

Faculty

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Sociology involves the systematic examination of human social activity, from everyday face-to-face encounters to the movements of civilizations throughout history. Unlike disciplines that focus on a single aspect of society, sociology stresses the complex relationships governing all dimensions of social life, including the economy, state, family, religion, science, social inequality, culture, and consciousness. Its inquiry is guided by several theoretical traditions and grounded in the empirical observation of social reality.

The discipline emerged in the nineteenth century as a critical analysis of modern, western society; yet it is informed by philosophers and theorists from earlier centuries. Today, sociologists study ways in which the modern world continues to change,

often by making comparisons with societies at other times and in other places. Sociology majors go on to take active roles in corporate boardrooms, law offices, government departments, social service agencies, classrooms, and policy think tanks. In a broader sense, everyone can benefit from sociology's unique understanding of our common humanity and the diversity of social life.

Beginning Studies in Sociology

Students may begin their study of sociology in any of five introductory foundation courses. Each course combines lecture and discussion and has an enrollment limit of twenty-five students. All of these courses apply the theory and methods of sociology to achieve an understanding of the character of life in modern societies, especially our own. The courses are distinguished by their particular thematic focus and course materials. Look for the ♦ symbol, which designates those courses particularly appropriate for first-year students or upper-class students new to the sociology curriculum.

The Sociology Major

Students majoring in sociology must complete a minimum of 5 units of work in the discipline which meet the following requirements:

Introductory foundation course.

One course (1/2 unit) is required: SOCY 110, 111, 112, 113, or 114. Only one introductory foundation course may be counted toward completion of the major.

Area courses. Eight courses (4 units) are required. At least one course (1/2 unit) must be taken in each of the four areas of the sociology

curriculum (institutions and change, culture and identity, social theory, research methods) and at least two courses (1 unit) must be taken in three of these areas.

Core courses. Three of the four core courses are required: SOCY 271, 361, 362, and 372. These courses count toward completion of area requirements. Students planning to attend graduate school in sociology or related fields are strongly encouraged to take all four core courses.

Senior Seminar. SOCY 489 (1/2 unit) is required and taken in the fall of the senior year.

With departmental approval, students who do not receive sociology credit from off-campus study may count up to 1 unit of work in other disciplines toward the major requirements.

The Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise is designed to provide majors with an opportunity to (1) undertake original scholarship on topics of their own choosing, (2) present the results of this scholarship to students and faculty members in a professional setting, and (3) produce high-quality papers through a process of discussion and rewriting.

Each student submits a paper proposal in October, to which faculty members participating in the exercise respond in writing. The student then prepares the paper, in consultation with faculty members, to be submitted in January. All participating students read each paper, posting comments via computer prior to the paper's scheduled presentation. Faculty members provide written comments on the paper to each student. All Senior Exercise participants meet in February for student presentations and discussion of their work. Following these sessions, each student revises the paper in light of faculty and student comments, submitting a final paper by March 1.

Faculty members evaluate student work with regard to the quality of the

final paper (50 percent), the clarity and effectiveness of the oral presentation (25 percent), and the extent and quality of student participation in discussion (25 percent). Written notification of the results of the evaluation is provided by March 24; included is notice of whether or not the student has passed and earned distinction. Students who fail the Senior Exercise are required to take a written or oral comprehensive examination, at the option of the faculty, covering material presented in the major program.

Reading for Honors

The honors program is designed to facilitate significant independent research by our department's finest students. Typically, the student will propose a topic for research in consultation with a member of the faculty who agrees to serve as the project advisor. The department will then approve (or decline to approve) the honors research on the basis of the merit of the proposal itself as well as the student's past classroom performance, motivation to excellence, and demonstration of the organizational skills required for successful completion. In consultation with the project advisor, the student will then build an honors committee consisting of two members of the sociology faculty (including the advisor), one member from another department on campus, and one member from another institution of higher education (chosen by the advisor). The student will then spend the senior year conducting the research and writing an honors thesis. The thesis is finally defended orally before the honors committee, the members of which then determine whether to award *no honors*, *honors*, *high honors*, or *highest honors*.

Students interested in reading for honors should meet with a faculty member no later than January of the junior year to discuss procedures and develop a proposal. Students approved for participation in the honors program will enroll in two

semesters of independent study (SOCY 497, 498) in their senior year.

