

Sociology

Social Sciences Division

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. Sociology also examines social structures such as groups, organizations, communities, and social categories (such as class, sex, age, or race) and analyzes their affect on people's attitudes, actions, and opportunities in life. Sociological 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.

FACULTY

Marla H. Kohlman, Chair, Associate Professor

Kelly S. Besecke, Assistant Professor

Allison L. Hurst, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies

Jennifer L. Johnson, Assistant Professor

John J. Macionis, Professor and Prentice Hall Distinguished Scholar

George E. McCarthy, Professor

Howard L. Sacks, Professor

Ric S. Sheffield, Associate Provost; Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies

Anna X.D. Sun, Instructor of Sociology and Asian Studies

Jan E. Thomas, Associate Professor

BEGINNING STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY

Students may begin their study of sociology in any of the sections of our foundation course, SOCY 101. Each section combines lecture and discussion and has an enrollment limit of approximately twenty-five students. All of these sections apply the theory and methods of sociology to achieve an understanding of the character of life in modern societies, especially our own. The sections are distinguished by their particular thematic focus and course materials.

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.

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 (SOCY 101). One course (.5 unit) is required.

Area courses. Eight courses (4 units) are required. At least one course (.5 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. Sociology majors are required to take SOCY 262 and SOCY 271 as early as possible. Majors are also required to take one more 300-level theory or methods course. These core courses also count toward completion of area requirements. Students planning to attend graduate school in sociology or related fields are strongly encouraged to take four core courses.

Senior Seminar. SOCY 489 (.5 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 may be asked to rewrite their paper or to take a written or oral comprehensive examination covering material presented in the major program. This decision will be made by the sociology department.

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. Proposals are due by April 1 of the junior year. 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 .5 units of coursework, including the 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, social theory, social institutions, and culture. Students should meet with any member of the faculty to learn more about minoring in sociology.

SOCIOLOGY COURSES

SOCY 101. Foundation Courses in Sociology

Credit: .5 unit

Each section of SOCY 101 has a unique thematic focus, but all provide an overview of the discipline of sociology and serve as a prerequisite for mid-level courses. All sections offer an introduction of the theory and methods that sociologists use to examine the underlying patterns of social life, the character of modern society, and how individuals and social structures shape, transform, and reproduce social life.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 220. Problems, Politics, and Policy: The Political Construction of Social Problems and their Solutions

Credit: .5 unit

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 kinds 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.

Instructor: Macionis

SOCY 221. Religion in Modern Society

Credit: .5 unit

The world’s religions are repositories of human wisdom throughout the ages. In this course, we will consider these traditions sociologically; that is, we will distinguish the variety of social forms that religion takes from the wisdom that religion attempts to manifest. We will consider the complex relationships between religious expression and social context. We will consider questions such as these: How can religious experience be understood sociologically? How does religion change as society modernizes? What role does religion play in effecting social and political change? How are contemporary Americans relating to religious traditions? How do cultures decide what’s religious and what’s secular? A strong theoretical orientation will serve as a foundation for an exploration of current socioreligious issues such as secularization, privatization of religious experience and authority, the resurgence of religion in political life, divisions between liberal and conservative religion, and religious themes in popular culture. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Besecke

SOCY 223. Wealth and Power*Credit: .5 unit*

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: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor.

*Instructor: Macionis***SOCY 224. Sociology of Health and Illness***Credit: .5 unit*

Critics of the health care system charge that the current system delivers “sick” care, not “health” care. Policies emerging from the 1980s-era opposition to government involvement, the critics argue, have left us with skyrocketing medical costs, increasingly unequal access to health care, little public accountability, and increasing rates of chronic illness. This class will examine these charges by first discussing the social context of health and illness: who gets sick, who gets help, and the medicalization of social problems. We will then look at the health care system (historical development, medical education, institutional settings). We also will explore the interaction between people and their health care providers with respect to language, information exchange, and power relationships. We will then look at the advent of managed care and how it has changed the system in the United States. Several administrators and providers from the community will share their perspectives on these trends. The course will close with a discussion of reform and change within the medical institution and a brief look at health care systems in other countries. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

*Instructor: Thomas***SOCY 225. Notions of Family***Credit: .5 unit*

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 continue to 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 as represented in empirical research and legal decisions. Our underlying framework for analysis will be the gendered nature of family systems. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

