SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

SOC 500: Introduction to Graduate Study in Sociology
1 Credits
Required of all incoming graduate students in sociology.

SOC 501: Proseminar in Sociology
3 Credits/Maximum of 6
An in-depth introduction to the major specialty areas of Sociology.
Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program

SOC 502: Theories of Society I
3 Credits
Review and analysis of trends and controversies in sociological theory from late eighteenth-century beginnings through the nineteenth century.

SOC 503: Theories of Society II
3 Credits
Review and analysis of trends and controversies in sociological theory in the twentieth century.

SOC 512: Criminological Theories
3 Credits
Survey of theoretical and substantive issues in deviance and criminology, with emphasis on critical review of theories. SOC (CRIM) 512 Criminological Theories (3) This graduate course in Criminological Theories is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the major theories that have animated the field of criminology since its inception. The course traces the development of criminological theories from the early 20th century to the present and provides students with a targeted exposure to empirical studies that have tested these theories.

SOC 513: Sociological Research Methods
3 Credits
Critical review of methodological issues; research designs; analysis and interpretation of findings. SOC 513 Acquisition of Spanish as a Second Language (3) An in-depth analysis of current research carried out on the acquisition of Spanish as a second language. Focus will be on syntax, phonology, lexicon, discourse, and pragmatics. Specific topics covered include the following: null-subjects, clitics; movement and word-order, tense and aspect, mood, agreement features, grammaticalization, modality, negation, functional categories, tutored vs. untutored learners, UG vs. non-UG effects, the Noun Phrase Accessibility Hierarchy, markedness, cohesive devices, speech acts, metaphors, idioms, the lexicon and culture, the phonological systems, including suprasegmentals. In addition to developing an understanding of the current research on the acquisition of Spanish as a second language, students will learn how to read the research literature from a critical perspective and how to read empirical data presented in published research that might result in alternative interpretations from those espoused by authors of published work. This goal will be achieved in two ways: requiring students to submit via e-mail to the professor and other students in the seminar, two- to three-page critiques of assigned readings; oral presentations in class of readings selected by the student(s). Some of the critical reports and presentations will be carried out jointly and others will be done individually. Students will also learn how to design and implement empirical research on the acquisition of Spanish as well as how to write up the results of this research in a potentially publishable research report. Finally, they will have the opportunity to present their research findings to the Penn State applied linguistics community, in a mini in-house workshop at the end of the course. In preparation for this, time will be set aside near the end of the seminar for students to present and discuss their research with their colleagues in the course. Most of the readings for the course will be preselected by the professor; however, students will also be expected to carry out independent reading of publications not included in the course syllabus and present and critique what they read in the seminar.

SOC 515: Research Methods in Criminology and Deviance
3 Credits
Review of methodological issues; design and conduct of research; analysis and interpretation of findings; ethical and policy issues. SOC (CRIM) 515 Research Methods in Criminology and Deviance (3) Review of methodological issues; design and conduct of research; analysis and interpretation of findings; ethical and policy issues.

Cross-listed with: CRIM 515

SOC 518: Survey Methods I: Survey Design
3 Credits
Research design of social, behavioral and health surveys. PL SC (SOC) 518 Survey Methods I: Survey Design (3) This course is intended to provide graduate students the background to both evaluate published research using survey methods, and -- when combined with additional training -- to design their own surveys to collect data for their own research. Students will learn the essentials of sampling, questionnaire design, and how surveys may be implemented in different modes: telephone, face to face interviews, mail or other self-administered modes, and the internet. The course will emphasize how decisions of research design have important implications for the validity, reliability, and quantity of data that will be analyzed to answer key questions in the social, behavioral and health sciences. Sample design: 2 weeks; Questionnaire design and item analysis: 2 weeks; Telephone Surveys: 2 weeks; Face to face surveys: 2 weeks; Self administered and mail surveys: 2 weeks; Internet Surveys: 2 weeks; Ethics and human subjects protection: 1 week.

