we will use sports to explore social and racial tensions, analyze mechanism of resistance, re-conceptualize the boundaries of social, economic and political spheres, examine the adoption of cultural practices, as well as understanding the construction of modern nation-states.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 135 (COMM 135, JOUR 135) Human Communication 4 Credits
Processes and functions of human communication in relationships and groups.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 138 The Sociology of Reality TV 4 Credits
How does The Bachelor shed light on courtship rituals, and what can Dance Moms teach us about the social meaning of childhood? Reality television shows may seem like frivolous fun, but they are also illuminating cultural artifacts that reflect contemporary American tastes, norms, and values. In this course—by reading sociological work, paired with episodes of reality shows—students learn to analyze these forms of entertainment through a social scientific lens.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 141 Breaking the Rules: Social Deviance 4 Credits
What institutions exert control over human behavior, and what are the incentives for adhering to social norms? Why do some people break those rules? What are the consequences of rule breaking? In this course, after examining theoretical scholarship on deviant behavior, students apply those theories to real-world examples—for example, criminal activities and policing, drug use, sexuality, body modification, mental illness, and atypical behavior at school and work...Are you ready? Let’s get weird.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 142 (WGSS 142) Bad Girls: Gender, Sexuality, Deviance 4 Credits
This course focuses on people who perform their gender and/or sexuality in ways that fall outside of the norm. Topics include, but are not limited to: commercial sex workers, domatrixes, transpeople, stay-at-home dads, and drag queens. We will regularly discuss the readings in the context of current events and popular culture.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 144 (AAS 144) Global Hip Hop and Social Change 4 Credits
Hip Hop has become a global phenomenon. We will analyze how and why socially Conscious Hip Hop, as a tool for social change, has expanded to Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 152 (HMS 152) Alcohol, Science, and Society 4 Credits
Alcohol use and abuse, its historical function in society, moral entrepreneurship, status struggles and conflict over alcohol. Current problems with attention to special population groups and strategies for prevention of alcohol abuse.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 155 (AAS 155, LAS 155) Afro-Latino Social Movements in Latin America & the Caribbean 4 Credits
This course focuses on Afro-Latinos who make up nearly 70% of the population of the Americas. Despite the large amount of people of African descent living in the Americas, Afro-Latinos are an understudied population who face significant amounts of racial discrimination in their countries. Who are Afro-Latinos? Where do they live? How are they challenging the racism that they face? These are questions we will tackle in this course.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 160 (HMS 160) Medicine and Society 4 Credits
Sociological perspectives on health, illness, and medical care. Focus on social epidemiology, social psychology of illness, socialization of health professionals, patient-professional relationships, medical care organization and policies.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 162 (HMS 162) AIDS and Society 4 Credits
Impact of the AIDS epidemic on individuals and on social institutions (medicine, religion, education, politics, etc.); social and health policy responses; international experience; effect of public attitudes and policy on people affected directly by AIDS.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 163 (AAS 163) Sociology of Hip Hop Culture 4 Credits
Hip Hop culture is a complex form of artistic practices reflecting and impacting the environments in which they were produced. Through readings, music and video, this class will uncover the origins of Hip Hop by examining the musical history of the Afro-diaspora in the 20th century. Further study will reveal how the young Bronx, NY underclass in the 1970s fused elements of past musical styles with their own personal and political expression that sparked a worldwide phenomenon and culture industry.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 165 Contemporary Social Problems 4 Credits
Studies of major problems facing contemporary society.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 166 (AAS 166) Wealth and Poverty in the United States 4 Credits
examines the sociology of wealth and poverty affluence and disadvantage, "rags and riches" in American Society. Focus is a critical analysis of the wealth gap, its causes, consequences, and social context. We will consider the roles of wealth and poverty in determining life chances and structuring opportunity, as well as their roles in the perpetuation of social inequality across generations. We will address contemporary debates surrounding public policy, tax laws, anti-poverty programs and other reform efforts aimed at decreasing the gap between the “Haves” and the “Have-Nots.”
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 171 (REL 171) Religion And Society 4 Credits
