

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Spring 2016 Course Schedule

NO.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	DAYS	TIME
101-6 Sec. 20	First-Year Seminar	John Robinson	Annenberg G28	TTH	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><i>Exploration of structural changes that are transforming the American urban landscape, especially for low-income populations. We begin with a review of classic theories of urban poverty and consider their relevance in the modern context. We then analyze key political, economic, demographic and geographic shifts in how urban poverty is organized and reproduced, including gentrification, immigration, social policy reform and the credit crisis. Special attention will be devoted to exploring the social and political implications of changing urban policy approaches, as well as the "suburbanization" of poverty. We will conclude by discussing how urban poverty interfaces with broader social structures, including law, markets and the state. Prerequisite: An introductory course in sociology or consent of the instructor.</i></p>					
110-0 Sec. 20	Intro to Sociology	Craig Rawlings	Leverone Aud	MWF	1:00-1:50 PM
<p><i>Have you ever wondered why people say "bless you" when someone sneezes? Are you troubled by inequality, racism, or sexism? From the seemingly trivial and mundane to the clearly monumental issues of our time, Sociology provides a set of theories and tools for better understanding our world. In this course, you will develop your "sociological imagination" -- a powerful way to connect your personal experiences to larger social forces. In so doing, you will become a more critical thinker capable of seeing the complexity of a number of social issues.</i></p>					
201-0 Sec. 20	Social Inequality: Race, Class, & Power	Elizabeth Onasch	Annenberg G15	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>This course will identify the contours, causes, and consequences of social inequality. We will examine stratification according to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and other social categories in the US, and pay particular attention to how these categories intersect to create complex positions of privilege and disadvantage. The course will analyze broader patterns in power and access as well as specific accounts of individual and community experiences of inequality. We will review different theoretical perspectives on how social inequality is generated and reproduced, and potential social and political responses to these processes. Finally, we will expand our focus to outside of the US context to consider how international, political and economic systems shape global social inequalities.</i></p>					
202-0 Sec. 20	Social Problems	Karrie Snyder	Annenberg G21	MW	11:00-12:20 PM
<p><i>In this course, we will investigate how social conditions come to be defined as social problems. This course will be divided into two sections. The first section will be an overview of how sociologists have approached the study of social problems including theoretical perspectives (symbolic interactionist, conflict, structural-functionalist and constructionist perspectives). In this section, we will also conceptually examine the roles of policymakers, social advocates, and the media in the process of defining social problems. In the second section of the course, we will use the perspectives and conceptual tools from the first part to analyze contemporary social problems including bullying, violence among young people, and the effects of the media on children and teenagers. As a class, we will also examine the debates surrounding several social problems (such as teen pregnancy) to understand how interested parties can define a similar situation as problematic, but do so for very diverse reasons and in doing so suggest very different solutions.</i></p>					
206-0 Sec. 20	Law & Society Co-listed w/Legal St 206-0	Heather Schoenfeld	Leverone Aud	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><i>This course introduces the relationship between social, cultural, political, and economic forces on the one hand, and legal rules, practices, and outcomes, on the other. We focus on several of the most important sociological questions about law including: 1) What is the purpose of law in a modern society? 2) How is the legal system and legal profession organized? 3) How does politics shape the law? 4) What does the law look like in action? And 5) how can law create or constrain social change? In order to explore these questions, it focuses on a few legal issues in modern U.S. society, including same-sex marriage and discrimination. It also introduces research methods for the study of law and society.</i></p>					
208-0 Sec. 20	Race & Society	Aldon Morris	Annenberg G15	TTH	11:00-12:20 PM
<p><i>Race inequality remains an enduring reality of American society. This course will explore the sociological and historical roots of race relations and the conflict they engender. Attention will also focus on how racial inequalities and conflicts could be addressed constructively by different races and societal leaders.</i></p>					