Cross-listed with: PLSC 518

SOC 519: Survey Methods II: Analysis of Survey Data
3 Credits
Intermediate course on the statistical analysis of survey data: topics include weighting, complex surveys, missing data, and contextual analysis. PL SC (SOC) 519 Survey Methods II: Analysis of Survey Data (3)This is an intermediate level course in quantitative analysis. It is intended for graduate students who have completed 1-2 semesters of graduate-level statistics (not general research methods) and who are interested in the application of social statistics to the unique aspects of data collected by way of surveys. Surveys have a combination of qualities that represent challenges to valid inference. These include
cluster and stratified sampling, under-representation of some groups due to differential response rates, missing data due to item non-response, cross-sectional design, and coarse measurement. Quite often we use surveys to test theories that the original survey designer did not intend to address, raising issues of validity and reliability of measurement. At the same time, surveys offer a number of opportunities and, when combined with other surveys (pooled cross sections) or merged with contextual data, can address a wide range of theoretical puzzles in the social sciences. This course provides an introduction to techniques in applied statistics that have developed specifically to address the special features of survey data. Examples of such techniques are: use of design weights, post-stratification weights, merging surveys with other surveys or auxiliary data, missing data imputation, challenges of causal inference. The class will blend an understanding of the core statistical issues with an emphasis on acquiring an intuition for the theory underlying the statistical models rather than focusing on proofs and estimation. This will provide a foundation for frequent hands-on applications in this seminar and for enrollment in more advanced or more in-depth courses offered by the Statistics department and the various social science departments.

**Prerequisite:** PL SC503 or SOC 575

**Cross-listed with:** PLSC 519

**SOC 521: Family Demography**

3 Credits

Current family demographic research on nuptiality, divorce, household composition, female employment, migration, and fertility.

**SOC 522: Demography of the Life Course**

3 Credits

The theoretical bases, critical concepts, and methods of life course analysis in the study of demographic transitions.

**Prerequisite:** SOC 423, SOC 473

**SOC 523: Internal and International Migration**

3 Credits

Examination of theories, frameworks, and policies related to internal and international migration causes and consequences in developed and developing nations.

**Prerequisite:** SOC 423 or prior work in population or human ecology

**SOC 524: The Demography of Human Fertility**

3 Credits

Overview of major issues and methodological approaches in the demographic study of human fertility in developing and developed countries. SOC 524 The Demography of Human Fertility (3) This course provides a graduate-level overview of the study of human fertility, one of the three basic demographic processes (i.e., fertility, mortality, migration) emphasized in the field of demography. The first part of the course will focus on the timing and nature of historical and contemporary fertility declines. The major theories that have been set forth to explain why fertility declines occur will be studied, as will empirical evidence that bears on the applicability of the theories to fertility patterns in specific areas of the world. The second component of the course will focus on fertility patterns in the contemporary United States. Theoretical perspectives on the determinants of fertility in advanced industrial countries will be examined. Variation in fertility by race, ethnicity, and various social characteristics will be addressed. In addition, students will learn how to measure fertility with various types of data (e.g., surveys, vital statistics, censuses) and they will be exposed to a variety of research methodologies employed to assess the nature and determinants of fertility patterns. The class will be organized as a seminar. Major requirements are class participation, leadership of one or more class sessions, and completion of a class project. The class project can be an empirical research paper, a research proposal, or a literature review. This course covers core content that is essential for demographic training. The course has been approved by the Dual-Title Graduate Degree Program in Demography as a core seminar on demographic structure and change; it can therefore be used by students in that program (in addition to students in Sociology) to fulfill the requirements for the degree.

