

## 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 September, to which faculty members participating in the exercise respond in writing. The student then prepares the paper in consultation with faculty members. Faculty members provide written comments on the paper to each student. All Senior Exercise participants will present their research and answer questions from peers and faculty. Following these sessions, each student revises the paper in light of faculty and student comments. The final paper is submitted in January.

Faculty members evaluate student work with regard to the quality of the final paper, the clarity and effectiveness of the oral presentation, and the

extent and quality of student participation in discussion. Written notification of the results of the evaluation is provided within a month; 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.

## First-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)  
*Besecke*

Sociology is based upon the notion that a society is more than just a collection of individuals, just as a song is more than just a collection of notes. The relationships among a society's individuals form the structure of the society; and that structure then channels individual thoughts and actions into particular patterns. A group of people—a society—has its own patterns and its own qualities

and its own movement, which are different from the patterns and qualities and movements of the individuals within that society.

In this course, we will examine the ways that patterns of American social life influence, and are influenced by, individual lives. For example: we will ask how individuals' sense of self is influenced by societal expectations. We will ask how our employment systems challenge individuals' ability to maintain a sense of authenticity in their emotional lives. We will ask how race and class structure individuals' economic opportunities. We will ask how systems that we design to improve human life can end up constraining individuals' freedom and humanity in unanticipated ways. You will conduct original research investigating how people's opinions on issues of the day are informed by networks of social symbols. Ultimately, you will take away a taste of what sociology, the study of social groups and their actions, is about.

**Social Dreamers: 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 Institutions and Change**

**Wealth and Power**  
SOCY 223 (1/2 unit)  
Macionis

People in the United States are keenly aware of social differences, yet few have a very precise understanding of "social class," the magnitude of social inequality in U.S. society, or why social inequality exists at all. This course provides a semester-long examination of social stratification—a society's unequal ranking of categories of people—in historical, comparative, theoretical, and critical terms. The historical focus traces the development of social inequality since the emergence of the first human societies some ten thousand years ago, with particular attention to the effects of the Industrial Revolution and, more recently, the Information Revolution. The comparative focus explores how and why societies differ in their degree of inequality, dimensions of inequality, and justifications for inequality. Attention is also given to the extent of social differences between high- and low-income nations in the world today. The theoretical focus asks how and why social inequality comes to exist in the first place (and why social equality does not exist), both in a national and an international context. Finally, this course offers a true diversity of political approaches, presenting arguments made by

conservatives, liberals, and radicals about the degree of inequality in the United States and in the world. Prerequisite: foundation course or permission of the instructor.

**Social Movements and Social Change**

SOCY 229 (1/2 unit)  
Thomas

This mid-level course will examine social movements as attempts to bring about social change through collective action. The major goals of the course are: (1) to acquaint students with the sociological literature on social movements; (2) to examine the development, life cycle, and impact of several important social movements in the United States; (3) to examine issues of race, class, and gender within social movements; and (4) to develop students' skills in thinking sociologically about social discontent and social change. The course will analyze three social movements in particular: the civil-rights movement, the student movements, and the women's movement. Students will also be required to do volunteer work in a community agency.

**Issues of Gender and Power**  
SOCY 231 (1/2 unit)  
Kohlman

The primary objective of this mid-level seminar is to explore the social construction of gender in U.S. society as we question common assumptions that limit our collective understanding of the human experience. The focus of course discussion is specifically on issues which seem to be particularly affected by our societal understanding of women as presently constructed; for example, sexual harassment, rape, and domestic violence. Prerequisite: foundation course or permission of the instructor. This course also satisfies a requirement of the women's and gender studies concentration, the law and society concentration. It may be counted toward the American studies major.

**Special Topic: Crime and Punishment**

SOCY 391 (1/2 unit)  
*Sheffield*

Crime and Punishment is a directed research seminar what will focus upon the concept of punishment, primarily within the context of the American criminal justice system. The class will examine some of the prevalent notions of what punishment is and should be, "punishing practices," and justifications for the imposition of punishment for non-conforming behaviors in a variety of social contexts. From within a sociological perspective, the class will investigate relationships between conceptualizations of punishment and the legal institutions and actors who are empowered within societies to mete out such punishments. The course is also intended to provide exposure to and hands-on experience with law and social-science research approaches through individual and group research topics. Prerequisites: either LGLS 110 or a foundation course in sociology plus one additional course in legal studies or sociology.

**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.

**Race, Ethnicity, and American Law**  
SOCY 244 (1/2 unit)  
*Sheffield*

This mid-level course focuses on the American legal system's effect on racial, ethnic, and minority groups in the United States as well as on the manner in which such groups have influenced the state of the "law" in this country. It is intended to stimulate critical and systematic thinking about the relationships among American legal institutions and selected racial, ethnic, and minority populations.

The class will examine various social and cultural conditions, as well as historical and political events, that were influenced in large part by the minority status of the participants. These conditions will be studied to determine in what ways, if any, the American legal system has advanced, accommodated, or frustrated the interests of these groups. Through exposure to the legislative process and legal policy making, students should gain an appreciation for the complexity of the issues and far-reaching impact that legal institutions have on the social, political, and economic condition of racial, ethnic, and minority groups in America. The primary requirement of this course is completion of a comprehensive research project. Prerequisite: foundation course or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to fourteen students. This course may be counted toward the law and society concentration and the American studies major.