An introduction to the sociology of religion. Covers classical and contemporary approaches to defining and studying the role of religion in society. Emphasis on understanding religious beliefs and practices in the United States, the sources and contours of religious change, and the effects of religion on individuals and society. Specific topics include religious fundamentalism, religious conversion, religious practices and authority, secularization, religion in public life, religion in social change, religious terrorism, and the ways in which religion impacts our personal health, educational attainment, and family life.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 177 (AAS 177, LAS 177) Cuba: Race, Revolution and Culture 4 Credits
This course analyzes the role of race & “culture” in the Afro Cuban struggle for equality. By focusing on the arts: particularly music, film & literature, this course will analyze the development of race during Cuba’s colonial period; the Afro Cuban challenge to the “race blind” political and cultural movements of the Cuban Republic. We will then wrap up the semester by addressing the significance of contemporary cultural movements that challenge the social issues currently facing Afro Cubans.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 186 (ASIA 186) Understanding China through Films 4 Credits
In this class, we will use films, both documentary and feature films, to demonstrate how Chinese people experience and interpret social, political, economic and cultural changes. Through sociological interpretation of film, we will focus on the following topics: education provision, migration, environmental concerns, gender relations, poverty, and changing cultural norms and values. We will explore how these social issues have been intensified with economic reform, and how they intersect with major historical hierarchies in China.
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SOC 330 (LAS 330) Society, Democracy and Revolution in Latin America 4 Credits
Latin America is a region filled with protest and armed guerrilla movements. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, at least 5 nations in the region elected openly socialist or communist candidates, many of whom are still in power today. What is happening in Latin America? This course will focus on Latin American perspectives on democracy and social revolution. For many Latin American countries, the move to the "left," and the rejection of American capitalisms is not that Latin American people embrace socialism, but rather it is a reflection of larger social dynamics at play... or is it?
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 331 (GS 331, WGSS 331) Gendered Experience of Globalization 4 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people, provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 333 Social Psychology of Politics 4 Credits
Political behavior viewed from a psychological and social psychological perspective. Department permission.
Prerequisites: (ANTH 001 or SOC 001 or PSYC 001)
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 341 (HMS 341, WGSS 341) Gender and Health 4 Credits
Relationships of sex differences and gender norms to disease and longevity in the U.S. and around the world. Influence of medical systems on men's and women's lives and the impact of gender-based consumer health movements on health and medical care. Focus on specific topics, e.g. medicalization and commercialization of women's bodies, the politics of reproductive choices, masculinity and health, and gender and mental health.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 343 (HMS 343) Race, Ethnicity, and Health 4 Credits
People who belong to racial and ethnic minority groups are exposed to more health risks, have disproportionately high levels of sickness and excess deaths, and have limited access to good quality healthcare. This course provides students with theoretical and empirical insights into the intersection of race, ethnicity, and health in the U.S. Historical and contemporary patterns in U.S. demography, race relations, residential segregation, environmental justice, and social stratification will be explored in the context of health and health care.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 345 (AAS 345) Colonialism and the Black Radical Tradition 4 Credits
Karl Marx was not the only figure who developed an influential theory of social revolution. A cadre of theorists from the Global South have extensively theorized about the issues facing their particular nations, and they have developed social theories that have challenged social and global inequality. This theory-based course will focus on the anti-colonial and post-colonial thought of radical black intellectuals from the Black America, the Caribbean, and West Africa.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 351 (WGSS 351) Gender and Social Change 4 Credits
Changes in gender roles from social psychological and structural perspectives. Comparative analyses of men and women (including people of color) in the social structure; their attitudes and orientations toward work, family, education, and politics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 355 Sociology Of Education 4 Credits
Examines the social organization of education as a social institution and the role of schools in society. Focus is primarily on educational processes in the United States. Topics include: IQ, curriculum, tracking, educational inequality, primary/secondary/higher education, private vs. public, informal education and social capital, effects on and of race/class/gender, schools as agents of socialization, educational policy and school reform.
Prerequisites: ANTH 001 or ANTH 012 or SOC 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 364 (WGSS 364) Sociology of the Family 4 Credits
Sociological analysis of families in the United States, including investigations of historical and contemporary patterns. Issues addressed include parenting, combining work and family, divorce and remarriage, family policies.