*Instructor: Kohlman***SOCY 226. Sociology of Law***Credit: .5 unit*

This mid-level course examines the social conditions that give rise to law, how changing social conditions affect law, and how law affects the society we live in. In the first few weeks, it focuses on how classical social theorists—the so-called founders of sociology—viewed the law and its relationship to the rapid social change unfolding before their very eyes in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the next several weeks, it explores how social actors such as the environmental, civil rights and free speech movements attempt to use the law, litigation and legal institutions as instruments of social change. Turning this question around, it then looks at how legal processes, actors, and institutions—criminal trials, lawyers, and the courts, to name a few—interact with the media to shape public opinion, protest, and collective action. This course also explores the diverse ways in which individuals experience and interpret the law, and why this matters for understanding how law operates in the real world. In the final weeks of the semester, it probes how broader cultural shifts in American society are radically redefining the role and scope of our legal system. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

*Instructor: Johnson***SOCY 229. Social Movements***Credit: .5 unit*

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. Substantively the course focuses primarily on U.S. social movements from the 1960s. This course also includes a service-learning component. Each student will work with a community agency two to three hours per week. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor. This course may be counted toward the major in American studies.

Instructor: Thomas

SOCY 230. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*Credit: .5 unit*

This mid-level course provides an introduction to the sociological investigation of race and ethnicity in the United States, with a focus on the innovations and limitations of established theoretical paradigms and research agendas. Readings explore central lines of debate concerning the interactions between racial and ethnic groups, the impact of race on social and economic stratification, and the political implications of racialization. Contemporary interrogation of the race concept will also be addressed, with particular attention to the possibilities for change in the social construction of race. Students will actively engage major sociological race paradigms, with the primary objective of understanding how different perspectives can influence interpretations of the significance of race within American society. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

*Instructor: Staff***SOCY 231. Issues of Gender and Power***Credit: .5 unit*

The primary objective of this mid-level seminar is to explore the sociological 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 legal 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: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor. This course also satisfies a requirement of the women's and gender studies concentration, the law and society concentration, and the American studies major.

*Instructor: Kohlman***SOCY 232. Sexual Harassment***Credit: .5 unit*

This mid-level seminar provides the opportunity for students to become conversant with the wide range of experiences that may appropriately be called sexual harassment. The course is guided by the principle that sexual harassment is not, as many seem to think, simply a byproduct of sexual desire or misguided attraction. Sexual harassment is about power—gaining power or retaining power in institutional settings. We will explore this concept both as legal construction, calling for specific determinants, and as a normative concept which arises in casual conversation and lived experience. Prerequisite: SOCY 101, LGLS 110, or permission of the instructor. This course also satisfies a requirement of the concentrations in African diaspora studies and law and society, and it may be counted toward the major in American studies and women's and gender studies.

*Instructor: Kohlman***SOCY 233. Sociology of Food***Credit: .5 unit*

This course explores the social world(s) we live in by analyzing what we eat, where it comes from, who produces it, who prepares it, and how. In the first few weeks of class, we examine the patterned culinary choices of ordinary Americans like ourselves; how American foodways are differentiated by gender, race/ethnicity, and class; and how political, social, and historical forces have shaped these patterns in ways that are not necessarily obvious to the sociologically untrained eye. We then shift our focus away from ourselves and our own sociologically conditioned eating habits to analyze the local, regional, and global processes and actors that bring food to our table. One of the major themes here is the greater social and spatial distances that our food travels from field, farm, or factory to consumers in the United States and in other parts of the Western Hemisphere, and how these distances complicate and sometimes obscure the unequal power relations at the root of food production and consumption. Our exploration of the global ties that bind consumer and producer ends with a look at how social activists around the world have organized collectively to reduce these distances and inequalities. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor.

*Instructor: Johnson***SOCY 234. Community***Credit: .5 unit*

Humans are essentially social beings, and so living in communities is fundamental to our humanity. This course will examine the nature and dynamics of community. The changing character of community in modern and postmodern society will provide the central theme of our investigation. Given Kenyon's location, we will pay particular attention to rural community life. The course will close by examining efforts to build effective communities. Throughout our investigation, we'll consider the central place of community study as a method for understanding human society within sociology. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

*Instructor: Sacks***SOCY 235. Transnational Social Movements***Credit: .5 unit*

Especially since the civil rights, student, and anti-war movements of the 1950s and 1960s in the United States, sociologists have studied how individuals mobilize collectively and self-consciously to promote social change at a national level. Building on this tradition, this mid-level course examines a recent wave of protest movements that self-consciously organize across national borders. Under what circumstances and with what chances of success do national movements form alliances that cross borders? Is it true that globalization has generated new resources and strategic opportunities for the rise of transnational movements? In an age of accelerated globalization, do national borders still contain movements in any significant way? We will address these questions and others using case

studies of contemporary environmental, anti-sweatshop, indigenous rights, and religious movements. Prerequisite: SOCY 101

