

Sociology (SOCI)

SOCI 201 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (3)

A general overview of the concepts, theories, research methods and findings of sociology. The purpose is to train students to view the world through a sociological perspective. Satisfies GE, category D1 (Individual and Society).

SOCI 300 SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS (4)

Consideration of the ways in which sociological questions are formulated and answered. Examination of and practice in conceptualization, theory construction, deductive and inductive reasoning, and other elements of sociological analysis, with an emphasis upon sociological research methods. Required for majors.

SOCI 301 STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS (4)

Introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics for the social sciences. Emphasis on the integration of statistical analysis with sociological approaches to theory, research design, data collection, and presentation of quantitative research. Introduction to statistical analysis software in lab setting. Recommended for majors. Grade only.

SOCI 305 PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE (4)

A weekly lecture series on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights. Guest lecturers and SSU faculty provide a variety of sociological and interdisciplinary perspectives on the topics. The course explores the intellectual, emotional, and ethical aspects of the Holocaust and seeks to deepen students' understanding of organized society, political leadership, democratic participation and human nature. Students also attend a weekly discussion group to explore and synthesize information presented in the weekly lectures. Requirements include written position, midterm and final papers. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Satisfies upper-division GE, category D5, (Contemporary International Perspectives).

SOCI 306 CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY (4)

How to identify and locate liberal arts jobs in government, business, private institutions, or self-employment. Choosing a career, job-hunting skills and techniques, and keeping a job. Study of such work-related issues as dual-career families, equal opportunity and professionalism.

SOCI 312 SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER (4)

Considers gender as a social construction and a product of social life. Analyzes how gender inequalities shape social structures, institutions and interaction for both women and men. Challenges biological explanations for gender differences and inequalities. Focuses on analysis of gendered experiences as they relate to race/ethnicity, class, and sexualities.

SOCI 314 DEVIANT BEHAVIOR (4)

The social causes and consequences of insanity, delinquency, criminality, addiction, social unconventionality and other "deviant" behavior. Examines the conversion and commitment to deviant world views, and the social processes involved in the transformation to a deviant identity. Crosslisted as CCJS 441.

SOCI 315 SOCIALIZATION (4)

Analysis of the social processes through which human beings are inducted into social groups, in both childhood and adulthood. Particular attention is given to the socializing effects of schools, work, family and friends.

SOCI 317 EMOTIONS AND ADULT LIFE (4)

Emphasizes the social context and social development of emotional responses throughout adulthood. Analyzes the reciprocal relations between social definitions and subjective feelings in connection with life events. Addresses both basic emotions such as fear, anger, pleasure and excitement, and the more complex emotions such as love, jealousy, grief, sympathy, pride, shame and despair. Crosslisted as GERN 317. Satisfies GE, category E (Integrated Person).

SOCI 319 AGING AND SOCIETY (4)

Examination of aging throughout adulthood. Analysis of theories of aging, their foundations in social science theory, and their policy implications. Exploration of the meanings and consequences of increasing longevity for society and the individual, with emphasis on the social psychological implications for women, minorities and those who are poor. Crosslisted as GERN 319. Satisfies GE, category D1 (Individual and Society).

SOCI 326 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (4)

Introduces relationships between self and society, including the formation and change of attitudes and values, interaction and interpersonal dynamics, and the cultural influences on them. Topics include symbolic interactionism, personal and social identities, motivation, prejudice and the consequences of ethnicity, class and gender. Crosslisted as PSY 326. Satisfies GE D1 (Individual and Society).

SOCI 330 SOCIOLOGY OF MEDIA (4)

This course will conduct an analysis of structural censorship in the United States and the importance of a free press for the maintenance of democratic institutions in society. Students will become familiar with independent/alternative news sources and prepare summaries of news stories for public release.

SOCI 331 MASS COMMUNICATION THEORY AND RESEARCH (4)

A critical analysis of the nature and functions of mass communications in contemporary society. Overview of the history, structure, function and influence of the mass media. Development of critical and analytic skills necessary to determine when and how truth is manipulated to serve special parochial or cultural interests. Crosslisted as COMS 301.

SOCI 332 DEATH AND AMERICAN CULTURE (4)

Examination of the relation of cultural values to practices, attitudes and views about death. Application of sociological and social psychological theories to topics on death and dying, such as death conceptions, terminal care, suicide, war and grief. Emphasis on the social psychology of dying, caregiving, grieving and being suicidal. Crosslisted as GERN 332.

SOCI 335 AMERICAN (UNITED STATES) SOCIETY (4)

Study of the major values, institutions and social organizations in the United States. The social sources of change and stability in U.S. society.

