has it affected rural areas, and what drives this restructuring? What other social change has taken place, and can we determine potential sources of that change? What are the options available to rural people and communities as they adapt to forces of change, and how much can they influence their own futures? Underlying each of these questions is the issue of whether the well-being of rural people, families, and communities has improved or is threatened by these changes, and which rural areas are most likely to benefit and which are threatened. Students will leave the class with a broad understanding of the forces affecting rural America, and how and why those forces influence some people and places differently. Grades are assigned in this class based on a term paper on a topic related to rural social change, reaction papers written about each set of reading assignments, serving as discussion leader, and class participation.

Cross-listed with: CEDEV 516
RSOC 517: International Rural Social Change
3 Credits

Implications of planned change for international rural societies, considering basic structural constraints, known institutional linkages, and potential synergetic consequences. R SOC (CEDEV) 517 International Rural Social Change (3) Three-quarters of the world’s population live in developing countries where problems of hunger, malnutrition, underemployment, high morbidity and mortality, overurbanization, and inadequate housing, (to name just a few) often are severe. This seminar covers the sociology of economic change in developing countries. Through an extensive list of readings, a series of topical videos, and in-depth class discussions, seminar participants should come away with a firm grounding in the ways development has been defined, the social and economic problems facing developing countries today, the basic ways in which economic development has been approached theoretically and empirically, the implications for developing countries of being embedded in a larger world economy, the influence of multinational corporations, the policies that developing countries have followed in fostering economic growth, the nature of foreign aid, the causes and consequences of Third World debt, the nature of the informal economy, rural development and land reform, world hunger and the Green Revolution, and other topics.

Cross-listed with: CEDEV 517
RSOC 516: Change in Rural Society
3 Credits

RSOC 516: Change in Rural Society (3) Rural America has experienced change throughout its history, but the most rapid have occurred in the past three decades. Forces of urbanization, industrialization, technological change and globalization of the economy drive change in rural America, and the effects of these forces differ across the United States. Some rural areas benefit from the changes that occur while others are devastated. Some rural people and places are able to adapt and view change as an opportunity, while others are unable to respond to the forces that threaten them. Individuals, families and communities have changed in response to these broad forces. This becomes manifest in new patterns of inequality, family life, educational attainment, migration, age and racial patterns, health and well-being, and local service availability. Questions examined in this course include: What are the theories that explain or describe the social change that has been affecting rural people and places? What industrial restructuring and economic change has occurred in rural areas, how
RSOC 530: Sociology and Demography of Poverty in the United States

3 Credits

An in-depth treatment of sociological and demographic dimensions of poverty in rural and urban areas of the United States.

RSOC 552: Theoretical Frameworks for Rural Community Research

3 Credits

Application of community theories to the study of communities in rural areas. RSOC 552 Theoretical Frameworks for Rural Community Research (3) Communities form the fabric of social life in rural areas. It is in these communities that individuals live and work, and experience the broader society and culture. It also is in these communities that individuals deal with the past and make decisions about their own futures. Knowing the theoretical underpinnings of communities in rural areas is crucial for understanding issues of social and economic well-being. This course examines sociological theories of community and how they relate to understanding the organization, structure, interactions and development of rural communities. Rural community theory also plays a role in understanding how community context influences individual and family well-being. In this course, students will gain an appreciation for the role of rural sociology in the study of community. They will read and evaluate theoretical essays and how the theories have been applied in empirical studies of rural communities. The goal is to increase student knowledge and understanding of the research process that links theory and hypothesis development as it relates to the study of community in rural areas. Students will enhance their skills and obtain experience in organizing and leading class discussions; reading, interpreting and integrating theoretical and empirical studies; writing a book review; and writing essays that integrate ideas from assigned materials with student evaluations of the materials. Students will be evaluated on class participation, written essays evaluating key topics, organizing and leading class discussion, and a written book review. Rural Sociology 452, or its equivalent, is a prerequisite for this class.

Prerequisite: CED 452

RSOC 555: Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

3 Credits

Identification of the interrelationships and influence of human behavior and natural resources.

Cross-Listed

RSOC 573: Methods of Survey Data Analysis

3 Credits

Use of multivariate procedures in the analysis of survey data in the rural social sciences.

Prerequisite: AG 400

RSOC 590: Colloquium

1-3 Credits/Maximum of 3

Continuing seminars that consist of a series of individual lectures by faculty, students, or outside speakers.