Full Course Offerings

The sociology department currently offers the following courses on a regular basis:

“D” indicated that the course fulfills a Divisional requirement.
“QR” courses fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.
“CD” means the course fulfills the Cultural Diversity requirement.
“POI” means Permission of Instructor is required for enrollment.

151. Principles of Sociology. (3h) General introduction to the field; social organization and disorganization, socialization, culture, social change, social inequality, and other aspects. (D)

152. Social Problems. (3h) Survey of contemporary American social problems such as domestic and international poverty, education, immigration, crime and mass incarceration. (D)

153. Contemporary Families. (3h) Social basis of the family, emphasizing the problems growing out of modern conditions and social change. (D)

154. The Sociology of Deviant Behavior. (3h) Sociological analysis of the nature and causes of and societal reaction to deviant behavior patterns such as mental illness, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, sexual deviation, and criminal behavior. (D)

155. Public Engagement in USA and Other Post-industrial Societies. (3h) An introduction to core concepts and explanations in social science for differences between the U.S. and other nations on civic engagement, social mobility, educational attainments, public health, and leisure pursuits. (CD, D)

270. Sociological Theory. (3h) Introduction to classic and contemporary works of social theory, illustrating and exploring how sociologists analyze social forces, evaluate explanatory hypotheses, and prescribe social remedies. Authors explored range from the 19th century founding figures of Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim, to contemporary theorists such as Ervin Goffman, Patricia Collins, Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, and Pierre Bourdieu. P—Any 100 level SOC course or POI.

271. Social Statistics. (4h) Computer-based survey of basic statistics utilized in sociological research. MTH 109 (Elementary Probability and Statistics) or higher is strongly recommended as a prior course. Lab—1 hour. P—Any 100 level SOC course or POI. (QR)

272. Research Methods in Sociology. (3h) Overview of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Research projects required. P—Any 100 level SOC course or POI.

301. Sociology of Religion. (3h) Introduction to the sociological analysis of religion, including religious beliefs and experiences, the cultural context of religion, varieties of religious organization, religious change and social change. Also listed as REL 351.

303. Business and Society. (3h) Historical development, organization, and current problems of business enterprises in American society.

305. Gender in Society. (3h) Significance of gender in society for individuals and institutions. Examines differential gender experiences based on race, class, and sexual orientation. Considers feminism as a social movement and the possibility for social change. (CD)

308. Sociology of Art. (3h) Art as an institution, its functions, organization, and relationship to social change and to the communication of meanings.

309. Sexuality and Society. (3h) Study of the societal forces that impinge on human sexual behavior, emphasizing the effects of social change, the implications of changing gender roles, cross-cultural and subcultural variations, and the influence of the mass media.

316. Conflict Management in Organizations. (3h) Examines conflict management and social control in organizations, focusing on power structures, management styles, and processes of dispute resolution.
325. The Individual and Society. (3h) Introduces students to the field of sociological social psychology. Examines: (1) how membership in social groups shape experiences; (2) the development of the self in social interaction; and (3) the creation of small group culture and structure. Also covers a range of substantive topics such as socialization, identity, emotions, prejudice, deviance, mental health and social change.

327. Sociology of Emotion. (3h) Exploration of the social side of emotion, including how emotions are socially learned, shaped, regulated, controlled, and distributed in the population as well as the consequences of emotion norms, emotion management, emotional labor, and emotional deviance for individuals, social groups, and society.

328. The Sociology of Food. (3h) Examines systems of food production and their health consequences for workers and consumers; how social identities shape consumption choices and family food responsibilities; and analyzes food insecurity, food policy, and food-focused social movements from a sociological perspective.

329. Health Inequalities. (3h) Introduction to current sociological perspectives on the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and societies by examining the social determinants of inequalities in both mental and physical health (including reproductive health) based on socioeconomic status, gender, and race/ethnicity in the U.S.

330. Gender, Social Relationships and Well-Being. (3h) Examines how and why gender continues to shape men’s and women’s social relationships, including their social and economic well-being, their emotions and identities, as well as their mental and physical health over the life course.

331. The Social and Legal Contexts of Medicine. (3h) Examines student socialization, the social structure of medicine and the social and legal contexts in which the medical profession exists and changes.

334. Sociology of Education. (3h) Evaluates the major theories and significant empirical literature, both historical and statistical, on the structure and effects of educational institutions.

335. Sociology of Health and Illness. (3h) Examines processes of medicalization, the social experience of illness, cultural influences on the practice of medicine, and inequalities in access to care and resources to support health.

336. Sociology of Health Care. (3h) Analyzes healthcare systems, including the social organization of medical practice, healthcare payment, the education of medical practitioners, and the division of the labor in healthcare.

339. Family Violence. (3h) Examines family violence including child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse as well as the criminal justice response to these forms of violence.

340. Corrections. (3h) Surveys the political, economic, and social factors influencing the historical development of the corrections system. Institutional corrections such as jails, boot camps and prisons will be examined as well as community-based approaches such as probation and parole.

341. Criminology. (3h) Introduction to the study of crime, including the development of criminal law, how crime is defined and measured, the patterns and trends of crime, and a review of theories explaining where, when, by whom and against whom crime happens.

