SOCIOLOGY

The program is designed to help students develop new frameworks for analyzing a broad array of social relations—from everyday life interactions to large-scale historical and structural transformations—and to cultivate a critical appreciation for the academic discipline of sociology.

FACULTY

Robyn Kimberley Autry
BS, University of Colorado Boulder; MS, Univ of Wisconsin Madison; PHD, Univ of Wisconsin Madison
Associate Professor of Sociology

Abigail Huston Boggs
BA, Wesleyan University; PHD, University Calif Davis
Assistant Professor of Sociology; Assistant Professor, Education Studies; Assistant Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Jonathan Cutler
BA, Tufts University; MA, Union Theological Seminary; PHD, CUNY The Graduate Center
Associate Professor of Sociology

Greg Goldberg
BA, New York University; PHD, CUNY The Graduate Center
Associate Professor of Sociology; Chair, Sociology

Benjamin Haber
BA, New College of Florida; MPHIL, CUNY The Graduate Center; PHD, CUNY The Graduate Center
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Courtney J. Patterson-Faye
BA, University of Pennsylvania; MA, Northwestern University; PHD, Northwestern University
Assistant Professor of Sociology

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Anthony Ryan Hatch
AB, Dartmouth College; MA, University of Maryland College Park; PHD, University of Maryland College Park
Professor of Science in Society; Professor, African American Studies; Professor, College of the Environment; Professor, Sociology; Professor, Environmental Studies; Coordinator, Sustainability and Environmental Justice

Kerwin Kaye
BA, University of Colorado Boulder; MA, University San Francisco; PHD, New York University
Associate Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Associate Professor, Sociology; Associate Professor, American Studies

Victoria Pitts-Taylor
BA, Ohio University; PHD, Brandeis University
Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Chair, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Professor, Science in Society; Professor, Sociology

EMERITI

Mary Ann Clawson
BA, Carleton College; MA, SUNY at Stony Brook; PHD, SUNY at Stony Brook
Professor of Sociology, Emerita

Alex Dupuy
BA, University of Connecticut; MA, Brandeis University; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, SUNY at Binghamton
John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Emeritus

Sue C. Fisher
BA, California State Univ - Northr; MA, University of California, San Diego; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, University of California, San Diego
Professor of Sociology, Emerita

Rob Rosenthal
BA, Rutgers University; MA, University Calif Santa Bar; PHD, University of California, Santa Barbara
John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Emeritus

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Greg Goldberg; Kerwin Kaye

SOC151 Introductory Sociology
This course is an introduction to the systematic study of the social sources and social consequences of human behavior, with emphasis on culture, social structure, socialization, institutions, group membership, social conformity, and social deviance.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC202 Social Analysis
This course is an introduction to the major components of sociological analysis: the language of sociological inquiry, research techniques and methodology, types of explanation, and the relationship between theory and research.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC212 Social Theory
Through close reading, discussion, and active interpretation, this course will critically examine the basic writings of classical and contemporary social theorists who have influenced the practice of sociology.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151
SOC231 Sociology of Crime and Punishment
This course provides an introduction to the sociological study of crime and punishment. Crime is rarely far from news headlines or the public imagination. Every day, reports of drug dealing, muggings, and homicide fuel anxiety and debate about the problems of law and order. Here, we consider such debates in the context of both a vision for a just society and the everyday workings of the criminal justice system. The course is divided into three sections. We begin with an introduction to the historical meanings and measures of crime in society and then situate the modern U.S. within this history. In part two, we become familiar with the major ways that social scientists think about criminality and crime prevention. In part three, we turn to considerations of punishment. We ask how punishment is conceptualized in the U.S. and other nations, whether the American system of mass imprisonment is effective, and how we might envision improvements and alternatives.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC234 Media and Society
This course offers an introduction to the study of media, with a focus on critical social perspectives and controversies. A variety of media formats will be considered, with particular attention to print and visual images. The course takes up questions of representation, participation, consumerism, pleasure, and power that have dominated sociological and cultural studies approaches to media since the Frankfurt School. Topics will include advertising and branding, pornography, photojournalism, alternative media, social control, stereotypes, and objectification. Students will engage historical and theoretical texts and will be asked to participate in media processes, including production, interpretation, and critique.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC240 Comparative Race and Ethnicity
This course is an introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnicity in comparative and historical perspective. This is not a course about the experiences of particular races or ethnic groups in any particular part of the world. Rather, this course explores how ideas about racial difference take hold in different parts of the world in different ways and with very different consequences. Through comparisons of Western and non-Western societies, we will investigate how race and ethnicity operate as markers of social exclusion in distinctive ways.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC241 Mental Illness and Society
Psychiatric disorders are commonly viewed through a purely biomedical and/or a psychological framework. In this course, we will apply a sociological imagination to the topic and interrogate the ways in which mental illness, often seen as a supremely private "personal trouble," is also a public issue. We will read the works of classic and contemporary scholars, but we will also use memoirs and films to sensitize us to the experience of mental illness itself. We will explore mental illness as a social construction, stigma, and labeling theory and explore issues of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation in mental illness.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00