**SOC 525: Immigration, Assimilation, and Inequality**

3 Credits

Examine theories, research, and policies on the incorporation of immigrants and their descendents. SOC 525 Immigration, Assimilation, and Inequality (3) Over the last several decades, the diversity of American society has increased substantially as a result of immigration from Latin America, Asia, and other world regions. This has raised numerous questions about the consequences of immigration and the long-term prospects of immigrants and their descendants. The major objective of this course is to provide the foundation for a sociological understanding of the process of assimilation (or incorporation), especially in relation to the structure of opportunities and the reproduction of inequality. This will be accomplished through a survey of contemporary theoretical perspectives, and both quantitative and qualitative studies that evaluate their merits. Although sociology has embraced the study of assimilation since its inception, we will also draw on other disciplines to explore various topics associated with educational attainment, economic mobility, social incorporation, political incorporation, family formation, and ethno-racial identification. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their engagement with weekly readings, as revealed by the quality of their participation in discussions and their written response to weekly essay questions. Students will also be required to write a paper on a topic of their choosing. This paper may be a research proposal, a literature review or a research study. The course will be offered every other year. It may serve as an elective in Sociology and the Dual-Title Graduate Degree Program in Demography as a core seminar on demographic processes.

**SOC 526: Health Disparities**

3 Credits

This course provides an overview of social factors that lead to demographic disparities in health. HP A(SOC) 526 Health Disparities (3) This course provides a broad exploration of U.S. health disparities. In particular, it examines several types of U.S. health disparities that emerge as a result of individuals' race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, nativity status and gender. The course focuses on theoretical and methodological strategies for studying health disparities as well as empirical evidence supporting the existence of different health disparities and explanations for understanding and ameliorating them. Students will summarize and discuss weekly readings and apply course materials to understand the state of the field and to carry out an original research project on a particular health disparity that interests them. This course fulfills basic seminar requirements in the Sociology graduate curriculum and serves as
Sociology (SOC)

3 Credits

An in-depth introduction to the sociological study of the family. SOC 530 Sociology of Family (3) This seminar will cover critical issues or current debates and issues regarding family policy in the United States.

Examples of current family policy debates include welfare, class, gender, etc.

SOC 531: Family Disorganization: Stress Points in the Contemporary Family

3 Credits

Focuses on divorce, remarriage, incest, family violence as well as problems associated with family formation and parent-child relations.

Cross-listed with: HDFS 531

SOC 532: Global Health and Mortality

3 Credits

Major issues in international health from a demographic perspective; special attention to the Global South and to data quality.

Prerequisite: SOC 573

SOC 533: Sociology of Religion Seminar

3 Credits

A survey of the sociology of religion designed to help students conduct and critique social science research.

SOC 534: Childhood and Education in Sociological and International Comparative Perspective

3 Credits

The course objective is to use an international comparative lens and sociological perspective to examine the social, cultural, political and economic forces that shape childhood and the role education plays in this process.

Cross-listed with: CIED 534, EDTHP 534

SOC 537: Biosocial Perspectives on the Family

3 Credits

The implications of knowledge from behavioral endocrinology, behavior genetics, and evolutionary psychology for understanding family relationships and child development. HD FS 537. (SOC 537) Biosocial Perspectives on the Family (3) Breakthroughs in the way biological variables are measured and modeled have generated new findings that greatly increase our understanding of the reciprocal influences between family relationships, child development, and biological factors. Specifically, advances in the study of hormones, genetics, evolution, pharmacology, and immunology have led to important advances in our knowledge of gender, becoming a parent, early child development, middle child, and adolescent development, parent-child relations, courtship and mate selection, quality of intimate relations, separation and divorce, incest, and dominance and family violence. Students are required to keep a journal of researchable ideas during the first five weeks of class. The purpose is to give students practice in identifying research needs and opportunities. The journal should include 4-6 research problems, each developed in 2-3 typed pages. The majority of each entry should be a clear statement of what knowledge gains would be realized by conducting the study and why they are important. The remainder of the statement should include consideration of the data you would use, measures of major variables, and analytic strategies. Think of it as a brief portfolio of thesis, dissertation, or research publication ideas. Entries on
research projects in which you are already involved are not eligible for inclusion in the journal. On the last page of the journal, indicate which problem you would like to develop into a more detailed proposal during the remainder of the semester and why. Turn in the journal during week 5. I will evaluate your entries and comment on your selection idea. The rest of the semester will be spent on developing one of the ideas to a full-blown proposal (about 20 pages). You should turn in as many drafts as needed to receive a good grade for this segment of the course. I expect you to turn in three or more before the end of the semester. We will meet about each draft and go over my comments. Proposal drafts should be spaced out over the semester. The last week of the semester will be devoted to presentations of research proposals after which class members will offer comments and suggestions. Your grade will be based on the proposal draft you turn in the last week of the class. Twenty-one percent of the course grade is based on the research proposal.

