Sociology (SOC)

SOC Courses

SOC 110. Comparative Societies. 4 units
GE Area D3
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Introduction to sociological theory and methods, emphasizing a comparative analysis of social institutions of contemporary societies in major world regions, including the family, religion, politics, and the economy. Direct comparisons made between American social institutions and those of other societies, their histories, social problems and social change. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D3.

SOC 111. Social Problems. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
An introduction to sociology with an emphasis on problems inherent in selected social institutions. Instruction in social analysis, including theories of social problems, how those problems are studied, and a survey of possible solutions. 4 lectures.

SOC 200. Special Problems for Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of department head.
Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

SOC 218. International Political Economy. 4 units
GE Area D2
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Principles of international political economy in their social and cultural context. Sociological perspectives on the historical development of the world system and the current patterns of global inequality. Comparison of the political economy of major nations and their relation to the overall world system. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE D2.

SOC 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.
Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

SOC 301. Social Work and Social Welfare Institutions. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: SOC 110. Recommended: Junior standing.
Introduction to the field of social welfare. Development of social work and social welfare services; major issues in social service policy. Scope and diversity of specific programs in the social services. Analysis of current programs and the recipients of welfare services. Field trip may be required. 4 lectures.

SOC 305. Social Movements. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: SOC 110.
Description and analysis of social movements in contemporary societies as they relate to major revolutionary changes historically and in the present. Analysis of variables producing social movements and political violence, including terrorism. Impact on society. 4 lectures.

SOC 306. Sociology of the Family. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 111. Recommended: Junior standing.

SOC 308. Sociology of the Environment. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: SOC 110.
Complex interactions between society and environment. Cultural relationships with nature. Environmental movements, food security, population growth. Local and global inequities regarding consumption, toxins, sea level rise, and natural disasters. Emphasis on environmental justice: race, class, and gender. 4 lectures.

SOC 309. The World System and Its Problems. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: SOC 110. Recommended: Junior standing.
Analysis of the historical background, structure, and dynamics of the world system; examines such issues as the origins of Third World poverty, colonialism, the changes in the world’s dominant economic powers, the fall of communism, the growing economic competition between Europe, North America, and Asia; and possible strategies for the economic development of the Third World. 4 lectures.

SOC 310. Self, Organizations and Society. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Junior standing.
Analysis of the interactions relating to the development of self. Examination of the reciprocal interactions between biology, personal environment, and society. 4 lectures.

SOC 311. Sociology of Genders and Sexualities. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: Junior standing.
Analysis of social constructions of sex, genders, and sexualities. Explores how gender stereotypes are created and reproduced. Focus on media representations; intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality; and effects on individuals and structures of work, education, family, and abusive relationships. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as SOC/WGS 311.
SOC 315. Global Race and Ethnic Relations. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and completion of GE Area D3.  

Diverse structures of unequal relationships among racial and ethnic groups in several countries including the United States. Theories about sources of economic and social discrimination and colonialism. Focus on the concept of ethnicity. Evaluation methods to restructure race and ethnic relations. International case histories. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.

SOC 316. U.S. Ethnic Minorities. 4 units  
USCP  
Term Typically Offered: W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing.  

Exploration of the origins of major U.S. ethnic minorities and contemporary issues. Sources and manifestations of economic and social discrimination patterns and how they affect the individual's life course. 4 lectures. Fulfills USCP.

SOC 321. Migration. 4 units  
GE Area D5; USCP  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and completion of GE Area D3. Recommended: SOC 110 (GE Area D3).  

Critical examination of migration, with emphasis on migration to and within the United States. Social and economic impacts on sending communities, receiving communities, and migrants themselves. Grounded in migration theory. Comparisons between current and historical migration trends and policies. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5 and USCP.

SOC 323. Social Stratification. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W  
Prerequisite: Junior standing.  

Social class and the distribution of income, wealth, status and power in society, with emphasis on contemporary United States; social mobility; race, gender, and ethnic inequalities; political power and the nature of welfare; the nature, causes and solutions to poverty. 4 lectures.

SOC 326. Sociology of the Life Cycle. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and completion of GE Area D3.  

Change and continuity of the self through the life course. Impact of aging on the physical, emotional, intellectual and social aspects of well being, and how this knowledge can be applied to enhance the quality of life. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.

SOC 327. Social Change. 4 units  
GE Area D5; USCP  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and one lower-division course in GE Area D. Recommended HIST 216 (GE Area D3) or SOC 305.  

Compares and contrasts social change strategies over time and across diverse social problems, focusing mainly on the U.S., but not exclusively. Theoretical and critical examination of contemporary efforts to address restricted opportunities by groups who have been historically marginalized due to race/ethnicity, lower socioeconomic status, sexuality, or other social identities. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5 and USCP.

SOC 343. Contemporary Societies of the Developing World. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisites: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and completion of GE Area D3. Recommended: SOC 110 (GE Area D3).  

Investigation of societies in developing countries, from broad regional trends to community-specific case studies. Gender, race, education, health, aging, families, inequality, and resilience. Readings and films emphasize voices from within the focal communities. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.