Instructor: Johnson

SOCY 240. Sociology of Deviance

Credit: .5 unit

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: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Macionis

SOCY 241. Sociology of Gender

Credit: .5 unit

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: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Kohlman

SOCY 242. Science and Society: Nature, Ecology, and the Crisis of the Enlightenment

Credit: .5 unit

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 examining the differences between the ancient Greek and medieval views of physics, causality, and organic nature and the modern worldview of natural science in Galileo, Descartes, and Newton. We will then turn to 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 activities of modern industrial life? Does science reflect objective reality and universal truth, or is it a social construction reflecting the particular needs and functional interests of society—that is, does science reflect the nature of reality or the nature of society? We will deal with the expanded 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, and ecology. Finally, we will discuss the debates within the environmental movement between the deep and social ecologists as to the nature and underlying causes of the environmental crisis. Readings will be from T. Kuhn, M. Berman, H. Braverman, E. A. Burt, M. Horkheimer, C. Lasch, F. Capra, and M. Bookchin. Prerequisite: SOCY 101

Instructor: McCarthy

SOCY 243. Ethics and Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions

Credit: .5 unit

This mid-level course will examine the various theories of ethics and social justice from the ancient Hebrew tradition of Torah and the prophets, New Testament writers Luke and Matthew, and medieval natural law, to modern discussions about social, political, and economic justice. We will explore how critical social theory has been applied within the political and economic context of modern industrial societies and how biblical and later religious teachings have been used as the basis for social ethics. Questions of justice, freedom, development, individualism, and alienation will be major themes in this study of capitalism, Christianity, and Marxism. Special emphasis will be on contemporary debates about the ethics of democratic capitalism from within both conservative theology and philosophy and radical liberation theology. Readings will be from the Bible, Papal encyclicals, the American Catholic bishops' letter on economics and social justice, Friedman, Novak, Baum, Miranda, Fromm, Pirsig, Schumacher, and N. Wolf. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. This course is cross-listed as RLST 380.

Instructor: McCarthy

SOCY 244. Race, Ethnicity, and American Law

Credit: .5 unit

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 policymaking, students should gain an appreciation for the complexity of the issues and the 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: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor. This course may be counted toward the law and society concentration and the American studies major.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 245. Cultural Sociology: American Culture

Credit: .5 unit

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: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Besecke

SOCY 246. American Folk Music

Credit: .5 unit

Music, like all art, is created, expressed, and understood within a social context. This mid-level course examines the relationship between art and society through a focused investigation of American folk music. Themes of particular interest include the movement of music across the color line and between folk and popular culture. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Sacks

SOCY 247. Class Studies

Credit: .5 unit

Class studies is an emergent area of sociological study. This course serves as an introduction to that broad area. We will discuss theories of class, questions of class cultures, and the political relevance of class analysis (issues of class struggle).

The readings will cover cultures and issues relevant to the working, middle, and elite classes. Throughout the course we will pay close attention to how class intersects with other social identities, such as those of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, and nationality. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

Instructor: Hurst

SOCY 249. Knowledge of the Other: Journey to the East

Credit: .5 unit

In this course—cross-listed in Asian studies—we deal with some of the fundamental questions in our global age: How do we understand a culture or society that is radically different from our own? This course has two parts. In the first half, we read theoretical texts such as Said's *Orientalism*, excerpts from Hegel's and Marx's writing on race and world history, recent work on the epistemology of ignorance, studies of religion from the East (Lopez and Masuzawa), as well as debates about the "clash of civilizations" (Huntington) and the "geography of thought" (Nisbett) in order to conceptualize the notion of "the Other" and our relationship with "the Other." In the second half, we focus on writings about Asia (Tibet, Japan, and China), such as travel writing, historical analysis, and fiction. By analyzing these accounts of the journey to the East, we learn to recognize the complex relationships we have with the cultural, religious, and social traditions that are radically different from our own, with the hope that we can develop a meaningful connection with them through reflective understanding. This course helps both sociology and Asian studies students theorize the complex and creative relationship between oneself and "the Other," and it is of use to students who have recently returned from study abroad (particularly Asia), as well as the ones who are preparing to go abroad. Prerequisite: SOCY 101

Instructor: Sun

SOCY 262. Linking Classical Tradition to Contemporary Theory

Credit: .5 unit

The purpose of this course is to guide students to draw linkages from classical theory to the formation of contemporary sociological theory. Discussion will be guided by the personal biographies of the theorists: their family background, where they were educated, and what events or persons they were influenced by as they formulated the theories for which they are known. The emphasis is placed upon acquiring breadth of knowledge, rather than depth. (For a more comprehensive understanding of many of the theorists discussed in this class, students are directed to SOCY 361: Classical Social Theory and SOCY 362: Contemporary Social Theory.) Prerequisites: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor. Required for all sociology majors.

