

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Fall 2016 Course Schedule

NO.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	DAYS	LOCATION	TIME
101-6 Sec.20	First-Year Seminar Scandals & Reputations <i>This freshman seminar is designed to expose incoming students to the basic approaches that historians, political scientists, and sociologists use to understanding historical memory. In particular, we examine how reputations are constructed by the public and by historians, and how scandals (including contemporary ones) come to be understood. Our primary focus for this course will be American examples, but the historical range will be broad, covering 1700-present. Given the controversy recently uncovered at Northwestern about the involvement of our founder, John Evans in the Sand Creek Massacre, the most significant genocide of native peoples on United States soil, we will discuss how the university should recall Evans' deeds.</i>	Gary Fine	TTh	Library 5722	3:30-4:50 PM
101-6 Sec.21	First-Year Seminar American Families After the Sexual Revolution <i>In this course, we will explore how and why American families have changed since the 1960s. Although there are many topics related to families and family life, the focus of this writing-intensive course will be on marriage and other romantic relationships. We will discuss changes in the ways that people find a romantic partner, the characteristics of their partners, and the duration and types of their relationships. We will examine what these changes mean for the individuals involved and for the broader society. Topics include cohabitation, divorce, non-marital childbearing, and same-sex unions.</i>	Christine Percheski	MW	Harris L05	2:00-3:20 PM
101-6 Sec.22	First-Year Seminar Teens, Tweens and Adolescents <i>This course examines the experiences of young people today and how the experience of being a young person varies greatly by socio-economic status, gender, and race/ethnicity. We will also spend time looking at how life stages associated with youth (such as tween, teenager, and emerging adulthood) have evolved and why the road to adulthood is often longer today. We will also think about how the media shapes societal views of young people and how young people use social media. Finally, we will consider how the lives of young people today (Millennials) compare to earlier generations (including Baby Boomers and Generation X) and we will look at intergenerational interactions at home, in school, and in the workplace.</i>	Karrie Snyder	MW	Harris L04	11:00-12:20 PM
110-0 Sec.20	Intro to Sociology <i>Sociology emerges from the hunch that there are forces at work beyond our control (and often beyond our awareness) that influence how we think, feel, and act. Sociologists have turned this philosophical speculation into a systematic approach to building and testing theories. Sociological explanations center on the structure and dynamics of social groups (families, friendship networks, organizations, etc.) as enabling and constraining human behavior. In this course, you will learn to think like a sociologist - to use your "sociological imagination" to examine the social nature of a number of issues and behaviors, many of which may at first appear to be the results of strictly individual motives and personal choices. You will get a broad overview of the theories and methods used in sociology and how these are applied across a wide range of important phenomena, including gender, race, inequality, and education.</i>	Craig Rawlings	MWF	Leverone Aud	1:00-1:50 PM
206-0 Sec.20	Law & Society Combined w/Legal St 206-0-20 <i>Law is everywhere. Law permits, prohibits, enables, legitimates, protects, and prosecutes citizens. Law shapes our day to day lives in countless ways. This course examines the connections and relationships of law and society using an interdisciplinary social science approach. As one of the founders of the Law and Society movement observed, "law is too important to leave to lawyers." Accordingly, this course will borrow from several theoretical, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary perspectives (such as sociology, anthropology, political science, critical studies, psychology) in order to explore the sociology of law and law's role primarily in the American context (but with some attention to international law and global human rights efforts). The thematic topics to be discussed include law and social control; law's role in social change; as well as law's capacity to reach into complex social relations and intervene in existing normative institutions, organizational structures, and the like.</i>	Laura Beth Nielsen	TTh	Leverone Aud	9:30-10:50 AM
207-0 Sec.20	Cities & Society <i>Why are cities different from any other kinds of places? What has been the history of urbanization in the U.S. and how does that compare to cities in other countries? Cities and Society explores these questions, focusing on topics such as segregation, suburbanization, housing, gender, crime, immigration, and culture.</i>	Mary Pattillo	TTh	Annenberg G21	3:30-4:50 PM

