

Faculty

Kelly S. Besecke
Assistant Professor

Marla H. Kohlman
Assistant Professor

John J. Macionis
*Professor and Prentice Hall
Distinguished Scholar (on leave)*

George E. McCarthy
Chair, Professor

Howard L. Sacks
*Senior Advisor to the President;
Professor*

Ric S. Sheffield
*Associate Provost; Associate Profes-
sor of Sociology and Legal Studies*

Jan E. Thomas
Associate Professor (on leave)

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.

Year Course

Courses on Research Methods

Fieldwork: Rural Life

SOCY 477Y, 478Y (1 unit)
Sacks

This course provides an introduction to fieldwork techniques and to

the ethical and political issues raised by our purposeful involvement in other people's lives. Students will spend considerable time conducting original field research throughout Knox County, with the results to be presented publicly. Our research will generally consider the character of rural society, with particular focus on the local food system. Students will conduct a community food assessment, examining the character and adequacy of local food production, distribution, and access. The results of this research will provide the basis for a major effort to build a sustainable market for food produced in Knox County. This course satisfies the senior seminar requirement in American studies. Prerequisites: permission of instructor.

First-Semester Courses

Introductory Foundation Courses

Human Society: An Introduction to Sociology

◆ SOCY 110 (1/2 unit)
Staff

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.

Course on Institutions and Change

Religion in Modern Society

SOCY 221 (1/2 unit)
Besecke

In this course we will examine religion as a phenomenon in modern society, with particular attention to the American scene. Why does religion exist? What is the nature of religious experience? How do we become religious? Under what conditions does personal religious experience become formalized? What is the character of institutionalized religion in contemporary society? Historically, what relationships has religion had with

the economy, polity, and other social institutions? What is the significance of contemporary religious expressions, including fundamentalism and new-age spiritualism? Readings will include selections from William James, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Marx, Peter Berger, and other contemporary sociologists of religion. Prerequisite: foundation course or permission of instructor.

Courses on Culture and Identity

Sociology of Gender

SOCY 241 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

Sociology has long recognized the different roles of men and women in society, but the systematic, sociological analysis of how and why these roles have been developed and maintained is relatively new. This course will analyze the social construction of gender and its salience in our everyday lives. Using sociological theory and the context of gender, we will link the private experiences of individuals to the structure of social institutions. The course will begin with the familiar world of socialization and move to the more abstract level of institutions of social control and sex-based inequalities within social institutions, including the economy and family. We will conclude by discussing the sociological possibilities for change in our social constructions of gender and sex roles. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course in sociology.

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)
Staff

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 in Research Methods

SOCY 291 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This mid-level course is for those students who have taken the foundation course. See enrollment handbook for further description.

Special Topic in Sociology

SOCY 491 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for advanced students. See enrollment handbook for further description. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Courses in Social Theory

Classical Social Theory

SOCY 361 (1/2 unit)
Staff

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).

Topics in Social Stratification

SOCY 422 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

The primary objective of this upper-level seminar is to pursue a comprehensive examination of contemporary issues which determine social stratification in the United States and, thereby, impact public policy and societal values. Some of the topics which may be addressed during the course of the semester are race relations in the U.S., gender, work, family, sexuality, poverty, and religion. The topics covered from one semester to the next may change radically or not at all, though they will be of importance to any discussion of the institutional forces which govern our society. Please note that this class will be strictly limited to no more than fourteen students. Prerequisite: foundation course in sociology, one mid-level course in sociology, or permission of the 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.

Senior Seminar
SOCY 489 (1/2 unit)
Macionis

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.

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

**Human Society:
An Introduction to Sociology**

◆ SOCY 110 (1/2 unit)
Staff

See first semester course description.

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

◆ SOCY 112 (1/2 unit)
McCarthy

See first semester course description.

**Social Issues and Cultural
Intersections**

◆ 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.

Courses on Institutions and Change

Marriage and the Family

SOCY 225 (1/2 unit)
Kohlman

We all come from families, and the family is therefore a familiar social institution. But family is constituted not just by our individual experiences but also as a product of historical, social, and political conditions. This course will examine how these conditions have shaped family life as we know it today. We will look at the social construction of the family, the psychosocial interiors of families, and

how governmental policy has shaped and will shape families in the future. In addition, we will discuss the increasing diversity of family structures, the institution of marriage, and the social construction of childhood and parenting. Our underlying framework for analysis will be the gendered nature of family systems. Prerequisite: introductory foundation course in sociology.

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.

Social Movements

SOCY 229 (1/2 unit)
Staff

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.

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 (Burtt, 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.

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)
Besecke

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 in Research Methods

SOCY 392 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for advanced students. See enrollment handbook for further description.

Fieldwork: Rural Life

SOCY 477Y, 478Y (1 unit)
Sacks

See "Year Courses" for course description.

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 372 Research Practicum: Doing Social Research

SOCY 461 Modern German Social Theory

SOCY 463 Intersection Theory

SOCY 477, 478 Fieldwork: Rural Life

SOCY 489 Senior Seminar

SOCY 492 Women, Health, and Medicine

The following courses may be offered in 2006-07:

SOCY 110 Human Society

SOCY 111 Identity in American Society

SOCY 112 Dreamers and Dissenters

SOCY 113 Social Issues and Intersections

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 232 Sexual Harassment: Legal Questions and Normative Expectations

SOCY 239 Social Movements and Social Change

SOCY 271 Logic and Methods of Social Research

SOCY 362 Contemporary Social Theory