Instructor: Kohlman

SOCY 271. Methods of Social Research*Credit: .5 unit*

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. 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 required for all sociology majors. At the same time, the course welcomes anyone who wishes to gain competence in basic research skills. Prerequisites: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

*Instructor: Thomas***SOCY 280. French Social Theory***Credit: .5 unit*

This course offers a systematic account of French social theory since the end of the nineteenth century, when sociology became an institutionalized academic discipline in France. We analyze the key theoretical texts that have influenced sociologists in France and beyond, examine the methodological debates that have engaged generations of theorists, and discuss several empirical studies that shed light on the ways social theories are connected to empirical inquiry. The course follows the historical trajectory from positivism to anthropological theory at the turn of the twentieth century, and from structuralism to poststructuralism in the postwar era. We focus on the key ideas and concepts in classical theorists such as Comte, Durkheim, and Mauss, and contemporary theorists such as Levi-Strauss, Sartre, De Beauvoir, Althusser, Foucault, and Bourdieu. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

*Instructor: Sun***SOCY 361. Classical Social Theory: Marx, Weber, and Durkheim***Credit: .5 unit*

This course examines the development of classical social theory in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. 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, classical political science (law), and historical political economy in the formation of a new discipline. Distinguishing itself from the other social sciences as an ethical science, 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 utilitarian 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). At the methodological level, we will study the three different views of classical science: critical science and the dialectical method (Marx), interpretive science and the historical method of understanding and value relevance (Weber), and positivistic science and the explanatory method of naturalism and realism (Durkheim). Prerequisite: SOCY 101 and one additional sociology course, and permission of the instructor.

*Instructor: McCarthy***SOCY 362. Contemporary Social Theory***Credit: .5 unit*

Social theories offer systematic explanations of human behavior as well as insights into the historical moments in which they were created. In this course we will investigate some of the last 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 new developments in Western European thought will be included as well. Specific theories to be considered include (1) the functionalist theory of Talcott Parsons; (2) social behaviorism, as articulated by George Herbert Mead; (3) Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann's sociology of knowledge; (4) the critical theory of Herbert Marcuse; and (5) intersection theory, as developed by Patricia Hill Collins. 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. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 and one additional sociology course or permission of instructor.

*Instructor: Sacks***SOCY 372. Research Practicum: Doing Social Research***Credit: .5 unit QR*

Ever wonder how sociologists gather the information upon which they base their claims? Curious about all those charts and graphs in newspapers and magazines? Thinking about a career in marketing, survey research, or program evaluation? This course is designed for students who want to get their hands "dirty" and actively participate in doing and understanding social research. The focus of this class is survey research. Students will work together to design, administer, and analyze a survey (typically in conjunction with a community agency). Students will also learn to write and present their research findings. Prerequisite: SOCY 271

*Instructor: Kohlman, Thomas***SOCY 373. Qualitative Methods***Credit: .5 unit*

This course focuses on learning to use qualitative 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 practice using these techniques by carrying out a semester-long research project using these methods. We will also discuss the “nuts and bolts” of designing a research project, writing research proposals, collecting data, analyzing data, and writing up qualitative research. Finally, 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 of sociology. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 and SOCY 271.

Instructor: Besecke, Johnson

SOCY 421. Gender Stratification

Credit: .5 unit

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. This course also satisfies a requirement of the concentrations in African diaspora studies, law and society, and women’s and gender studies, and may be counted toward the major in American studies.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 422. Topics in Social Stratification

Credit: .5 unit

The primary objective of this advanced 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 a semester are race relations in the United States, 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. Enrollment strictly limited. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 423. Women, Health, and Medicine

Credit: .5 unit

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, including reproductive health 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. While we will discuss some health problems that are of particular concern to women, we will move beyond specific health problems to analyze how women’s health problems develop, are perceived, and are responded to both medically and socially in contemporary society. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Thomas

SOCY 424. Vigilantism and the Law

Credit: .5 unit

Why and under what historical conditions have particular groups of American citizens mobilized to take the law into their own hands? From the posses of the nineteenth century Wild West, to the twentieth century Klan lynching, to the emergence of contemporary right-wing patriot and militia movements, American history is replete with instances of extralegal or “self-help” justice administration. This seminar surveys the history of vigilantism in the United States against the backdrop of national state consolidation and the evolution of this country’s criminal justice system. Through analysis of primary and secondary texts covering a broad range of vigilante movements, it explores how the line between public and private administration of penal law has shifted over time and across geographical regions. This class will be run as a Socratic seminar that fosters learning through individual and collective analysis of course material. It will also allow students to develop the skills to conduct independent empirical research and to analyze findings in interaction with seminar participants. Prerequisite: SOCY 101.

