

SPRING 2012 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 208 - Problems of Violence and Terrorism

Cr 3

The nature and causes of revolutionary and government-sponsored international terrorism. The future of terrorism and how to cope with it. The institutionalization of terrorism in pre-modern and contemporary totalitarian states. The social causes of war and social conflict. Social preconditions for the maintenance of a sustainable peace. An examination of the nature of human aggression. Satisfies the General Education Ethics and Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives Requirements.

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or permission.

SOC 220 - Deviance and Social Control

Cr 3

The study of deviant behaviors, individuals and groups, with emphasis on social order, power and identity. Use of the sociological perspective to explore definitions of deviance, theories of deviance, processes by which individuals become labeled as deviant, the nature of deviant identities and societal consequences of constructions of deviance. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions Requirement.

Prerequisites: SOC 101 or permission.

SOC 314 - Law and Society

Cr 3

Presents a sociological perspective on law and the legal system in the United States and other societies. Topics include problems in defining law, sociological theories of the origins and consequences of law, international differences in modes of dispute resolution, the relation between law and social change, studies of the legal profession and legal discretion in the criminal justice system. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions and Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives Requirements.

Prerequisites: SOC 101 and POS 100 or SOC 214 or SOC 220 or permission.

SOC 330 - Perspectives on Women

Cr 3

Multidisciplinary and international analysis of the personal, interpersonal and institutional dimensions of women's lives. Explores commonalities among women as well as differences based on race, social class, age, and sexual identity. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions and Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives Requirements.

Prerequisite: SOC 201 or WST 101 or permission.

SOC 371 - Immigration, Women and Society**Cr 3**

Examines the varied and complex experiences of immigrant women in the United States. Students will learn about the history of U.S. immigration in general and about the experiences of immigrant women in particular. Immigrant women's experiences will be examined through a lens that views gender as a social system that intersects with other social structures including race, religion, and social class. A central feature of this course is a service-learning oral history project which requires students to interview a woman who has immigrated to the United States, incorporate the interviewee's experiences into an analytical paper, and present the findings at the end of the semester. (This course is identical to WST 371.) Satisfies the General Education Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives and Population and the Environment Requirements.

Prerequisite: 6 hours of sociology.

SOC 390 - Logic of Sociological Inquiry**Cr 3**

Explores the relationship between theory and research. Specific topics include the nature of scientific proof in the social sciences, measurements of variables, hypothesis and theory testing, sampling, research design, ethical issues in research, and the relationship between research and policy-making. Satisfies the General Education Writing Intensive Requirement.

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

SOC 482 - The Sociology of Religion**Cr 3**

Topics include: comparative religious cultures and beliefs; the social construction of religious beliefs; institutionalized religions and the resurgence of new sects and cults; major world religions and the way religion preserves and changes the social order; the encounter between religion and contemporary developments in science. Secularization and the future of religion. Satisfies the General Education Social Contexts and Institutions Requirement.

Prerequisites: SOC 101 and junior or senior standing 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.

Prerequisites: 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.

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

SOC 498 - Departmental Projects II**Cr. 1-3**

Prerequisite: permission.

SOC 499 - Senior Seminar**Cr 3**

Selected theoretical and empirical topics in Sociology. Serves as the capstone course for Sociology majors and will assume a knowledge of and will build upon, the material presented in the other required courses in the major. The intent of the course is to help students integrate their Sociology knowledge and to apply it in dealing with fundamental questions of social life and social theory. Satisfies the General Education Capstone Experience Requirement.

Prerequisites: Sociology major with senior standing; SOC 301 and SOC 302 and SOC 390 and SOC 460 or permission.

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