

FALL 2011 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOC 101 **Introduction to Sociology** **Cr. 3**

Introduces the fundamental concepts, principles, and methods of sociology, analyzes the influence of social and cultural factors upon human behavior and evaluates effect of group processes, social classes, stratification, and basic institutions on contemporary society. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions Requirement.

SOC 201 **Social Inequality** **Cr. 3**

Structural analysis of social inequality within American society and the global community. Emphasis on the causes, extent and social consequences of inequality, especially those based on race, gender, social class and the level of economic development. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions and Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives Requirements.

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or permission.

SOC 214 **Crime and Criminal Justice** **Cr. 3**

The causes, extent and nature of crime in American society and the operation of the criminal justice system. Emphasis given to theories and dynamics of criminal behavior and to the efforts of police, courts and prisons to prevent and to control criminality. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions Requirement.

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or permission.

SOC 301 **Microsociology: Interaction and the Self** **Cr. 3**

The study of social interaction in small social settings, with emphasis on power and status. The negotiation of identity as a social process. The impact group structures on the self. Rituals as building blocks of micro-structures. Conversations as constructions of social reality. Informal group structures in large organizations. Prerequisite: Sociology major with junior standing and 6 hours of sociology or permission.

SOC 302 **Macrosociology: The Structure of Societies** **Cr. 3**

An examination of the structure and dynamics of large scale social organizations. Particular emphasis on institutional, formal, or bureaucratic and community structures characteristic of the industrialized and post-industrialized world.

Prerequisite: Sociology major with junior standing and 6 hours of sociology or permission.

SOC 329 **Sociology of Gender** **Cr. 3**

Analysis of contemporary constructions of gender. Emphasis on the interpersonal and institutional dimensions of sexism and the prospects of social change.

Prerequisite: WST 101 or 6 hours of sociology courses or permission

SOC 337 **Sociology of Mental Illness** **Cr. 3**

Examination of the sociological concepts of mental illness. Analysis of the relationship between mental illness and the sociological factors responsible for these disorders. Cross-cultural examination of mental illness. The nature and structure of mental care institutions. Satisfies the General Education Ethics and Social Contexts and Institutions Requirements.

Prerequisite: PSY 100 or SOC 101 or permission.

SOC 340(1) Wealth, Poverty and Power**Cr. 3**

Who owns what? Who controls what? How does a sociological argument address these questions? We will look at the unequal distribution of resources in America. We will use data from various federal sources, e.g., the Bureau of the Census, to examine how goods are distributed in the corporate world as well as between families and individuals. We will touch on changes in resource distributions across societies and historical periods. We will ask whether inequality demarcates the world as well as the U.S. We will conclude with the "So what" question - what differences do the differences make?

Prerequisite: Six hours of Sociology or permission

SOC 340(2) Sociological, Psychological & Spiritual Conceptions of the Self Cr. 3

The course will deal with the very different understandings of the self offered in the sciences and social sciences (primarily sociology, psychology and biology) on the one hand and in aspects of the spiritual traditions of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Daoism on the other. In scientific thought the self is seen as created through the interaction of biological and social factors, while in the spiritual traditions these factors are seen as contributing to the nature of the self but the self is also seen as containing a deeper, spiritual essence. **This course will demand considerable reading. Please sign up for the course only if you are willing to make such a commitment.** Because the course is about self exploration, you will be expected to relate the materials of the course to yourself, and you should only take the course if you are comfortable writing about your thoughts, feelings and experiences. Please do not register for the course if you are not comfortable in doing this or if you are not comfortable in learning about the various spiritual traditions.

Prerequisite: Six hours of Sociology or permission.

SOC 460 Major Ideas in Sociology**Cr. 3**

The sociological theories of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Mead and others. Developments in sociological theory as related to methodology, social issues, and current trends in contemporary sociology.

Prerequisite: Junior standing and 6 hours of sociology or permission.

SOC 493 Senior Thesis**Cr. 3**

The completion of a senior thesis on a topic of the student's choice under the supervision of a sociology faculty member. Encourages excellent senior students to conduct a significant piece of sociological research. May be taken for only one semester, but normally students should plan to enroll for two semesters as a significant project usually cannot be completed in less than an academic year. May be repeated once for 3 additional credits.

Prerequisite: permission; sociology major with senior standing and a minimum GPA in sociology courses of 3.5; SOC 390, SOC 460 and statistics.

SOC 495 Internship in Sociology**Cr. 3-9**

A supervised internship providing practical experience in a field placement and requiring parallel readings and study. Emphasis on the guided application of concepts and principles from related courses and structured readings to applied situations in the field. Students may take 3-9 credits. Not more than 6 credit hours may be used toward the departmental major.

Prerequisite: Major in Sociology; senior standing; GPA of at least 3.0; and permission of instructor.

SOC 497 Departmental Projects II**Cr. 1-3**

Prerequisite: permission.

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