SOC 365 (WGSS 365) Inequalities at Work 4 Credits
Primary focus is on race, gender, and class as axes of disadvantage and privilege in work and employment. We will explore both theories and empirical studies of inequality as well as their social, political, and practical ramifications for the workplace. The course will be conducted seminar-style and the 'class will rely heavily on student participation.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 366 Sociology of Aging 4 Credits
Residential patterns, social policies and services for the aged. Alternative political strategies, health programs, living arrangements and workplace choices considered. The changing roles of the elderly in American and other societies, and the special problems they face. Impact of changing age structure.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 370 (ES 370, GS 370) Globalization and the Environment 4 Credits
This course investigates globalization and the environment including how globalization has influenced society-nature relationships, as well as how environmental conditions influence the globalization processes. A key focus will be on the rapidly evolving global economic and political systems that characterize global development dynamics therefore resource use. Particular attention is paid to the role of multi-national corporations, international trade, and finance patterns and agreements. Questions related to consumption, population, global climate change, toxic wastes, and food production/distribution represent key themes.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 371 Special Topics 1-4 Credits
Advanced work through supervised readings. Consent of department chair required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 373 (HMS 373) Seminar in Sociology: Purposeful Curiosity 4 Credits
To be curious is to be engaged. This course will explore collaborative and purposeful curiosity and the inquiry-based model of learning as it relates to sociological phenomena and social good, specifically around health and humanity. Through research approaches such as humanistic inquiry and community-engaged research, learners will explore techniques that value the expertise of diverse stakeholders, identify collaborators, design and conduct imaginative research, and understand the importance of curiosity in fueling creative work and intellectual problem solving.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 374 Social Stratification: Race, Class, Gender 3 Credits
This course is an introduction to social stratification. Examines social inequality as an organizing principle in complex societies. Explores the intersection of the "great divides" of race, class, and gender. Through readings from classical sociological theory to cutting-edge literature we embark on a critical analysis of the causes and consequences of social stratification and social mobility in the United States and in a global context.
Prerequisites: ANTH 001 or SOC 001
Attribute/Distribution: SS
SOC 375 (REL 375) The Christian Right In America 4 Credits
What do we know about the Christian Right? Who are they? What do they believe? Where do they come from? Seminar explores answers to such questions through a focus on the history of the Christian Right as well as its ideologies and beliefs, the people who are a part of it, and its evolving relationship to the American political system.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 379 Race And Class In America 4 Credits
This course focuses on the ways in which race and class intersect in the social, economic, and political structures of American society. Through sociological literature, fiction, nonfiction, film, and other media we will explore the place of race and class in American society. We will examine how race and class operate on a personal, "micro" level, while at the same time operating on a large scale, "macro" level.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 389 Honors Project 1-6 Credits
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