Cross-listed with: HDFS 537

SOC 538: Sociology of Education

3 Credits

Provides students with an overview of dominant sociological theoretical perspectives on schools, schooling, and education in modern society. SOC (EDTHP) 538 Sociology of Education covers the major sociological theories and empirical research on the role of formal education in society. The object of the course is to have the student become conversant with the main lines of sociological research applied to education and social development at the individual, community, and societal levels. Since sociology of education has had considerable impact on educational policy over the past 50 years, a second goal of the course is to understand this relationship and avenues for future research and policy analysis from a sociological perspective. This course is a central topic in the general study of social stratification and hence in pursuit of the Ph.D. in the Educational Theory and Policy and the Sociology program. The format of the course is a didactic seminar with extensive written assignments as the usual form of evaluation.

Cross-listed with: EDTHP 538

SOC 544: Current Issues in Complex Organizations

3 Credits

Critical survey of recent developments in sociological study of organizations and the theory of bureaucracy, including reciprocal effects on environments.

SOC 551: Social Stratification and Social Change

3 Credits

Origin and development of stratification systems and inequality among and within societies; social mobility; change in stratification systems.

SOC 553: Educational Mobility in Comparative Perspective

3 Credits

Role of education in social mobility, using quantitative, qualitative, and historical methods; focuses comparatively on Britain, East Asia, and South America. CI ED 553/SOC 553/EDTHP 553/HI ED 553 CI ED 553. (SOC 553, EDTHP 553, HI ED 553) Educational Mobility in Comparative Perspective (3) Sociologists interested in higher education have attended to the relationships between postsecondary institutions and other institutions, as well as the impact on higher education of general social and demographic processes. Many of the classical ideas in sociological theory, including those of Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, have surfaced in recent debates over the nature of higher education. Sociologists in the U.S. have explored such questions as: the gatekeeping function of higher education; the impact of universities on stratification; and the socializing environment for women and minorities. This seminar introduces some of the classical theorists and contemporary researchers of the sociology of higher education. All seminar participants will be required to write a sample research proposal, based on the readings from the seminar.

Cross-listed with: CIED 553, EDTHP 553, HIED 553

SOC 557: Sociology of Higher Education

3 Credits

Reviews theory and current sociology research on student access, achievement, and governance in postsecondary education, with applications to policy analysis. EDTHP (HI ED, SOC) 557 Sociology of Higher Education (3) Sociologists interested in higher education have attended to the relationships between postsecondary institutions and other institutions, as well as the impact on higher education of general social and demographic processes. Many of the classical ideas in sociological theory, including those of Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, have surfaced in recent debates over the nature of higher education. Sociologists in the U.S. have explored such questions as: the gatekeeping function of higher education; the impact of universities on stratification; and the socializing environment for women and minorities. This seminar introduces some of the classical theorists and contemporary researchers of the sociology of higher education. All seminar participants will be required to write a sample research proposal, based on the readings from the seminar.