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232-0 Sec. 20	Sexuality & Society Co-listed w/GSS 232-0	Hector Carrillo	Tech LR3	TTh	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>Sexuality is fundamental to the cultural, economic, political, and social organization of the United States. This course examines the theoretical and methodological approaches that have been used in sociological studies of sexuality--including those that guide sexuality-related analyses of meanings and identities, practices and behaviors, power and politics, and morality and social control. Topics will include sex work, sex tourism, sexual migration, LGBT social movements, relationships, the sexual moment, sexual diversity (including diversity by race, ethnicity, and social class), censorship, and moral panics.</i></p>					
302-0 Sec. 20	Sociology of Organizations	Craig Rawlings	555 Clark B03	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><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></p>					
303-0 Sec. 20	Analysis & Interpretation of Social Data	Jordan Conwell	Tech L251	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>The general objectives of this course are to make students familiar with central ideas of statistics as they are applied in social research, to enable understanding of statistical methods commonly used in social science research articles, and to enable students to use these methods to perform an analysis of social data.</i></p>					
305-0 Sec. 20	Population Dynamics	Christine Percheski	University 122	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><i>This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the field of population studies, also known as demography. Demography covers all of the factors related to changes in the size and characteristics of a human population. The topics that will be covered in the course include health disparities in the United States, the impact of AIDS on family life and longevity in Africa, migration patterns within and from Latin America, the reasons behind sex-selective abortions in Asia, and the implications of the current low birthrates in Europe.</i></p>					
306-0 Sec. 20	Sociological Theory	Charles Camic	Harris L28	TTh	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><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></p>					
307-0 Sec. 20	School & Society	Karrie Snyder	Annenberg G21	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>This course is a critical sociological look at education in the United States - with a focus on contemporary debates and issues. The course will cover how sociologists have both theoretically and empirically looked at schooling practices, what and how students learn, and how schools fit into the larger society including how the educational system in the US interacts with political, economic, family, and cultural institutions. We will also spend much time focusing on how one's educational experiences and opportunities are shaped by their gender, class, and ethnic/racial statuses. We will focus on K-12 and college with specific topics including college admissions, same-sex schooling, and Teach for America. Throughout all of these issues and topics, we will examine how schools both challenge and support existing systems of inequality.</i></p>					

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NO.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	DAYS	TIME
309-0 Sec. 20	Political Sociology Focus on Gender Co-listed with Poli Sci 390-0-28	Ann Orloff	555 Clark B03	TTh	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>Key concepts for the analysis of politics in both political sociology and political science include power, the political, citizenship, states, social movements. Typically, these are investigated with reference to social relationships based on class, or, sometimes (especially in the US), race - how do social relations and distributions of power and resources affect political processes, and how, in turn, do politics shape social relations? In this class, we turn the focus to the relationships among gender, politics and policy. We will examine the gendered character of citizenship, political participation and representation, social rights and economic rights. We aim to understand gendered politics and policy from both "top down" and "bottom up" perspectives. We expand on conventional conceptions of political participation and citizenship rights to include the grassroots democratic activism that gave birth to the modern women's movement. We explore how women's political efforts have given rise to the creation of counter-public spheres and alternative visions of democracy, social provision and economic participation, as well as reshaping formal politics and policies. Our main focus is on the US since the late 19th century, and we trace the development of gendered politics and policy since that time, as situated in comparative and global perspective.</i></p>					
332-0 Sec. 20	Work & Occupations Focus on Gender Co-listed with GSS 332-0-20	Ann Orloff	555 Clark B03	TTh	5:00-6:20 PM
<p><i>The gender division of labor is a key organizing principle in all known societies, but it takes a fascinating array of forms. In industrialized and post-industrial societies, women have taken up paid employment (while still doing the majority of caring and household labor) but men's take-up of traditionally feminine caring labor has been far more limited. Scholars debate about whether and how this will change, and whether political initiatives can influence these arrangements. In this course, we will investigate the ways in which work - paid and unpaid, in families and in places of employment - is organized by gender. We will examine family divisions of labor: how do men and women divide domestic work and care for children? What are the consequences for outcomes in paid employment and in terms of the distribution of time, respect, and power? We will learn about the development of the modern economy and occupational sex segregation, as well as how men and women are treated at work. Finally, we will consider the role of government policy in sustaining or changing these arrangements. By the end of the course, students should understand how gender influences the kinds of work we do and how it is rewarded, as well as how the economy is organized along gendered lines.</i></p>					
334-0 Sec. 20	Social Movements	Aldon Morris	University 101	TTh	2:00-3:20 PM
<p><i>Protest movements and campaigns are often important mechanisms of social change. Yet such movements are complex and not well understood. Questions such as why and how are social movements and protests sometime able to generate social change are not easily answered. Indeed, we know little about why some people participate in social movements while others do not. Tactics, social movement organizations, and social movement leadership are not well understood. The purpose of this class is to try and shed light on these questions pertaining to social movements. We will explore these and other questions by analyzing some of the best studies of a variety of social movements.</i></p>					
376-0 Sec. 20	Topics in Sociological Analysis Sexuality, Social Sciences, and LGBT Rights Co-listed with Gender St 331-0	Aaron Norton	Tech L170	MW	11:00-12:20 PM
<p><i>In this course, we will first consider how the sciences have played an important role both in categorizing people based upon sexual desires, practices, and identity, and in challenging how we have come to understand those very categories. We then consider how debates over how to define sexuality have been taken up in struggles for LGBT rights. Key topics will include: the pathologization and de-pathologization of homosexuality; same-sex adoption and marriage; fixed vs. fluid sexual desire; sexual reorientation therapy; and the relevance of disputes over the nature of sexuality to trans people's claims to legal recognition.</i></p>					
376-0 Sec. 21	Topics in Sociological Analysis Global Families	Christine Percheski	University 122	MW	2:00-3:20 PM
<p><i>How does family life vary around the globe? This class will consider marriage, childrearing, intergenerational relationship, and household organization in a comparative perspective. These topics will be explored in a seminar format with the focus on discussion of recently published scholarly books and articles. Throughout the quarter, students will conduct independent research on family life in a country of their choice, and they will present their findings at the end of the term.</i></p>					