SOCI 336 INVESTIGATIVE SOCIOLOGY (4)

This is a service-learning course emphasizing the development of sociological research for popular press publication. Students will learn interviewing techniques, review sources of public information, and use of the freedom of information laws. Students will write and investigate social justice news stories using sociological research methods, and prepare a report for popular press publication.

SOCI 340 DRUGS AND SOCIETY (4)

Examination of the sociopsychological, political, economic, ethnic and legal factors relating to drug use and abuse. Theories of causation and methods of rehabilitation will be critiqued. Crosslisted as CCJS 494.

SOCI 345 SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES (4)

Analyzes family as a social institution. Examines the interconnections between families and other institutions, with a focus on family change. Considers how families are affected by structures of race/ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. Examines and challenges ideologies about families.

SOCI 347 AMERICAN CLASS STRUCTURE (4)

An overview of stratification in the United States. Analysis of the effects of this system on those who participate in it, through the study of theoretical, ethnographic and community studies. Analysis of how class affects power, prestige, opportunity, culture and consciousness, as well as the interaction of ethnicity, gender and class.

SOCI 350 CITY AND COMMUNITY LIFE (4)

Examination of the social psychology of urban and community life. Particular attention will be paid to the analysis of the culture of public life, place and place attachment, patterns of interaction in urban and neighborhood settings, and the sociological debate surrounding loss of community.

SOCI 360 SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES (4)

An overview of sexuality across institutions of society. Uses theoretical, conceptual and empirical tools to analyze sexuality as a social fact. Explores the social construction of sexuality and how sexuality is socially created and organized and constrained.

SOCI 363 SOCIOLOGY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY (4)

Examines race and ethnic relations in the US from a theoretical, historical, and comparative perspective. Explores the emergence of racial and ethnic minorities through such historical processes as colonialism, slavery and immigration. Studies the current relations among racial and ethnic groups in the US.

SOCI 365 HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (4)

Preparation for sociological practice in human service agencies, both public and private nonprofit. Includes training in such skills as organization planning, grant writing, volunteer management, report writing, communication consulting and group dynamics. Discusses the ethics and professional responsibility of sociologists.

SOCI 366 JUVENILE JUSTICE (4)

An exploration of the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency, with emphasis on serious or violent crime. The major theories of delinquency causation will be reviewed. The course will be devoted to the juvenile justice system and how it processes youths accused of crime. The nature and function of all major segments of the juvenile justice system will be discussed, including law enforcement, juvenile court and corrections. The legal rights of juveniles will also be reviewed. Finally, the current policy issues in juvenile justice will be explored. Crosslisted as CCJS 497.

SOCI 375 CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (4)

A critical examination of the writings of major sociological theorists, including Marx, Weber and Durkheim. This course will involve students in critical analysis of central sociological theories and offer them tools for understanding the development of sociological theory and its unique role in sociology. Satisfies upper-division GE, category D1 (Individual and Society). Required for majors.

SOCI 377 CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (4)

Emphasis on contemporary trends in theory, including topics such as culture, social identity, modernity and post-modernity, and the social construction of knowledge and reality. Includes critical assessment of problems, methods, and theories characteristic of sociological inquiry in the 20th and 21st centuries. Prerequisite: SOCI 375 recommended but not required.

SOCI 380 POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (4)

An analysis of the relation between political processes and ideologies and the larger society. Emphasis on the social consequences of power arrangements, political economy and political structures. Comparisons between societies will be made.

SOCI 381 POPULATION AND SOCIETY (4)

Variables such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, social development, politics and environment are explored in relation to population change. The uses of population studies for consumer marketing, political campaigns, jury selection and social planning are addressed, with an emphasis on California and Sonoma County concerns.

SOCI 382 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR (4)

Social movements are a significant source of social change in modern societies. This course analyses the structure and dynamics of social movements, with attention to the roles of organizations, resources, leadership, recruitment, commitment, values, ideology, political culture and countermovements. Case studies will emphasize the civil rights, women's rights, and environmental movements in the United States.

SOCI 383 SOCIAL CHANGE (4)

Theories and methods for analyzing social change, past, present and future, such as: the relationship of the plow, steam engine and computer to the rise of the agricultural, industrial and information ages; the development, dissemination and impact of such major technologies as the printing press, the automobile, VCRs and computers.

SOCI 384 SOCIOLOGY OF CONSUMPTION (4)

This course explores how goods, commodities and market logic have saturated all forms of contemporary social life. Analysis of the theoretical ideas and historical factors that shape and influence modern consumerism are also considered. Explores how the dynamics of globalization and issues of identity politics influence consumer consumption.

SOCI 385 SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE (4)

Examines the role culture plays in consensus formation, in domination, in resistance, and as a social force creating meaning in our lives. Culture refers to shared beliefs, values and norms, personal and political identities, ideologies and the things we consume daily.

