Introduction to Sociology


131 The role of social movements, the legal system, public policy and opinion in the resolution of poverty, crime, racism, sexism, and ecological problems.


215 Racial and ethnic problems in contemporary society. Prejudice, discrimination, conflict, and racial and ethnic identity and segregation in western and non-western societies.

216 Social structural and social psychological perspectives on gender identity, sex category, and sexuality. Issues related to gender identity and sexuality in selected societal institutions and across cultures.

220 Interdepartmental with Criminal Justice. Administered by Criminal Justice. R: Open to students in the Peace and Justice Studies Minor or in the Sociology Major or in the Youth and Society Minor or in the Criminal Justice Major or in the Law, Justice, and Public Policy Minor or in the Conservation and Environmental Law Enforcement Minor or approval of school. Introduction to the socio-legal foundation of crime. Crime typology and measurement procedures. Theory and public policy. Societal responses to crime and criminals.

241 Social Psychology Not open to students with credit in PSY 235. Relationship of individuals to their social environment. Social influences on personality, attitudes and behavior.

252 Key concepts, theories, methods, and findings in environmental sociology.

281 Design and execution of social research. Ethics in research. Conceptualization, measurement, sampling, data collection, validity and reliability. Descriptive analysis. Presentation of conclusions.

282 Experiments. Selected quantitative techniques of data analysis including regression and analysis of variance.

310 Theory and research on the causes and consequences of human migration. Sociological, social psychological, historical, and demographic perspectives.

315 Family development. Diversity of family form and organization in relation to personality, class, race, and gender.

316 Youth subcultures. Youth at risk. Social change and youth behavior.

319 Systems approach to Earth as an integration of geochemical, geophysical, biological and social components. Global dynamics at a variety of spatio-temporal scales. Sustainability of the Earth system.


325 How we learn about ourselves through playing, games, and participating in sports. Game development, and rule development and implementation in games and sports. Role of the media in determining appropriate behavior.

331 Social power theories, dynamics, and structures. The economy and the polity. Power elites and democracy. Social bases of political behavior and participation. Sociopolitical movements.

350 Social determinants of mental health and mental illness. International and cross-cultural comparison of mental health and mental illness.
427 Environmental Toxicology and Society
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Animal Science. Administered by Animal Science. RB: ISB 200 or ISB 202 or ISB 204 or BMB 200 or BS 161 or BS 181H or LB 145 or BS 162 or BS 182H or LB 144
Impact of environmental chemicals on health and modern society. Cellular and organ functions and their interface with the environment. Limitations of scientific investigation and environmental regulations.

447 Community Economic Development
Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Community Sustainability and Environmental Economics and Policy. Administered by Community Sustainability. P: EC 201 or EC 202 SA: ESA 470, RD 470
Theories, frameworks, policies, concepts, principles, models, and skills for community economic development. Community participation in local development initiatives.

451 Dynamics of Population
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) R: Not open to freshmen. Size, distribution, and composition of population by age and sex. Theories of the effect of fertility, mortality, and migration on population structures. Successful and unsuccessful population policies.

452 Advanced Seminar in Environmental Sociology
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Not open to freshmen. Environmental conditions and social organization. Social relations and connection to resource use, pollution, energy, and risks. Growth and limits to growth. Environmental attitudes, actions, movements, and regulation.

463 Food Fight: Politics of Food
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Community Sustainability. Administered by Community Sustainability. P: CSUS 200 or SOC 100 RB: (CSUS 343) and Familiarity with social science theories and methods R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores. Social power and its influence in US agrifood system. Structural and cultural issues related to politics of food consumption, production, labor, processing, retail, techno-science, policy, resistance movements.

475 Health and Society

477 Visual Sociology
Fall. 3(0-0) R: Not open to freshmen. Use of visual images to understand power, ideology, politics, and cultural constructions.

478 Climate Change and Society
Fall. Spring. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement Climate change as a societal challenge. The nature of climate change, its role in human history, and vulnerabilities of coupled human and natural systems to climate change.

480 Advanced Research Methods in Sociology
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) P: SOC 281 or approval of department RB: SOC 282 or concurrently R: Open to sophomores or juniors or seniors. Advanced training and hands-on practice in methodologies commonly used in specific sub-fields of sociology.

481 Social Movements and Collective Identities
Fall. 3(3-0) R: Not open to freshmen. How social movements emerge, change, and are challenged by others. Identity issues within social movements.

488 Sociological Theory (W)
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement RB: 12 credits in sociology. Development of sociological theory. Problems of theory construction. Current theoretical perspectives.

490 Special Topics in Sociology
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open to students in the Department of Sociology. Experimental courses and courses taught by visiting scholars.

496 Individual Readings
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: 9 credits in Sociology. R: Approval of department. Supervised individual readings and study in sociology.