The Sociology Minor

The department offers a limited number of structured minors. All minors require a minimum of 2 1/2 units of coursework, including one introductory foundation course. Additional courses are specified for each particular program of study. Minors are currently offered in the following subjects: Sociological Perspective, Sex and Gender, Race and Ethnicity, Social Class, Law and Society, and Social Theory. Students should meet with any member of the faculty to learn more about minoring in sociology.

The Sociology Curriculum

The sociology curriculum places emphasis on four substantive areas of sociological investigation:

Institutions and Change studies the forms and dynamics of institutional life, with emphasis on structural, historical, and comparative perspectives.

Culture and Identity explores the construction and transformation of cultural and symbolic forms and the development of self within the social process.

Social Theory examines the historical development of the discipline, the works of major contributors, and the particular schools of sociological thought.

Research Methods investigates the assumptions and tools of sociological research as well as the connection between research and theory in sociological study.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Program in Sociology: A special series of courses will be offered in the department of sociology this year by NEH Professor

McCarthy on the topic of "Democracy and Social Justice: Ancient and Modern." For more information, see course descriptions for SOCY 243 and SOCY 461. The purpose of these courses is to show the integration of the ancient and modern perspectives in ethics and modern German social theory.

First-Semester Courses

Introductory Foundation Courses

American Society

◆ SOCY 111 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This introductory course explores the collective foundations of individual identity within the American society, paying particular attention to rural life. In what sense is the self fundamentally social? How are changes in identity attributable to the organization of experience throughout life? What are the effects of gender, race, and social class on consciousness? How have changes in American industrial capitalism shaped the search for self-worth? In what ways have science and technology altered our relationship to nature? What challenges to identity are posed by events in American history, including immigration and the African diaspora? How has the very advent of modernity precipitated our preoccupation with the question "Who am I?" Students will conduct group research projects to connect our ideas to everyday life.

Contemporary Applications of Sociological Theory

◆ SOCY 113 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

The objective of this course is to examine a series of social issues from several different sociological perspectives. To that end, the course has three main goals: (1) to introduce you to several different sociological perspectives, (2) to provide a basic understanding of the application of the principles of social-problems research from a sociological perspec-

tive, and (3) to encourage an increased understanding of the extent, causes, and possible solutions to a number of contemporary social issues. One additional, and perhaps more significant, goal is to promote critical thinking, discussion, and writing about contemporary topics of interest and concern.

Institutions and Inequalities

◆ SOCY 114 (1/2 unit)
Thomas

This introductory course will focus on an analysis of social structure and its impact on the experiences of individuals. We will look at the ways in which social structures construct and constrain reality for individuals and how society and social institutions shape individual values, attitudes, and behaviors. The course will examine sociological concepts through an analysis of culture, social inequality, social institutions, and social change. The first portion of the class will focus on understanding culture and how we come to be social beings. We will then move to an examination of social stratification and inequalities, paying particular attention to the impact of race, class, and gender on the lives of individuals in American society. We will look at recent changes in the institutions of economics, politics, and education and the impact these changes have had on individuals and society. We will end the semester by looking at social change within one institution. By the end of the course, you should understand common sociological concepts and perspectives and be able to consider aspects of the social world through the sociological lens.

Courses on Institutions and Change

Problems, Politics, and Policy: The Political Construction of Social Problems and Their Solutions

SOCY 220 (1/2 unit)
Macionis

Why do some issues become “social problems” while others do not? For example, each year auto accidents claim the lives of three times as many

people as violent crime, yet it is crime rather than cars or driving that we see as a “problem.” The course begins by explaining how “problems” emerge as a result of “claims making” within the political arena by social movements or interested publics. We then consider what kind of issues are defined as “problems” by political conservatives, liberals, and radicals, and what policies are viewed as appropriate responses or “solutions.” These political dynamics will be illustrated with discussion of a number of issues, including inequality of income and wealth, racial and gender inequality, crime, abortion, the aging of the U.S. population, and the state of the physical environment. The course provides students with an opportunity to prepare an in-depth political analysis of one issue of choice. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