SOCI 414 METHODS SEMINAR: SOCIAL INTERACTION (4)

Examination of everyday interaction in natural settings. Emphasis will be placed on ethnographic approaches to the understanding of social encounters, situations, identities, and human relationships. Particular attention will be given to the work of Erving Goffman. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 417 SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS (4)

Identifies the social sources of behavior defined as mental illness. Compares and contrasts psychological, biochemical and sociological theories of insanity. Analyzes psychiatry and other forms of therapy, mental hospitals, the role of the mental patient, and mental health policy.

SOCI 418 METHODS SEMINAR: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SELF (4)

Examination of the social sources of self-concept, personal identity and individual world views. Special attention will be given to the theories of Mead, Cooley, James and Schutz, as well as to research techniques for the study of social identity, its development and change. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 425 METHODS SEMINAR: URBAN SOCIOLOGY (4)

Examines the social consequences of the transition from rural to urban forms of social organization. Special attention directed to the social structural, cultural and social psychological characteristics of urban life. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 430 SOCIOLOGY OF LEISURE (4)

An examination of leisure in the United States. Topics include the uses of uncommitted time by various groups, an examination of leisure subcultures, the relation of leisure patterns to other societal values and institutions, and social issues related to the increased leisure of our society.

SOCI 431 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4)

Study of world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism), tribal beliefs, American sects and denominations. Theories of religious development, values, change, and effects on society. Satisfies GE, category C3 (Philosophy and Values).

SOCI 432 GROUP WORK WITH OLDER ADULTS (4)

This service-learning course introduces students to the fundamentals of group work with older adults. The class provides an overview of the phases of group development and basic skills and techniques for facilitating effective groups. Theoretical perspectives from sociology and psychology are used to examine how groups function, the value they have for older adults, and common themes in groups for older adults. To enhance learning, students go to senior sites in the community to co-facilitating weekly intergenerational dialogue groups. Crosslisted with GERN 432 and PSY 432.

SOCI 434 CINEMA AND SOCIETY (4)

An examination of film as a window to the social world and of sociology as a tool to understand it. The course uses films as data that can be analyzed to learn about such sociological topics as gender, crime, collective behavior, organizations and the family. In addition, sociology is used to examine the structure and functions of film in contemporary society.

SOCI 435 MEDIA CENSORSHIP (4)

Seminar provides an opportunity to gain new insights into social problems through an intensive analysis of the role and impact of mass media in contemporary society. Students will analyze the levels of coverage of important news stories in the United States.

SOCI 440 SOCIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION (4)

An exploration of sociological perspectives on human reproduction. Topics include reproduction and gender identity; the social implications of reproductive technologies, historical and contemporary perspectives on normal pregnancy and childbirth, the cultural context for breastfeeding, and the politics of reproductive rights and choices in the United States. Crosslisted with WGS 440.

SOCI 441 METHODS SEMINAR: UNITED STATES BY THE NUMBERS (4)

An empirical examination of individuals and institutions in U.S. society, with a focus on quantitative data. Teaches students about existing data sources, such as the U.S. Census and the General Social Survey, and how to analyze them. Provides preparation for work in policy analysis, organizational consulting, survey or market research, and other social science careers. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 443 METHODS SEMINAR: WOMEN AND SOCIAL POLICY (4)

Explores the effects of social politics and their implementation on women's lives. Analyzes the ideologies shaping these policies especially how gender intersects with race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, and religion to affect policy outcomes. Particular attention will be paid to conducting/analyzing focus groups. Prerequisite: Sociology Majors and Minors only and SOCI 300.

SOCI 445 SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE (4)

Examines childhood and adolescence in various historical and social contexts. Topics may include gender, race and class inequalities in childhood; the nature of preadolescence and adolescence as social problems; the changing relationship between childhood and families, schools, and economy; the prolongation of adolescence; and the significance of peer groups.

SOCI 449 SOCIOLOGY OF POWER (4)

An analysis of the origin, development, dynamics and application of power in human interaction, social organizations and institutions. Problems of ensuring a balance of power and fairness in the exchange of needed services, benefits and rewards will be emphasized.

SOCI 450 PUNISHMENTS AND CORRECTIONS (4)

A consideration of the problems created by pressures to punish and control criminals, the politics of control strategies. The use and misuse of probation and parole, the concept of correction, and alternatives to incarceration. Crosslisted as CCJS 450.

SOCI 451 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION (4)

A survey of issues concerning the structure of education in contemporary society, such as the social organization of the classroom, grading practices, political influences on schools, the contribution of education to the maintenance of capitalist society, teacher unionization, and student rights.