Prerequisite: graduate students only, except with permission of instructor; EDTHP/SOC 416 is recommended

Cross-listed with: EDTHP 557, HIED 557

SOC 559: Communities and Crime

3 Credits

Crime has been shown to differ significantly across neighborhoods of different racial composition and of different socioeconomic characteristics. Specifically, neighborhoods characterized by high poverty and high segregation are more likely to exhibit higher violence, higher homicide rates, and higher disorder. Moreover, growing up in a highly disadvantaged neighborhood predicts whether youth will be involved in delinquency, risky behavior, and violent crime. In this course, students will learn about the major debates and arguments in the field on how such differences can come about and what may be their consequences. Students will learn to recognize, identify, and apply criminological and sociological theories and thinking on the effects of neighborhoods’ social structures on crime. In particular, we will focus on classic and contemporary cutting edge thinking on poverty, social isolation, disorder, collective efficacy, institutional (dis)trust, demographic v. cultural heterogeneity, segregation, immigration, and the physical environment. We will address the theories, methods, and policies related to understanding key features of places such as social (dis)organization, social capital, spatial embeddedness, opportunity infrastructure, and cultural capital.

Cross-listed with: CRIM 559
SOC 560: Urban Sociology

3 Credits

Examination of the structure and dynamics of North American cities and of residents’ experiences in such settings. SOC 560 Urban Sociology (3) The major objective of Sociology 560 (formerly 597F) is to survey the field of urban sociology, providing graduate students with a solid grounding in the literature on North American cities. The course heavily emphasizes recent writings by sociologists. However, the historical development and continuity of the major questions that have guided urban research receive more than passing attention, as do the contributions of geographers, psychologists, and others outside the discipline. A broad range of theoretical perspectives, substantive topics, and methodological strategies are through reading, lecture, and discussion. Students are expected to be active, critical consumers of urban knowledge but also producers of it: they must independently formulate and address a research problem then share their results with their classmates. Once students complete Sociology 560, they should be ready to enroll in more specialized urban seminars and to teach urban sociology at the undergraduate level.

SOC 572: Foundations in Causal Analysis in the Social Sciences

3 Credits

Methods for estimating causal effects in observational data, including matching, counterfactual, and related approaches. SOC 572 Foundations in Causal Analysis in the Social Sciences (3) This course investigates methods for estimating causal effects in observational (non-experimental) data. There are three common strategies for estimating causal effects in observational data. One strategy is to condition on variables to block all the back-door paths from the causal variable to the outcome variable. Examples: matching (including propensity scores) and regression with control variables. A second strategy is to use exogenous variation to isolate the "unconfounded" covariation in the causal and outcome variables. Examples: instrumental variables (IVs), natural experiments, fixed effects. A third strategy is to isolate the mechanisms through which the causal variable operates to affect the outcome variable. These methods are becoming more standard in sociology and related fields. The course will cover the following methods: standard regression and its limitations; natural experiments and instrumental variables; counterfactual or potential outcomes methods; matching methods, including propensity scores; fixed-effects and random-effects; structural equation methods; mixed methods. The course is distinguished from other courses in the university by its focus on the use of statistical methods for causal inference. Whereas other courses describe regression or structural equation models as general methods for one's statistical toolkit, this course concentrates on when, and how, regression or structural equation approaches can be used to draw causal inferences from non-experimental data. Examples will be drawn from a variety of social science disciplines, including economics, political science, and criminology, as well as from sociology.

SOC 573: Demographic Techniques

3 Credits

Models and measures of vital processes (fertility, mortality, migration) and their effects on growth and age structure of human populations.

Prerequisite: STAT 200
approach is applicable to several subfields within sociology, such as individuals, dyads, groups, organizations, or nation-states. There has been a dramatic rise in the application of such an approach to research from a broad range of researchers over the past decade. A social network approach is applicable to several subfields within sociology, such as social psychology, demography, criminology, organizations, and the family. The course objectives are to: 1) become familiar with the basic elements of social network analysis and recognize situations where this approach may be useful; 2) develop an appreciation for the conceptual perspectives behind this modeling approach; 3) learn about the strengths and limitations of network models and analyses; 4) apply social network analysis to empirical data and interpret findings; and finally: 5) complete a research paper that applies this approach to data regarding a social science problem. Network topics covered include centrality, clustering and cliques, triads and transitivity, weak ties, structural equivalence, and network visualization. In addition, students will be introduced to advanced topics, such as exponential random graph models, and dynamic SIENA models. Students should have completed two semesters of social statistics at the graduate level or equivalent before enrolling in this course.