Sociology of Law

SOCY 226 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This mid-level course is intended to examine the interrelationship between jurisprudence and legal sociology. The class will employ a seminar format. Students will examine the theoretical approaches of selected legal sociologists and scholars of jurisprudence. Contrasting Pound’s sociological jurisprudence with Weber’s Austinian view of the nature of law or Durkheim’s examination of law and social solidarity, the class will explore diverse approaches to the sociological study of law in society, both classical and contemporary. Students will encounter questions about the collaboration between lawyers and sociologists for utilitarian purposes (i.e., research to guide legal and social policy) versus the pursuit of a so-called “pure” sociology of law which refrains from making value judgments or evaluations in favor of explanatory and descriptive purposes. The class will seek to explore the intersection of legal theory and sociological method and its implications for the field of legal sociology. There will also be special attention given to the American critical legal

studies, feminist jurisprudence, and critical race theoretical movements. Prerequisites: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor. Limited to fifteen students.

Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions

SOCY 232 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

The objective of this discussion-based course is to explore the concept of sexual harassment. The course is guided by the principle that sexual harassment is not, as many seem to think, simply a by-product of sexual desire or misguided attraction. Sexual harassment is about power—gaining power or retaining power over subordinates by those in positions of authority. The goal of the course is for students to become conversant with the wide range of experiences that may appropriately be called “sexual harassment.” Prerequisite: introductory foundation course or permission of the instructor. This course also satisfies a requirement of the concentrations in African and African-American studies, law and society, and women’s and gender studies, and may be counted toward the major in American studies.

Gender Stratification

SOCY 421 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

This upper-level seminar critically examines several genres of literature on the social roles of men and women at both the social-psychological and structural levels of society. We will discuss, in particular, concepts such as socialization, attitudes, interpersonal behavior, work roles, stratification by race and class as related to gender, and social problems that arise due to gender inequality. Enrollment is limited to fourteen. This course also satisfies a requirement of the concentrations in African and African-American studies, law and society, and women’s and gender studies, and may be counted toward the major in American studies.

Courses on Culture and Identity

Ethics and Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions

SOCY 243 (1/2 unit)

Royal W. Rhodes, Donald L. Rogan
Professor of Religious Studies;
McCarthy

This course will examine the development of theories of ethics and social justice, from the ancient Hebrew tradition of Torah and the prophets, the New Testament writers Luke and Matthew, the Greek drama of Aeschylus, and the political philosophy of Aristotle, to modern discussions about social, political, and economic justice. We will explore how modern social theory has employed ancient Hebrew and Greek teachings as the basis for social ethics. Questions of justice, freedom, economic development, individualism, and alienation will be major themes in this study of liberalism, Christianity, and Marxism. Special emphasis will be on contemporary debates about the ethics of democratic capitalism, including conservative theology and philosophy and radical liberation theology. Readings will be from the Bible, Aeschylus, Aristotle, Pope John Paul II, M. Friedman, E. Fromm, R. Pirsig, E.F. Schumacher, and N. Wolf. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. This course is cross-listed as RELN 380.

Courses in Social Theory

Classical Social Theory

SOCY 361 (1/2 unit)

McCarthy

This course examines the development of classical social theory in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the first part, we will stress the philosophical and intellectual foundations of classical theory in the works of Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Hegel. We will examine how social theory integrated modern philosophy, political science (law), and historical political economy in the formation of a new discipline. Distinguishing itself from the other social sciences, classical

sociology, for the most part, rejected the Enlightenment view of positivism and natural science as the foundation for social science as it turned instead to German idealism and existentialism for guidance. It also rejected the Enlightenment view of liberal individualism and economics, and in the process united the ancient ideals of ethics and politics (Aristotle) with the modern (neo-Kantian) concern for empirical and historical research. The second part of the course will examine the classical analysis of the historical origins of Western society in the structures and culture of alienation (Marx), rationalization (Weber), and anomie and division of labor (Durkheim).

Of special interest will be the analysis of the early humanistic works of Marx, his ethical and political writings and their relation to Greek philosophy, and his later critique of political economy; Weber's historical sociology, modern economic history, and theory of Western and non-Western religions and their relation to the development of capitalism; and, finally, the foundations of "positivist" social science in Durkheim's work on suicide and law, and his later "idealist" sociology in his theory of primitive classifications, religion, and sociology of knowledge. At the methodological level, we will study the three different views of classical "science": critical science and dialectical method (Marx), interpretive science and historical method of understanding and value relevance (Weber), and positivistic science and method of naturalism and realism (Durkheim).