497 Individual Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: 9 credits in Sociology. R: Approval of department. Supervised individual research in sociology.

498 Sociology Internship
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 3 credits. RB: 9 credits in Sociology. R: Approval of department. Practical experience with a public, private, or nonprofit organization.

499 Social Issues and Change in Contemporary Society (W)
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement R: Not open to freshmen. Selected major social problems in contemporary societies. Sources and consequences of social change. Application of sociological theory to selected cases.

801 Global Transformations
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: basic familiarity with sociological theory. The impact of political, economic, and cultural globalization on states, cities, and local communities.

815 Classical Sociological Theory
Fall. 3(3-0) Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century sociological theory from Marx to Pareto in socio-historical context. Development of contemporary sociological theory and research from the classics.

816 Contemporary Sociological Theory
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: SOC 816 Theories and conceptual schemes of contemporary social theorists. Relevance for sociological research.

820 Contemporary Sociological Research in the Family
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) Family structure. Family and marital attitudes. Family and social policy.

833 Gender and Power
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) Theory and research on gender and sexual inequality in socially-based systems of production and reproduction. Global and national gender inequalities in selected institutional settings.

836 Race, Politics, and Social Structure
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) National and international perspectives on the structures and manifestations of racial inequality. Concepts, methods, and quantitative and qualitative analysis.

839 Structural Inequalities and Families
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) RB: SOC 831 Macrostructural forces and family life. Role of class, race, and gender.

840 Animals and Social Transformations
Spring. 3(3-0) Historical examination of the human-animal relationships.

852 Migration and Social Change
Fall of odd years, Spring of even years. 3(3-0) Theory and research on the causes and consequences of human migration. Sociological, social psychological, and demographic perspectives.

855 Gender, Justice and Environmental Change: Issues and Concepts
Fall. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Anthropology and Community Sustainability and Forestry and Fisheries and Wildlife and Geography and Women's Studies. Administered by Community Sustainability. RB: Background in social science, environmental science, or natural resources. Issues and concepts related to gender, ecology, and environmental studies. Key debates and theoretical approaches to addressing environmental issues from a gender and social justice perspective. Gender and environment issues and processes from a global perspective.

859 Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change: Methods and Application
Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Anthropology and Community Sustainability and Forestry and Fisheries and Wildlife and Geography and Women's Studies. Administered by Anthropology. RB: Background in social science, environmental science, or natural resources. Methods and case studies related to gender, ecology, and environmental studies. Methodological and fieldwork issues from a feminist perspective in international and intercultural contexts. Qualitative and quantitative methods for integrating social and environmental data.
865 Environmental Sociology
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0)
Effects of attitudes, social structure, and policy on the causes and consequences of natural resource depletion, pollution, energy use, growth, and technological risks. Response of movements and policies to environmental problems.

869 Community and Conservation
Fall of even years, Summer of even years. 3 credits. Interdepartmental with Fisheries and Wildlife and Resource Development. Administered by Sociology. 

885 Methods of Sociological Inquiry
Spring. 3(3-0) R: Open only to graduate students in the Sociology major or approval of department. 

890 Individual Readings
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 9 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 16 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
R: Approval of department. 
Faculty-supervised readings in Sociology.

897 Seminar in Feminist Theories, Epistemologies, and Pedagogy
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with English and Philosophy and Teacher Education and Women's Studies. Administered by Women's Studies. 
Foundational knowledge, theory, epistemology, and pedagogy in women's and gender studies from a multi-disciplinary, global perspective.

899 Master's Thesis Research
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 9 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 16 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
Master's thesis research.

931 Topics in Structural Inequality
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
Current research on socioeconomic class, gender inequality, racial and ethnic inequality, power structures, social conflict, urban dynamics, or social change.

950 Topics in Rural and Environmental Studies
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
Adoption of innovations, consolidation of food production enterprises, or community response to farm crises.

970 Topics in Wellbeing and Health
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
Topics such as family work and stress, risk and uncertainty, social epidemiology, and life course.

977 Social Epidemiology
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Environmental Science and Policy. Administered by Sociology. 
P: SOC 881 and SOC 882 or approval of department R: Open to graduate students in the Department of Sociology and open to graduate students in the Environmental Science and Policy Specialization or approval of department. 
Quantitative methodology: multilevel modeling; structural equation modeling. Applications in sociology and environment.

985 Qualitative Field Research
Fall. 3(3-0) R: Open only to graduate students in Sociology. 
Qualitative research methods. Participant observation, interview, and field documents. Design, data gathering, and analysis.

986 Survey Research Principles
Spring. 3(3-0) R: SOC 881 
Design, analysis, sampling, questionnaire construction, interviewing, and data processing.

989 Topics in Sociological Methodology
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. 
Evaluation research. Experimental or comparative research methods.