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208-0 Sec.20	Race & Society <i>This class will explore the nature of race in an effort to understand exactly what race is. It seeks to understand why race is such a potent force in American society. Close attention will be paid to the relationship between race, power, and social stratification. The course will examine the nature of racial conflict and major efforts to combat racial inequality.</i>	Quincy Stewart	TTh	University 122	11:00-12:20 PM
212-0 Sec.20	Environment & Society Combined with Enviro Pol 212-0-1 <i>Overview of the interactions between societies and the natural environment. Examines both key environmental problems, like climate change and oil spills, and possible solutions, and the roles played by different social structures and groups in shaping both issues.</i>	Susan Thistle	TTh	Fisk 217	12:30-1:50 PM
232-0 Sec.20	Sexuality & Society Combined with Gender St 232-0-20 <i>Examination of the role of sexuality in the cultural, economic, political, and social organization of the United States. Sex work, sex tourism, sexual migration, LGBT social movements, and moral panics. Taught with GNDR ST 232, may not receive credit for both courses.</i>	Aaron Norton	MW	Fisk 217	2:00-3:20 PM
301-0 Sec.20	The City: Urbanization & Urbanism <i>Learn different sociological theories about cities and social life and about research that supports or revises those theories. Topics include physical ecology of cities, political economy of cities, social life among social groups, and the question of community, deviance and social control, and planning for the future.</i>	Albert Hunter	TTh	University 101	11:00-12:20 PM
302-0 Sec.20	Sociology of Organizations <i>Most of our waking hours are spent participating in various types of formal organizations - schools, corporations, churches, or (unfortunately) prisons. We generally begin our lives in hospitals, and often end our days in nursing homes. While we want to join some organizations (e.g. Northwestern - go Cats!), we also avoid others like plague (e.g. the DMV). But where do organizations come from? What do they have in common? How do they shape who we get to know, how we get ahead or fall behind? Why do organizations change or fail to change? We will begin to answer these questions using three main theoretical frameworks - sometimes referred to as "rational," "natural," and "open" systems approaches - that pull together the aspects of organizations in coherent approaches with different emphases and implications. By the end of the quarter, you will be able to think analytically about organizations from these different and sometimes competing perspectives. This should enable you to think about how you might better survive and thrive in our organizational world.</i>	Craig Rawlings	MW	555 Clark B03	9:30-10:50 AM
306-0 Sec.20	Sociological Theory <i>This course seeks to provide a thorough understanding of the central ideas of the three "classical" social thinkers whose work has been foundational for sociological analysis: Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), Karl Marx (1818-1883), and Max Weber (1864-1920). Class sessions will explore each thinker's major concepts, the larger arguments that he builds from those concepts, and the distinctive manner in which he proposes to analyze the social world.</i>	Charles Camic	TTh	Parkes 222	9:30-10:50 AM
321-0 Sec.20	Numbers, Identity, and Modernity <i>Our world is awash in numbers. In this class we will consider how we make and use numbers, how we know ourselves through numbers, and the particular kinds of authority we grant to numbers. Using a range of examples including the SAT, college rankings, and statistics about race and sexuality, this class will examine what prompts people to produce numbers, what causes them to spread, how they intervene in the worlds they measure, how they inform our ethics, and how we think about ourselves and others differently as a result.</i>	Wendy Espeland	TTh	Locy 111	2:00-3:20 PM
325-0 Sec.20	Global & Local Inequalities <i>Sociology of Inequality: Inequalities in economic and social status, including in income, health, politics, social policy, the family, gender, and race. Contemporary U.S. focus but also historical and global trends will be discussed.</i>	Leslie Mccall	TTh	Locy 111	5:00-6:20 PM