Courses on Research Methods

Methods of Sociological Research

SOCY 271 (1/2 unit)

Macionis

Knowing how to answer a question—including what constitutes good evidence and how to collect it—is a necessary ability for any sociologist, or for any student reading the sociological research of others. This course provides an introduction to the

conduct of research, including scientific, interpretive, and critical approaches. The primary goal is to understand when and how to use research strategies such as experiments, survey questionnaires, interviews, fieldwork, and analysis of historical documents. Students will conduct small-scale research projects using these techniques. SOCY 271 is one of the department's core courses, meaning that all majors and minors should carefully consider enrolling. At the same time, the course welcomes anyone who wishes to gain competence in basic research skills. Prerequisites: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

Seminars and Individual Study

Individual Study

SOCY 293 (1/2 unit)

Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Individual Study: Intermediate

SOCY 393 (1/2 unit)

Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Individual Study: Advanced

SOCY 493 (1/2 unit)

Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Seminar

SOCY 489 (1/2 unit)

Thomas

This advanced seminar, required of all senior majors, explores fundamental issues regarding the process of sociological inquiry and the promise of

the discipline. Faculty forums and student-directed discussions will consider the boundaries and purposes of sociology, the relationship between theory and research, sociological writing, and the planning and execution of scholarly research. Students will apply their understanding of these issues through individual projects on subjects of their own choosing, presenting their work in progress for critical discussion. Prerequisite: This course is limited to senior sociology majors.

Junior Honors

SOCY 397 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Honors

SOCY 497 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Second-Semester Courses

Introductory Foundation Courses

Human Society: An Introduction to Sociology

◆ SOCY 110 (1/2 unit)
Macionis

This introductory course in sociology explores what is surely the most fascinating of this planet's life forms, *Homo sapiens*. Humans stand out in this world as thinking creatures who are, biologically speaking, unfinished at birth. Lacking a genetically fixed "nature," humans go about completing themselves as they construct societies. Understanding how we accomplish this task is the focus of this course.

The course begins by describing the perspective and methods of sociology and then applies these tools to the exploration of human societies. Discussions raise issues such as how

and why cultures differ and how people are socialized into their particular way of life; and explore the experience of confronting cultural practices that violate one's own standards. Additional concerns include a comparison of traditional and modern social organization, with particular emphasis on the expansion of bureaucracy and changing patterns of social inequality. The course helps to develop student writing skills and highlights applications of sociological research and theory to various occupations.

American Society

◆ SOCY 111 (1/2 unit)
Staff

See first-semester course description.

Dreamers and Dissenters: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud

◆ SOCY 112 (1/2 unit)
McCarthy

This introductory course traces the development of modern social theory from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. It begins by examining the fundamental social institutions and values that characterize and define modern society and the Enlightenment in the works of Descartes, Locke, Dickens, Weber, and J.S. Mill: (1) rise of the modern state, political democracy, and utilitarianism; (2) market economy, industrialization, and economic liberalism; (3) new class system and capitalism; (4) modern personality (self) and individualism; and (5) principles of natural science, modern technology, and positivism. The course then turns to the dreams and imagination of Romanticism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with its critique of modernity in the works of Marx (socialism), Freud (psychoanalysis), Camus and Schopenhauer (existentialism), and Nietzsche (nihilism). We will outline the development of the distinctive principles and institutions of modernity in the following works: Dickens, *Hard Times*; Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*; Weber, "Science as a Vocation" and *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; Locke, *The Second Treatise of*

Government; Mill, *On Liberty*; Descartes, *Discourse on Method*; Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria* and *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*; Camus, *The Fall*; Schopenhauer, *The World as Will and Representation*; and Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*. Enrollment limited to first- and second-year students.

Courses on Culture and Identity

Science and Society: Nature, Ecology, and the Crisis of Reason

SOCY 242 (1/2 unit)
McCarthy

The first part of this mid-level course will examine the underlying philosophical and sociological foundations of modern science and rationality. It will begin by analyzing the differences between the ancient Greek and medieval view of physics, causality, movement, and organic nature and the modern worldview of natural science in Galileo, Descartes, and Newton. We will then turn to study the debates within the philosophy of science (Burr, Popper, Kuhn, Quine, Feyerabend, and Rorty) and the sociology of science (Scheler, Ellul, Leiss, Marcuse, and Habermas) about the nature of scientific inquiry and the social/political meaning of scientific discoveries. Does science investigate the essential reality of nature or is it more influenced by the wider social relations and practical activity of modern industrial life? Does science reflect objective reality and universal truth or is it a social construct reflecting the particular needs and functional interests of society?