342. Juvenile Delinquency. (3h) Examines the development of the juvenile justice system. Topics include the concept of childhood and delinquency, measurement of delinquent behavior, gender differences, the impact of relationships within the family, school, and peer groups, and an assessment of policies for control and prevention.

343. Sociology of Law. (3h) Study of the social and cultural factors in the development, maintenance, and change of legal structures and processes. Topics include law as a vehicle and agent of social change, the role of law in social control and dispute resolution, the structure and organization of the legal profession, and the images of law in popular culture.
345. Advanced Seminar on Criminal Homicide. (3h) Examines the various cultural and structural forces that have been identified as major factors in understanding criminal homicide. P-SOC 154, SOC 339, or SOC 341 or POI.

346. Sociology of Guns. (3h) Examines the multifaceted role guns play in the U.S. from a sociological perspective. Topics include the history and technology of firearms, origins and development of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prevalence and distribution of guns, lawful possession and use of firearms, illegal gun markets, gun crime and injuries, gun politics and the efficacy of gun control.

347. Society, Culture, and Sport. (3h) Examines the interrelationship of sport and other social institutions. Emphasizes both the structure of sport and the functions of sport for society.

348. Sociology of the Family. (3h) The family as a field of sociological study. Assessment of significant historical and contemporary writings. Analyzes the structure, organization, and function of the family in America.

351. Management and Organizations. (3h) Study of macro-organizational processes and changes in contemporary industrial societies and their effects upon managerial systems, managerial ideologies, and managers in firms.

352. White-collar Crime. (3h) Study of criminal activity committed in the course of legitimate occupations including workplace crime, graft, and business crime.

354. Women in Poverty in the U.S. (3h) Examines the structural causes of poverty and its consequences with specific emphasis on women’s overrepresentation in poverty and how gender intersects with race, family status, age, and place.

355. Social Psychology of Inequality. (3h) Introduction to social psychological perspectives on social inequality with a focus on micro-level structures and processes underlying inequality including gender, age, race/ethnicity, as well as socioeconomic and sexual minority status.

356. Sociology of Immigration. (3h) Traces the waves of immigration historically and examines current policies and debates, with an emphasis on the political, economic, and social consequences of immigration in the post 1965 era. The focus will be on the United States, but will also consider cross-national comparisons. (CD)

359. Race and Ethnic Relations. (3h) Examines the origins and effects of racial inequality and relationships between race and ethnic groups with a focus on the United States. (CD)

360. Social Inequality. (3h) Study of structured social inequality with particular emphasis on economic class, social status, and political power. (CD)


363. Global Capitalism. (3h) Analyzes industrial organization, including discussion of market relations and the behavior of firms, the structure of industrial development, and labor relations and the growth of trade unions. Also listed as INS 363.

364. Political Sociology. (3h) Analyzes the interaction between politics, the state and society. Topics include public and social policies, political engagement and social movements, and social change.

365. Technology, Culture, and Change. (3h) Examines the interrelated forces that shape change in organizations and societies; from the emergence of capitalist markets to the systems, controls, and information revolution of the 21st century. Also listed as INS 365.

366. The Sociological Analysis of Film. (3h) Examines the intersection of economic, organizational, and cultural sociology using films and the film industry as focal examples.
367. The Sociology of Culture. (3h) Examines the most powerful explanatory schools in sociology on the fields of cultural production and consumption. Topics include: stylistic change and the consumption of visual and performance arts, musical tastes, the production and consumption of literature, museum attendance, education and culture, and architecture and design.

368. Death and Dying. (1.5h) Analyzes how the experience of physical decline is socially and medically managed, and the role social rituals play in the aftermath of death and grief.

369. Social Movements. (3h) Examines social movements and public protest with a focus on why movements arise, how they operate, and what effects they have on participants and on society.

378, 379. Undergraduate Research with Faculty. (0.5h-3h) Awards credit to students assisting with a research project led by a faculty member. Students can earn a maximum of six credits (pass/fail) between SOC 378 and 379, but only three credits can be counted toward the major or minor. P—POI.

All special topics seminars (SOC 380-391) may be repeated for credit if course content differs and require any SOC 100 level course or POI as a prerequisite.

380. Special Topics Seminar in Social Institutions. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving family, religion, education, politics, and sport.

381. Special Topics Seminar in Social Inequality. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving gender, class, race, poverty, and sexuality.

382. Special Topics Seminar in Social Psychology. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in the areas of social psychology, the individual, and the social self.

383. Special Topics Seminar in Medicine and Health Care. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in medicine, illness, and healthcare.

384. Special Topics Seminar in Crime and Criminal Justice. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues about crime, police, courts, and corrections.

385. Special Topics Seminar in Business and Society. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in business, work, markets, and management.

386. Special Topics Seminar in Culture and Social Movements. (3h) Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving culture, social change, and social movements.

390, 391. Special Topics Seminar in Sociology. (1.5h-3h, 1.5h-3h) Survey of a selected area in sociology not covered in the regular course offerings. Prospective students should contact the professor before enrolling as topics will vary.

396, 397. Honors Individual Study. (1.5h-3h, 1.5h-3h) Individual study toward the writing and defense of the honors thesis to be carried out under the supervision of a departmental faculty member. P—POI.

398, 399. Individual Study. (1h-3h, 1h-3h) Reading, research, or internship courses designed to meet the needs and interests of selected students, to be carried out under the supervision of a departmental faculty member.