

SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 280 - POVERTY, JUSTICE, CAPABILITIES

Credits: 3

This course provides an introduction to the study of poverty, justice, and capabilities. The course considers theory and policy oriented towards improving human well-being in the US and internationally. Readings address not just material deprivations but also gender, racial and ethnic disparities, health status, education, human rights, and political freedoms.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 297 - RACIAL & ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICA

Credits: 3

This course compares and contrasts the immigration, acculturation, and adjustment processes of various racial/ethnic groups in America. In particular, it explores cultural and structural arguments that seemingly explain why some groups have "succeeded" while others have "failed" to attain socioeconomic excellence.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 301 - SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Credits: 3

A survey of US inequalities of wealth, status, and power. The situation of various minority groups and social classes. What kinds of inequality are unjustifiable? Can they be abolished? If so, how? The trade-off between equality and such valued goods as freedom and efficiency.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 302 - THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF FAMILY AND SEXUALITY

Credits: 3

This class will explore the social effects of post-industrial transformations in family and sexuality within a global context. Central topics and issues include: the politics of marriage and family values, abstinence education and AIDS prevention; the normalization of divorce; reproductive technology; gay and lesbian family formations; transracial and transnational families and sexualities.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 308 - HOUSTON: THE SOCIOLOGY OF A CITY

Credits: 3

Houston as an exemplar of contemporary urban change. The "golden buckle of the sunbelt"; recovery from the oil boom collapse of the 1980s into a reconstructional economy and a demographic revolution; the changing politics of education, quality-of-life issues, and interethnic relations, as they interact to shape the urban future. Guest lectures, field trips.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 309 - RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS

Credits: 3

Historical and contemporary issues and theories of race and ethnic relations in the United States. The key groups covered will be European Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Mexican Americans. Group patterns of assimilation and conflict inform a basic tenet that race and ethnicity are organizing features of society.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 310 - URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Credits: 3

Study of urban development, form, and heterogeneity; and the conditions of life associated with living in cities. Examines the rise of cities, their growth and purposes in the U.S. and internationally. Examines behavioral adaptations required by city life, and considers urban subcultures.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 311 - THE SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

Credits: 3

This course examines the social construction of deviant behavior in American society. Through course readings, discussions, and empirical research projects, student will learn to critically analyze how certain behaviors come to be labeled "deviant" or "acceptable," and how these labels can shift historically, culturally, and politically.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 313 - DEMOGRAPHY

Credits: 3

Introduction to the study of the dynamics of population change. Includes demographic data sources, components of population change, mortality patterns, family planning, the measurement of migration flows, and population-economic models.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 315 - POPULATION AND SOCIETY

Credits: 3

Population and Society examines social problems and social change from a population-based perspective. Topics include: basics of demographic measurement and demographic processes (e.g. mortality, fertility, and migration), population growth and social inequality, the changing ways U.S. Census counts population, population growth and changes in the American family.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 325 - SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Credits: 3

Introduction to Sociological theories of law. Examines central question in the field: Do the social characteristics of legal actors influence legal outcomes? Focuses on the role of race, sex, and social status. Field work required.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 329 - MULTIRACIAL AMERICA

Credits: 3

Multiracial America examines the phenomenon of race mixing (e.g. interracial interaction, multiracial identity) from a sociological perspective. The course covers the legal, political, and cultural contexts of interracial interaction and how these impact current understanding of what it means to be "mixed race."

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 330 - SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Credits: 3

Strategies by which citizens effect social change through noninstitutionalized political activity. The emergence, maturation, and decay of protest movements. Political impact of social movements on both institutions and individuals. Primary focus is on 20th-century United States.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 331 - THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Credits: 3

Examination of the major components of the criminal justice system: 1) Police role and culture, contemporary approaches; 2) Courts (judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, plea bargaining, juries, appeals, pre-sentence investigation, and sentencing); and 3) Corrections, with attention to responsibility and punishment, prisons, probation, parole, and alternatives.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 333 - SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Credits: 3

Study of religious beliefs, symbols, actions, organizations, roles, and various interrelationships between religion and society. Includes new religious movements, secularization, and fundamentalism. Field work required.

College: School of Social Sciences

Department: Sociology

SOCI 335 - POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Credits: 3

Can democracy survive its enemies: tyranny of ruling elites and classes, tyranny of the majority, ethnic and religious conflict, individualism, government secrecy, citizen apathy?

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 345 - INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY

Credits: 3

This course will explore the relationship between social factors and health, illness, and mortality. Topics include the stratification of health by race/ethnicity, gender, and social class; environmental context and illness; lifestyle and behavioral risks (smoking, drinking, drugs, and sexual behavior); STD's and cross-national comparisons of health and patterns of disease.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 355 - SOCIOLOGY OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Credits: 3

This course will focus on the use of drugs in the United States, and will discuss issues relating to tobacco (e.g., regulation and marketing), alcohol (e.g., binge drinking), legal drugs (e.g., regulation, pricing, and marketing), and illicit drug use (e.g., The War on Drugs, legalization vs. prohibition debates, medical marijuana).

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 360 - SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE

Credits: 3

This course surveys the different sociological approaches to studying culture. Part I focuses on the relationships between culture and social structure, including various theoretical approaches. Part II examines different perspectives on modern culture.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 386 - AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SOCIETY**Credits: 3**

Contemporary life of Blacks (African-Americans) in society. The meaning and significance of race, prejudice and discrimination; social institutions such as the economy, education, and family; and potential strategies such as affirmative action and reparations.

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SOCI 405 - ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**Credits: 3**

Beginning with the theoretical frameworks for ethnographic and other qualitative research methods, the course will cover ethics, entry, observation, field notes, interviewing, data analysis, and writing reports. It will offer a hands-on approach combining lectures, research through lectures, readings, and fieldwork. Field projects can be conducted in group, classroom, campus, or community settings.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 449 - IMMIGRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH**Credits: 3**

This course explores the relationship between international migration and public health both historically and in the contemporary period. We will discuss the substantive and methodological complexities of the health-migration relationship and their implications for public policy debates world-wide.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 470 - URBAN LIFE AND SYSTEMS**Credits: 3**

Study of urban development, its systems, and life experiences of urbanites. Uses readings and weekly time spent in assigned neighborhoods. Students will conduct urban ethnographies and analysis through a series of guided assignments.

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Department: Sociology

SOCI 475 - RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**Credits: 3**

This seminar explores the expression of religious conviction in public, examining the connection between religion and areas like the economy, politics, professional life, the civil society. Preference will be given to seniors who are particularly interested in applying sociological analysis to the study of religion.

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