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327-0 Sec.20	Youth & Society <i>The course will be a critical examination of how "childhood" and "adolescence" have been defined in the U.S. We will consider how modern and historical conceptions of childhood and adolescence have evolved and how these definitions have been shaped by societal forces and institutions such as the economy, religion, and politics. We will also look at the lives of children themselves and how individuals experience being children, kids, teens, and so forth in a particular time and place. As a class, we will also be very critical of cultural and media portrayals of children and teenagers and ask how these representations have reflected and shaped how society views youth. We will also look at how childhood itself has been viewed as a social problem. Children and adolescents and their behavior have often been considered to be the root of many social concerns (such as teen pregnancy, suicide, and bullying). But also many social problems arise because of society's feeling that children and young people need to be protected (such as calls to end child labor and the "missing child" awareness movement). The final topic for the course will be how adolescents make the transition to adulthood socially, emotionally, and economically, and how this transition has changed over time - particularly over the last several decades.</i>	Karrie Snyder	MW	Swift 107	2:00-3:20 PM
336-0 Sec.20	Climate Change, Policy, & Society Combined w/EPC 336-0-1 <i>Social scientists have long been interested in the way that culture - the realm of shared beliefs, values, meanings, styles, and practices - intersects with social class. For example, early life exposure to cultural goods associated with the elite classes is thought to influence education and occupational outcomes later in life. This course considers the profound intersection between social class and culture, with a special emphasis on gender and sexuality. We will explore the way that socioeconomic status intersects with gender norms, and how sexual communities and practices reflect social class patterns.</i>	Susan Thistle	TTH	Locy 111	3:30-4:50 PM
345-0 Sec.20	Class & Culture <i>The role that culture plays in the formation and reproduction of social classes. Class socialization, culture, and class boundaries, class identities and class consciousness, culture, and class action.</i>	Beth Red Bird	MW	555 Clark B01	11:00-12:20 PM
356-0 Sec.20	Sociology of Gender Social Movements, Political Participation, and Policy <i>In this class, we will investigate how gender - as a set of relations, identities and cultural schemas -- shapes politics, including political participation and representation, the formation of social movements (e.g., the feminist and anti-ERA movements), and social policy, as well as how, in turn, political institutions and policy shape gender. We aim to understand gendered politics and policy from both "top down" and "bottom up" perspectives. And we will take advantage of the fact that we are in the middle of a Presidential election to examine gendered politics in the contemporary United States.</i>	Ann Orloff	TTh	Annenberg 101	3:30-4:50 PM
376-0 Sec.20	Topics in Sociological Analysis Understanding Genocide <i>In this course we will examine one of the most destructive, evil and perplexing phenomena haunting society: genocide - i.e., the on a large scale organized exclusion and killing of populations defined by race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. In the first section of this course students will be introduced to ideational, rational and psychological explanations of genocide. We will focus on theories at three different levels. First, we will look at how national and international processes such as modernization and political leadership cause genocide (macro level). Second, we will look at why individuals decide to participate in or condone mass killings (micro level). Third, we will look at what role subnational groups such as religious communities play (meso level). In the second part of this course, we will assess the validity of different explanations through the comparative study of three particular cases: the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide and Rwanda. Students will explore a fourth case on their own. We will end the course with a discussion on foreign intervention. Upon completing the course, students will not only be acquainted with the main types of explanations offered for genocide, but they will also be able to evaluate the evidence supporting the various explanations.</i>	Robert Braun	MW	University 101	3:30-4:50 PM

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376-0 Sec. 21	Topics in Sociological Analysis Politics of Scarcity	Wendy Espeland	TTh	Locy 214	11:00-12:20 PM
	<i>Is scarcity ever natural? Or is it an inevitable by-product of human society? Can technology and political will ever make possible a post-scarcity society? What are the conditions that produce, distribute, and mediate scarcity locally, nationally and globally? How does scarcity interact with abundance? What are the cultural and historical effects of scarcity? When and to whom is scarcity invisible? Which policies work best in confronting scarcity? These are some of the questions that will animate this class as we examine scarcity in the distribution of water, food and healthcare in countries and communities around the world. Topics include: the effects of gender, race, ethnicity on scarcity; what the developed world can learn from the developing world about conservation and distribution; how scarcity is portrayed or ignored in contemporary media.</i>				
376-0 Sec. 22	Topics in Sociological Analysis Utopian Communities	Albert Hunter	TTh	University 101	2:00-3:20 PM
	<i>Utopian thought has a long history in Western thought as different writers have attempted to define the ideal community from Plato's Republic through Thomas More's first coining of "Utopia" (nowhere) as an ideal community in the Sixteenth century. Often Utopias were defined as counter critiques of existing social arrangements and at times people attempted to create and live in communities based on their ideals.. In this course we will explore fictional and real utopian communities in each of three broad historical periods...preindustrial, industrial, and post-industrial. We will use these cases as critical analyses of existing societies highlighting the social problems of their day...issues such as inequalities of wealth and power, individual versus collective priorities, family structure and socialization, sexual relations and gender roles, defining and dealing with deviants, and social control, education, work and leisure, among others. We will explore in detail the founding, the dynamics, and the fates of attempts to live in real utopian communities. We will conclude with a consideration of the role of utopian thought in contemporary society.</i>				
398-1 Sec. 20	Senior Research Seminar	Anthony Chen	M	Parkes 222	9:00-11:50 AM
	<i>This is the first class in a two-class sequence leading to the completion of a senior thesis in sociology. In this quarter, you will identify and motivate a meaningful sociological research question; develop a research design and empirical strategy that will permit you to answer the question in a credible manner; write up a research proposal; and begin your data collection. You will also be connected with a faculty advisor in the Department of Sociology. Your faculty advisor will provide you with intellectual input throughout the thesis-writing process and serve as the "first reader" of your thesis when it is complete.</i>				

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