SOCI 452 METHODS SEMINAR: HEALTH CARE AND ILLNESS (4)

A dual focus on the social organization of health care and the social psychology of illness. Analyses of the structure of care, patient-practitioner relationships and treatment ideologies. Emphasis on the patient's experience of illness, intimate relationships and self-images. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 461 SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE (4)

The history of social welfare and social services in modern society. Comparison of government social services with nonprofit or private social services. Overview of major social service issues such as mental health, senior services and aid to families. Recommended for anyone considering social work, counseling, or human service administration.

SOCI 463 METHODS SEMINAR: BUREAUCRACIES AND INSTITUTIONS (4)

Political, economic, social and psychological analyses of administrative structures. The role of formal and informal organization, ideology in bureaucracy, decision making, morale and conflict. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 470 METHODS SEMINAR: CULTURE AND IDENTITY (4)

Examines culture as central to processes of meaning making and identity. Explores identity politics as a form of resistance and domination. Focuses on the practice and analysis of ethnographic observation and in-depth interviewing. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 480 METHODS SEMINAR: SOCIOLOGY OF WORK (4)

A theoretical and empirical analysis of work in American society, examining the types of jobs open to women and men today, the rewards and dissatisfactions of these jobs, and how work has changed historically or may evolve in the future.

Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 482 SOCIOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENT (4)

This service-learning course focuses on relations among major social institutions and the environment, and between national and global social inequalities and environmental degradation are examined. Differences in class, race, and gender mean that some people are disproportionately burdened by consequences of environmental degradation. Socio-environmental perspectives and practical alternatives to our acknowledged ecological crises are explored, including environmental social justice movements, critical social analysis, and alternative socio-economic approaches to consumption and employment that foster ecologically sustainable societies.

SOCI 484 METHODS SEMINAR: SOCIOLOGY OF GENOCIDE (4)

Using the tools of comparative historical methodology, students analyze the sociological factors typifying genocide and genocidal processes. Examination of the causes and consequences of the Holocaust and the characteristics of pre-20th century genocide, the Armenian, Rwandan and contemporary genocides are considered, as well. Prerequisite: SOCI 300.

SOCI 485 ORGANIZATIONS AND EVERYDAY LIFE (4)

Introduces key themes and concepts in the sociological study of organizations. Emphasis on applying theories and perspectives to organizational settings and circumstances likely to be encountered in everyday social life.

SOCI 488 SELECTED TOPICS IN SERVICE LEARNING (4)

Subject will vary by semester, but course has a required service learning component and concentrates on topics related to aspects of community based research and/or action research. May be repeated for credit with different topics.

SOCI 490 TEACHING ASSISTANT IN SOCIOLOGY (1-4)

Open only to advanced students. Intended to give students experience in assisting the instructor in a sociology course by doing research and tutoring students in the class. Cr/NC only. May be repeated for credit, but only 4 units total of SOCI 490, 493, and 495 may be used toward the major. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

SOCI 493 RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN SOCIOLOGY (1-4)

Open only to advanced students. Gives students experience in assisting faculty with data collection, library research, and/or data analysis linked to sociological research and writing. Grade only. May be repeated for credit, but only 4 units total of SOCI 490, 493, and 495 may be used toward the major. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

SOCI 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)

A supervised study of a particular research question or area of interest selected by the student in consultation with a sponsoring faculty member. Regular meetings will be arranged for discussions and progress evaluations, and a term paper will be submitted. Grade only. May be repeated for credit, but only 4 units total of SOCI 490, 493, and 495 may be used toward the major.

SOCI 496 INTERNSHIP PRACTICUM (1)

This is a concurrent course for students receiving sociology internship credit. Students will learn to view the internship experience through a sociological lens and as a means to explore workplace issues and career options. Concurrent enrollment with SOCI 499 is required when SOCI 499 is taken for the first time. May not be repeated for credit.

SOCI 497 INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR (1-4)

Exploration of basic social problems. Resource persons from other disciplines may participate. Themes and topics will vary. May be repeated for credit.

SOCI 498 SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

Capstone course for the major that requires advanced sociological research.

Several different topics are offered each semester. Past examples include: women and aging, food and society, gender and politics, and the sociology of time. Check department for current offerings. Required for all majors. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: open only to sociology majors who have completed at least 20 upper-division units in sociology, including SOCI 300, 375, and a methods seminar.

SOCI 499 INTERNSHIP (1-4)

For advanced undergraduates in approved internships in organizational settings. Facilitates application of sociological insights to internship site, while also encouraging contribution to organization's mission. Concurrent enrollment in SOCI 496 required when SOCI 499 taken for first time. May be repeated for credit for up to 8 units, but only 4 units may be used toward the major. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Cr/NC only.

SOCI 595 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)

Advanced research and writing. Students work under close supervision of faculty members. Subject matter can be variable. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: Graduate status, consent of instructor and completed special studies form.