SOC 354. Qualitative Research Methods. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: STAT 217; and two Sociology courses. Recommended: Junior standing.  

Qualitative data collection for social research. The relationship among theory research and hypothesis testing. Data collection techniques: content analysis, face to face interviews, and ethnographic methods. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

SOC 355. Quantitative Research Methods. 4 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: STAT 217; and two Sociology courses. Recommended: Junior standing.  

The basics of how to do quantitative social research. Includes topics on data collection techniques such as surveys, experiments, and the use of existing data. Also includes topics on univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis and the use of SPSS for data analysis. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

SOC 377. Sociology of Religion. 4 units  
GE Area D5  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and two lower-division courses in GE Area D.  

Religion from a sociological perspective. Topics may include the nature of religious experience, the role of religion in politics, economics, and social change, and the role that social forces have in influencing religious beliefs and practices. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.
SOC 395. Sociology of Complex Organizations. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Bureaucracies and informal organizations from a sociological perspective. Organizational networks within and between organizations, relationship between organizations and their environment, and organizational socialization and career patterns, and gender and race or ethnic differences in organizational patterns. 4 lectures.

SOC 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of department head.

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 8 units, with a maximum of 4 units per quarter.

SOC 402. Crime and Violence. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Criminal behavior of individuals and groups; special categories include drug use, sex offenders, property crime, syndicated crime, interpersonal violence, and white-collar criminality. Legal definitions of crime and their implications, theories of causation, the sources of criminological data, and possible responses to the problems posed by criminal behavior. 4 lectures.

SOC 406. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: One course in sociology.

Sociological examination of juvenile delinquency as a social and legal concept, covering the nature, volume and social distribution of juvenile crime; the formal structure of juvenile justice; and how justice for juveniles is applied in practice. 4 lectures.

SOC 412. Criminology & Criminal Justice. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

A sociological perspective of contemporary crime and criminal justice issues, such as racial profiling, drug enforcement, and mass incarceration. Incorporates criminological theory to examine the nature, function, and causes of crime in society. Focuses on the control and treatment strategies of adult offenders. 4 lectures.

SOC 414. Theories of Social Work in Counseling Agencies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 111. Recommended: Junior standing.

Introduction to social work counseling/casework. Bio-psychological-social/strengths perspective: theories, skills, values, clinical knowledge. Possible career paths/agency settings. Traditional and innovative therapy techniques. Field trip may be required. 4 seminars.

SOC 420. Practical Interviewing and Counseling Skills in Social Work. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: SOC 413 or SOC 414.

Practical skills for interviewing, assessing and counseling clients. Hands-on practice and role play. Techniques to establish rapport, evaluate mental status and develop appropriate goals. Required documentation standards in social work agencies. Useful skill sets for medical or research interviewing. 4 seminars.

SOC 421. Social Theory. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W
Prerequisite: SOC 111.

Classical and modern social theory including conflict, symbolic interactionist, and feminist perspectives among others. Importance of theories for understanding present social arrangements and problems. 4 lectures.

SOC 423. Gender and Work. 4 units
USCP
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Junior standing; and completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Extent, causes, and intersectional nature of workplace gender inequality. Strategies aimed at creating more egalitarian organizations. Topics include job segregation, tokenism, sexual harassment, work/family balance, gendered jobs, inequality regimes, personnel policies, workplace democracy, and social/labor movement activism. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as SOC/WGS 423. Fulfills USCP.

SOC 431. World Population Processes and Problems. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: SOC 110 or ANT 201. Recommended: SOC 354; SOC 355; or ANT/GEOG 455.

Introduction to demography, emphasizing historical patterns and impacts of population change. Is population a problem? Topics include fertility, mortality, the demographic transition, food security, environmental degradation, population control, population aging, intergenerational transfers, and migration. 4 lectures.

SOC 440. Internship. 2-8 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Recommended: Junior standing.

Supervised training, research, and work in public and private organizations. Credit/No Credit grading only. Total credit limited to 12 units.

SOC 444. Incarceration and Society: Perspectives on the Criminal Justice System. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Junior standing, SOC 402 or SOC 412, and consent of instructor.

Compares and contrasts perspectives on the criminal justice system in dialogue with inmates. Examination of the social construction of deviance and inequality in the life course that may lead to incarceration. 3 lectures, 1 activity.
SOC 461. Senior Project I. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Senior standing.

Selection and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Projects typical of problems which graduates must solve in their fields of employment. Project results are presented in a formal report. Minimum 120 hours total time.

SOC 462. Senior Project II. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Senior standing.

Selection and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Projects typical of problems which graduates must solve in their fields of employment. Project results are presented in a formal report. Minimum 120 hours total time.

SOC 464. Professional Development for Sociologists. 1 unit
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: SOC 110 and Junior standing.

Preparation for professional advancement in the field of Sociology. Supervised career planning emphasizing resume development, selection of an internship or international experience, exploration of career options and graduate programs. Lectures from outside, practicing professionals. 1 lecture. Credit/No Credit grading only.

SOC 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.