SOC 584: Attitude Formation and Change

3 Credits

Theory and method in research on attitude formation and change with emphasis on critical analysis.

Prerequisite: PSYCH 420 or SOC 403; 3 credits in statistics
Cross-listed with: PSY 584

SOC 591: Teaching Sociology/Criminology

1 Credits

Preparation for teaching sociology and/or criminology at the college level. CRIM (SOC) 591 Teaching Sociology/Criminology (1) Preparation for teaching sociology and/or criminology at the college level.

Cross-listed with: CRIM 591

SOC 592: Writing for Publication in the Social Sciences

3 Credits

Systematic, collective review of unpublished student manuscripts with an eye toward revision for publication. SOC 592 Writing for Publication in the Social Sciences (3) The overarching goal of the course is to prepare relatively advanced Ph.D. students to write effective journal articles, books, and grant proposals. The course emphasizes learning by doing. We begin by writing reviews of anonymous manuscripts that have been submitted to journals for possible publication. We ask four key questions about each article: What do we like about the manuscript (strengths)? What do we dislike (weaknesses)? What suggestions do we have - substantive and stylistic - for revising the manuscript? Is it published? Class discussion is organized around those questions. Then we use the same format and tools to critique unpublished student manuscripts. We discuss each manuscript with a view to answering the question of how the manuscript needs to be revised to make it publishable. Finally we read key articles on the differences between journal writing, book writing, and the writing of grant proposals. Again students are given hands-on experience by reviewing book prospectuses and grant proposals. The course is designed to be a core course in the Sociology Department’s Professional Development Module for Ph.D. students. The specific goals of the course are: A publishable paper - or at least concrete suggestions for how to make a student manuscript publishable, or book precis competitive, grant proposal fundable. A better understanding of how the review process works - what happens after you submit your paper, precis, or research proposal; what to expect from the editor’s decision letter. A better understanding of what editors and reviewers are looking
for in a journal manuscript, book precis, or grant proposal, and a better understanding of how to respond to reviewers' criticisms when you are invited to resubmit a manuscript or grant proposal. Good reviewing skills - what a good review looks like, and how to go about writing one. An expansion of students' intellectual horizons through exposure to different substantive areas, methodologies, and styles of work. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their written reviews due each week. The course will be offered at least twice every three years. Course enrollment should be limited to 12, to enable full in-class discussion of each student's manuscript.

**Prerequisite:** Master's thesis or permission of program

**SOC 595: Internship in Political Science**

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction, including field experiences, practicums, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

**Prerequisite:** Prior consent of supervisor, advisor, or department head; applicable departmental internship requirements such as satisfactory completion of required upper level courses appropriate for the internship program selected.

**SOC 595A: Survey Research Practicum**

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Practicum in Survey Research data collection or management.

**Prerequisite:** PL SC518 or SOC 518 and PL SC519 or SOC 519

**Cross-Listed**

**SOC 596: Individual Studies**

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Creative projects, including nonthesis research, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

**SOC 597: Special Topics**

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given on a topical or special interest subject which may be offered infrequently; several different topics may be taught in one year or term.

**SOC 600: Thesis Research**

1-15 Credits/Maximum of 999

No description.

**SOC 601: Ph.D. Dissertation Full-Time**

0 Credits/Maximum of 999

No description.

**SOC 602: Supervised Experience in College Teaching**

1-3 Credits/Maximum of 6

Students will teach introductory level courses as required by staffing and students' needs.