Instructor: Johnson

SOCY 430. Meaning in Modern Society

Credit: .5 unit

Sociologists consider modern societies to be faced with a crisis of meaning. Meanwhile, many Americans are 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 spoken to questions of modern meaninglessness. 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 mod-

ern 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? Prerequisite: previous coursework in sociology or religious studies, or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Besecke

SOCY 440. Blackface: The American Minstrel Show

Credit: .5 unit

The most popular form of stage entertainment in the nineteenth century, the minstrel show continues to have profound effects on American culture. In this advanced seminar we will explore minstrelsy as a musical, theatrical, and social phenomenon. Issues to be considered include the interplay of African and European music and culture on American soil, the rise of popular culture, the public portrayal of gender and ethnicity, and race relations. We will examine readings from a variety of disciplines as well as original materials (scripts, photographs, audio recordings, and film) related to minstrelsy from the last two centuries. Prerequisite: written permission of instructor. This course fulfills the senior seminar requirement in the African diaspora studies concentration and the American studies major.

Instructor: Sacks

SOCY 461. German Social Theory: From Freud to Habermas

Credit: .5 unit

This seminar examines the evolution of German social theory in the twentieth century. Following a summary of the major tendencies and questions in social theory during the Weimar period, the course will consider a wide range of traditions, including phenomenology, existentialism, psychoanalysis, hermeneutics, Marxism, and Critical Theory. Readings will include the works of Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Horkheimer, Fromm, Arendt, Marcuse, Gadamer, and Habermas. Prerequisites: permission of instructor.

Instructor: McCarthy

SOCY 463. Intersection Theory

Credit: .5 unit

This upper-level seminar explores the emerging paradigm of intersectionality. Its principal objective is to develop an understanding of the ways in which the salient identities of class position, race, and gender function simultaneously to produce the outcomes we observe in the lives of individuals and in society. While there is a large body of literature in each of the three areas (class, race, gender), only recently have theorists and researchers attempted to model and analyze the “simultaneity” of their functioning as one concerted force in our everyday lives. We will pursue this objective in this seminar by exploring the roles of gender and race/ethnicity in the United States during the early development of capitalism and in the present, by re-examining key concepts in conflict theory through the lens of intersection theory, and by studying the roles of class, gender, and race/ethnicity at the level of the global economy today as in the

past. Prerequisites: SOCY 361, SOCY 262, or permission of the instructor. It is also recommended that students have taken SOCY 231 or SOCY 241. This course fulfills the senior seminar requirement of the African diaspora studies concentration and may be counted toward the American studies and women’s and gender studies majors.

Instructor: Kohlman

SOCY 464. Women in Sociology

Credit: .5 unit

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: SOCY 101 course or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 465. Questioning Knowledge: The Social Life of Knowledge in the Social Sciences and Humanities

Credit: .5 unit

This course is concerned with the social life of knowledge, particularly in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. We begin with such questions as: What are the social factors affecting the formation and production of knowledge? For instance, how is aesthetic knowledge legitimized? How does a new discipline (such as sociology and psychoanalysis in early twentieth century) establish its authority? How is the classification of race socially constructed? What is the gendered nature of knowledge? To answer these questions, we draw upon works of philosophers such as Kuhn and Hacking, as well as social theorists such as Foucault and Bourdieu, to formulate our theoretical framework. We then examine empirical studies by sociologists such as Becker, Lamont, Collins, and Abbott to understand how institutional structures, shifting disciplinary boundaries, professionalization, and power relations play important roles in the social life of knowledge. Prerequisite: SOCY 101 or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Sun

SOCY 477Y. Fieldwork: Rural Life

Credit: .5 unit

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. Our research will

consider issues related to the character of rural society. The results of this research will provide the basis for a major public project. Fulfills: The senior seminar requirement in American studies. Prerequisites: written permission of instructor.

Instructor: Sacks

SOCY 478Y. Fieldwork: Rural Life

Credit: .5 unit

See the course description for SOCY 477Y.

Instructor: Sacks

SOCY 489. Senior Seminar

Credit: .5 unit

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. This course is limited to senior sociology majors.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 493. Individual Study

Credit: .5 unit

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.

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 497. Senior Honors

Credit: .5 unit

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

Instructor: Staff

SOCY 498. Senior Honors

Credit: .5 unit

See the course description for SOCY 497.

Instructor: Staff