Subject to Change

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NO.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	DAYS	TIME
376-0 Sec. 22	Topics in Sociological Analysis Politics through Biography Co-listed with Poli Sci 390-0-21, HUM 370-4	Anthony Chen	Locy 301	MW	2:00-3:20 PM
<p><i>This course aims to give Northwestern undergraduates a foundation of knowledge and critical reasoning skills that will enable them to develop and refine their own understanding of how and why public policy in the United States has developed historically in the ways that it has—and not in other ways it might have developed. Social policy, industrial relations, health care, fiscal policy, and financial regulation are among the policy areas that we will consider. Why is social spending in the United States relatively stingy? Why is so much of it channeled through the private sector? Why is the unionization rate so low? Why are so many people uninsured? Why have top marginal tax rates for personal income tended to be relatively low since the late-1980s? Why is the regulation of the U.S. financial system so fragmented and decentralized? The course will begin chronologically with the New Deal and end with the Great Recession. The main readings for the course will consist of selected biographies of major social and political figures. These biographies are meant to provide a uniquely valuable window into the policy-making process — helping students to understand policy developments from the bottom-up as well as the top-down.</i></p>					
376-0 Sec. 23	Topics in Sociological Analysis Women in Traditional Religious Movements Combine w/Relig 339-0-21, GSS 341-0-20	Yael Israel-cohen	Tech M164	MW	12:30-1:50 PM
<p><i>In this course, students will be challenged to think about feminism through the lens of women committed to traditional, at times even fundamentalist, religious values. We will investigate the ways in which such women negotiate their status and examine the evolving feminist movements that have arisen within traditional religious life. More specifically, we will focus on a case study of feminist activism among Orthodox Jewish women in Israel, in a comparative perspective with Evangelical women and Muslim women in the USA. Some of the central questions we will engage are: how are the forms of feminist identity and activism among women in traditional religious traditions similar? In what ways can feminist activism within religious life be compared with secular feminist activism?</i></p>					
376-0 Sec. 24	Topics in Sociological Analysis Cities in the Middle East Co-listed w/MENA 390-3-20, Intl St 390-0-26	Ayca Alemdaroglu	Tech L150	T	10:00-1:00 PM
<p><i>This course explores historical formation of cities and citizenry in the Middle East since the 19th century. It studies urban development, economy, social classes and politics in Egypt and Turkey with a focus on two world-historical cities, Cairo and Istanbul. Drawing mostly on readings in history, anthropology and sociology, it examines how urban space in Egypt and Turkey was reconfigured through histories of colonialism, nationalism, developmentalism and globalization with a particular attention to the following topics: urban immigration, informality, gendered places, consumption, urban regeneration, local politics and branding the city. Throughout the course, these topics are studied in relation to two main questions: How do spatial changes engender new social practices and redefine cultural difference and vice versa?; How do power struggles at the intersection of local and global interests shape urban change? The course is designed for history, sociology, anthropology, political science and urban studies majors.</i></p>					
376-0 Sec. 25	Topics in Sociological Analysis Environment, Politics, and Society Co-listed w/EPC 390-0-25	Maria Akchurin	Garrett 107	TTH	12:30-1:50 PM
<p><i>What are the social and political dimensions of environmental problems? What kinds of social responses to environmental challenges and crises have emerged worldwide? This course examines connections between the natural environment, politics, and society across the global North and South. We will begin with theories of environment-society relations and central questions about how the natural environment is defined and valued by different actors, the limits and possibilities of environmental governance, the tensions between environmental considerations and economic development, and the relationship between the environment and socioeconomic inequality. We will then consider social and political responses to environmental problems, paying special attention to grassroots mobilization around environmental justice, organized social movements and expert NGOs working on the politics of the environment, community inaction in the face of toxic risks, and changing patterns of individual consumption. We will read and analyze case studies based in Chicago, other parts of the United States, and international sites to examine how people contribute to, are affected by, and try to shape contemporary environmental problems.</i></p>					

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376-0	Topics in Sociological Analysis	Jennifer Huynh	Annenberg G32	TTh	3:30-4:50 PM
Sec. 26	Southeast Asian American Experience				

Co-listed w/Asian Am 370-0-1

The diversity of the Asian American experience includes the waves of refugees who arrived after 1975 fleeing war, revolution, and exile. How do Cambodians, Vietnamese, and Laotians fit the model minority myth? Is there inter-generational transfer of trauma and war to the second generation? This course focuses on the experiences of Vietnamese, Khmer, Lao, Hmong and ethnic Chinese from Southeast Asia. We will examine political and economic factors for their exodus and how they reconstruct their identities, families, and communities in the United States. This includes refugee camp experiences, and the adaptation of Southeast Asian American families in the US including issues such as educational experiences, occupational options, and homeland relations.