**Special Topic: Meaning in Modern Society**

SOCY 491 (1/2 unit)  
*Besecke*

Sociologists consider modern societies to be faced with a "crisis of meaning." Meanwhile, all over American society, people seem to be responding to this crisis of meaning, using words like "spirituality" and "soul" to talk about a dimension of life that they feel is neglected in modern society. This dimension has something to do with religion, and yet it's different from what many people think of when they think about religiosity. Often, when people talk about spirituality, they are describing an interest in meaningfulness and a deeper experience of life. Americans' interest in spirituality can be studied sociologically, and many of our greatest classical and contemporary sociologists have addressed this topic of ultimate meanings in modern society. This course is an introduction to the sociological conversation about contemporary spirituality and the search for ultimate meanings in modern society. We will consider the following questions: (1) What is meaning, and what makes a society comparatively meaningful or meaningless? (2) What about modern society makes meaning a problem, and what resources does modern society offer for renewed meaningfulness? (3) What are modern people doing to bring a sense of meaningfulness into life, and how can we understand their efforts sociologically; that is, how do contemporary spiritualities engage with different aspects of modern American society? Prerequisites: foundation course or permission of instructor. Recommended: one mid-level sociology course.

**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**

### **Research Practicum: Doing Social Research**

SOCY 372 (1/2 unit)  
*Kohlman*

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: foundation course and one additional sociology course. SOCY 271 highly recommended.

### **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.

### **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. rerequisite: This course is limited to senior sociology majors.

**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 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**

#### **Social Dreamers: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud**

◆ SOCY 112 (1/2 unit)  
*McCarthy*

See first semester course description.

#### **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, there are three main goals of this course: (1) to introduce several different sociological perspectives, (2) to provide a basic understanding of the application of the principles of social-problems research from a sociological perspective, 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**

**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.

**Deviance**  
SOCY 240 (1/2 unit)  
*Macionis*

Our common sense tells us that certain acts are "wrong"; that particular persons who engage in them are "deviant." But common sense suggests little about *how* and *why* a particular act or actor comes to be understood in this way. This course explores the origins and significance of deviance within social life. The distinction between being *different* and being *deviant* is carried throughout the semester. Emphasis is also given to the increasing importance of

psychotherapy in our response to the deviant. This course provides a substantial introduction to criminology with consideration of the social characteristics of offenders and victims, crime rates, and various justifications of punishment. This course should be of interest to students within many majors who are concerned with theoretical, practical, and ethical questions concerning the concepts of good and evil as foundations of human society. Prerequisite: introductory foundation courses or permission of instructor.

#### **Special Topic: Women, Health, and Medicine**

SOCY 492 (1/2 unit)  
*Thomas*

This course will examine women's health from a variety of levels. The course will draw mainly on the work of sociologists and gender scholars. Using these theoretical perspectives, we will examine the social, historical, and political context of women's health. We will begin with an overview of the biopsychosocial context of women's health and inequalities in health status. We will then look at women in the medical system as both patients and providers. We will pay particular attention to how these experiences are affected by race, class, gender, and geography. We will then examine several topics which are particularly important for women's well-being, such as reproductive health, cultural and social violence, and the medicalization of women's bodies. We will end the course with a look at the political context of women's health and how women have organized for change. In particular we will look at the women's health movement in the United States and the global politics of women's health. Prerequisite: foundation course or permission of instructor. Recommended: socy 224

### **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 (Burt, 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. Burt, M. Horkheimer, S. Harding, F. Capra, W. McKibben, and M. Bookchin. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course or permission of instructor.

**Special Topic: Cultural Sociology-American Culture**  
SOCY 292 (1/2 unit)  
*Besecke*

This course examines the influence of shared meanings and practices on a variety of dimensions of contemporary American social life, including race, class, religion, political participation, close relationships, economics, and social commitment. We will consider the following questions: What is culture? How does culture operate in society? How does culture interact with social institutions and with individuals? How do we study culture sociologically? Fundamentally, cultural sociology is a way of *seeing* society; the goal of the course is for you to learn to see the structured meanings and practices that order all of our lives, and the possibilities the culture provides for us to influence our society's future course. Our emphasis is distinctly on the contemporary American cultural mainstream. We will discuss in class the question of whether or not such a "mainstream" exists and if so, how we might understand it. Our starting assumption is that it is essential for Americans to understand the themes of their own culture if we are to be responsible global citizens. Prerequisites: 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 and one additional sociology course or permission of instructor.

### **Courses on Research Methods**

**Special Topic: Qualitative Methods of Social Research**  
SOCY 392 (1/2 unit)  
*Besecke*

The focus of this course is on learning how to use qualitative research methods to answer questions about social life. We will discuss individual and group interviews, observational techniques, and content analysis of documents and visual images. Students will gain practice using these techniques by carrying out short research projects using these methods outside of class. In class, we will discuss the "nuts and bolts" of designing a research project, writing research proposals, collecting data, analyzing data, and writing up qualitative research. We will contextualize this practical instruction with discussions of research ethics, issues of reliability and validity in qualitative research, the relationship between qualitative methods and theory-building, and the place of qualitative methods in the discipline. Prerequisites: foundation course or permission of instructor.

### **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.

**Senior Honors**

SOCY 498 (1/2 unit)  
*Staff*

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

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 477, 478 Fieldwork: Rural Life  
SOCY 489 Senior Seminar

**The following courses may be offered in 2005-06:**

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 230 Sociology of U.S. Race Relations  
SOCY 231 Issues of Gender and Power  
SOCY 232 Sexual Harassment: Legal Questions and Normative Expectations  
SOCY 239 Social Movements and Social Change