SOC 391 Evaluation Research 3 Credits
Application of social research methods of evaluation of the effectiveness of social programs. Measurement, research design, criteria of effectiveness and decision making. Consent of department chair.
Prerequisites: SR 111
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 393 Supervised Research 1-4 Credits
Conducting sociological or social psychological research under the supervision of a faculty member. Consent of department chair required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 395 Internship 1-4 Credits
Supervised experience involving nonpaid work in a setting relevant to sociology/social psychology. For credit. Open only to department majors.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 399 Senior Thesis 2-4 Credits
Research during senior year culminating in senior thesis. Required for sociology/social psychology majors seeking departmental honors. Consent of department chair required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

SOC 401 Classical Social Theory 3 Credits
Explores influential sociological theory, the differences among classical theoretical traditions, the main strengths and weaknesses of such traditions. Emphasis is placed on understanding the uses of theory in research, and the implications of theoretical models when applied to contemporary research and problems.

SOC 402 Sociology of Cyberspace 3 Credits
The course focus is on case-based discussion in the social psychology and sociology of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Questions of what it means to be an individual online, how relationships develop, the nature of groups, democracy and power, and education are considered.

SOC 404 (ES 404) Socio-cultural Foundations of Environmental Policy 3 Credits
This course is based on the premise that social and ecological sustainability require new policy approaches. Drawing on social, organizational, and behavioral theory, students will learn techniques for analyzing and critiquing existing environmental policies and designing more effective policies. Case studies highlight how cultural values, social norms, public opinion and politics shape policies and their outcomes. We examine the entire policy process from how environmental problems are defined, to how organizations implement policies and how policies are evaluated.

SOC 409 Proseminar in Sociology 3 Credits
The "pro" in proseminar is short for "professional." This course is designed to help you make the most out of your graduate education so that you can become a professional sociologist. In sociological terms, it is an exercise in anticipatory socialization. There are practical as well as philosophical aspects to the course, and active participation is key to your success. Important skills may include: researching and reading academic literature, develop a new research agenda, studying for the comprehensive exam, etc.

SOC 410 Statistics for Sociological Inquiry 3 Credits
Principles of statistical inference including hypothesis testing and analysis of variance. Covers univariate and multivariate techniques, including probability, correlation, test statistics, and regression. Emphasis is on the choice of proper approaches to answer research questions and the interpretation of analysis results.

SOC 411 Advanced Research Methods, Part I: Quantitative 3 Credits
Study of quantitative methods of data collection and analysis, measurement and research design issues at an advanced level.
Prerequisites: SOAN 111

SOC 412 Adv Research Methods, Part II, Qualitative 3 Credits
Study of qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, measurement and research design issues at an advanced level.

SOC 413 Research Practicum 3-6 Credits
Supervised research, either with a faculty member or in a community agency, designed to apply research skills to a particular problem as defined by the faculty member or agency in collaboration with the student and supervising instructor. Final paper should demonstrate theoretical understanding, proper application of methodology and data analysis, and results of the project.

SOC 415 Case Studies Of Social Control 3 Credits
Social control leads to social order and also generates social deviance. The processes involved in this dual production are found in the formal institutions of society and in the informal patterns of interaction within groups. Macro and micro level approaches are explored, especially in the drug and alcohol area.

SOC 416 Social Epidemiology 3 Credits
Social epidemiology is the study of the distribution and social determinants of health and disease in human populations. This course introduces the basic principles of epidemiological study design, analysis and interpretation, covering topics such as how a disease spreads across populations and how public health interventions can help control or reduce the spread of disease. This course also reviews epidemiology as a social science by reviewing the social causes and consequences of health.

SOC 418 (WGSS 418) Gendered Experience of Globalization 3 Credits
Women and men experience globalization differently and globalization affects women in different cultural and national contexts. Gender stratification has been intensified by the transnational flow of goods and people. Provides students with a survey of new development in feminist theories on globalization and on gender stratification and development, and links these theoretical frameworks to empirical research about gender issues that have become more prominent with globalization.

SOC 419 Global Food Systems 3 Credits
Where does our food come from? How does it get to our tables? Why are there famines in some parts of the world and obesity epidemics in other parts of the world? This course will investigate these questions by focusing on food systems – the chains of social action that link food producers to food consumers. We will also explore a range of alternatives to global food systems that emphasize food democracy, security, and sustainability.

Attribute/Distribution: SS
Urban Education: Inequality and Public Policy

This course will focus with a sociological perspective on urban education, inequality, and public policy in the contemporary United States. The first portion of the course examines research and literature relevant to the contemporary policy in the United States. The second portion of the course will explore the role of public policy in perpetuating educational inequality, and as a potentially promising solution to it.