The course then turns to examine the applied relationship between science and society. We will deal with the full range of the rationalization of modern society: the application of science and technological rationality (efficiency, productivity, and functionality) to economic (workplace), political (state), and social (cultural legitimation) institutions. We will examine the process of modernization and rationalization in science, labor, politics, the academy, nature, and ecology. Finally, we will discuss the

debates within the environmental movement between the deep ecologists and the social ecologists. Of particular importance is the latter's return to the Greek polis and Aristotelian physics for insights into the crisis of Western reason and Enlightenment science and its vision of small-scale technology, local communities, and participatory democracy. Readings will be from Aristotle, T. Kuhn, M. Berman, H. Braverman, E. A. Burtt, M. Horkheimer, S. Harding, F. Capra, W. McKibben, and M. Bookchin. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

Courses on Social Theory

Contemporary Social Theory

SOCY 362 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

In this core course we will investigate the twentieth century's major theories concerning the nature of society and the human social process. Most of these sociological theories are American in origin, but some developments in Western European thought will also be included. Specific theories to be discussed include (1) functionalism, (2) symbolic interactionism, (3) sociology of knowledge, (4) critical theory, and (5) intersection theory. The consideration of the intellectual and social contexts in which these theoretical traditions have arisen will be central to our analysis throughout. This course will be of value to students interested in developing a systematic approach to understanding society and should be especially relevant to those concentrating in the social sciences. Prerequisites: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

Women in Sociology

SOCY 464 (1/2 unit)
Thomas

Female sociologists have helped shape and change the world, yet their contributions have been largely omitted, buried, and rendered invisible. In this course, we will

explore the contributions made by women to the discipline of sociology. We will begin our analysis with an historical overview of women's experiences and contributions, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and progressing to the present. We will engage in spirited debate over the contributions of female sociologists, what hindered or facilitated their careers, and what their lasting marks have been on the discipline. Each student will be asked to lead class discussion on two articles, to participate in discussions, and write an in-depth paper on a female sociologist of his or her choice. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

Courses on Research Methods

Research Practicum: Doing Social Research

SOCY 372 (1/2 unit)
Thomas

Ever wonder how sociologists gather the information on which they base their claims? Curious about all those charts and graphs in newspapers and magazines? Thinking about a career in marketing or survey research? This course is designed for students who want to "get their hands dirty" and actively participate in doing and understanding social research.

Students in this course will engage in the design, implementation, and analysis of a sociological research project. Participants will: pose and investigate a research question, gather and analyze data, and prepare their findings for presentation. Students will become acquainted with SPSS for data analysis and learn to construct and interpret tables and other graphical displays. These skills will help prepare them for graduate school, for the job market, and for being more informed consumers of social research. Prerequisites: introductory foundation course and one additional sociology course. SOCY 271 highly recommended.

Seminars and Individual Study

Individual Study

SOCY 294 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Individual Study: Intermediate

SOCY 394 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Individual Study: Advanced

SOCY 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Junior Honors

SOCY 398 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Honors

SOCY 498 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

The following courses may be offered in 2004-05:

SOCY 110 Human Society

SOCY 111 Identity in American Society

SOCY 112 Dreamers and Dissenters

- SOCY 113 Contemporary Applications of Sociological Theory
- SOCY 114 Institutions and Inequalities
- SOCY 220 Social Problems and Policies
- SOCY 224 Health and Illness
- SOCY 232 Liberalism and Communitarianism
- SOCY 233 Seminar on Sexual Harassment
- SOCY 239 Social Movements and Social Change
- SOCY 271 Logic and Methods of Social Research
- SOCY 362 Contemporary Social Theory
- SOCY 372 Research Practicum: Doing Social Research
- SOCY 421 Gender Stratification
- SOCY 461 Modern German Social Theory
- SOCY 464 Women in Sociology
- SOCY 477, 478 Fieldwork: Rural Life
- SOCY 489 Senior Seminar
- SOCY 492 Issues of Gender and Power