SOC243 Being Together: Affect, Care and the Politics of Experimental Kinship
This course looks at unique and experimental forms of kinship, community, and intimacy through the implicit and explicit challenges they offer to the foundational role of the privatized family unit to civic and economic life. We will look at historical examples of collectives, communes, and intentional communities to explore the challenges and possibilities of alternative forms of being, living, and working together. This course will also focus on college as a perhaps unique context for work about and involving friendship and collaboration, and will involve students in creative and analytical projects. There will be a specific focus on digital culture and social media, aging and vulnerability, interspecies companionship, and the politics of affect.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC245 Intersectionality and Identity (FGSS Gateway)
Intersectionality has emerged as a central motif within both social analysis and political debate. We will examine the origins of this framework within black feminism and women-of-color activism, as well as the way this framework traveled to, and is used within, sociology and other disciplines. The course will also address critiques of intersectionality that have emerged within and outside of feminist theory, and extends the concept of intersectionality to think through intersections between various social identities and social institutions such as capitalism and colonialism.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS245, AMST254
Prereq: None

SOC246 Social Movements
How, when, and why do social movements emerge? What motivates individuals to participate? What transforms problems into grievances and grievances to action? How should movements be organized, and what tactics should they use? What factors explain movement success and failure (and how should success and failure be defined)? What is a social movement, anyway? This course seeks
to introduce some of the major ways scholars have approached such questions and, at the same time, to give a sense of both the high drama and the everyday details of social movement activism, using historical and sociological case studies. Course readings concentrate on U.S. movements, including racial justice, class, gender, and sexuality-based activism.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS256
Prereq: SOC151

SOC247 Drugs, Culture, and Society
This course addresses a variety of issues ranging from the social variation in and construction of drug experiences; the nature of scientific knowledge regarding drug use and the brain; the global trade in drugs and its relationship to histories of colonialism and contemporary forms of Western hegemony; notions of health, harm, and rehabilitation; and the various strategies that contemporary states rely upon in addressing issues pertaining to drug use (particularly criminal justice measures and interventions focused on harm reduction). The course places particular emphasis on the ways drug use is framed in relation to questions of freedom, justice, and the self, ultimately forming a part of a disciplinary apparatus that impacts everyone, whether we directly use drugs or not.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC255 Sociology of Knowledge
To map power-knowledge relationships, the sociology of knowledge grounds an analysis of knowledge in terms of social structures, the sets of patterned practices that define and give meaning to social life at individual, communal, and institutional levels. In the broadest sense, the sociology of knowledge is concerned with the relationship between the (epistemic) content and the social context of knowledge. How was knowledge produced and with what institutional resources? Who produced knowledge and why did they produce it? Who benefits from the circulation of knowledge? What effects in the world does knowledge engender? Our basic course objectives are to a) introduce sociology of knowledge as a form of critical inquiry, b) describe and distinguish the approaches and research methods associated with the sociology of knowledge, and c) learn how to analyze knowledge and knowledge-making practices in their social context using these methods.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP250, EDST251
Prereq: None

SOC256 Sex Work and Sex Trafficking: Empowerment, Exploitation, and the Politics of Sex
This course explores the history, politics, and social meaning of sex work. Focusing particularly but not exclusively upon prostitution, we will pay careful attention to the diverse range of social experiences which form sex work, as well as the way in which prostitution is utilized as a governing metaphor within sexual relations more generally. Some questions the course will consider: How has sex work changed over time, and what do these changes tell us about both the nature of sex work and about the broader society? In what ways is sex work similar to or different from other forms of service labor or other types of intimate relationships? How do questions of race, class, sexuality, and gender alter the meaning and experience of sex work? What sorts of desires and expectations do clients bring to interactions with sex workers, and in what ways have these shifted over time? Recent controversies concerning sex trafficking and underage prostitution will also be addressed, as will the effects of various regulatory schemes that have been developed around the world.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS255
Prereq: SOC151

SOC256Z Sex Work and Sex Trafficking: Empowerment, Exploitation, and the Politics of Sex
This course explores the history, politics, and social meaning of sex work. Focusing particularly but not exclusively upon prostitution, we will pay careful attention to the diverse range of social experiences which form sex work, as well as the way in which prostitution is utilized as a governing metaphor within sexual relations more generally. Some questions the course will consider: How has sex work changed over time, and what do these changes tell us about both the nature of sex work and about the broader society? In what ways is sex work similar to or different from other forms of service labor or other types of intimate relationships? How do questions of race, class, sexuality, and gender alter the meaning and experience of sex work? What sorts of desires and expectations do clients bring to interactions with sex workers, and in what ways have these shifted over time? Recent controversies concerning sex trafficking and underage prostitution will also be addressed, as will the effects of various regulatory schemes that have been developed around the world.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS255Z
Prereq: None

SOC259 Cultural Studies of Health
Nothing is more fundamental to the human condition than our most basic right—the right to healthy life. Tragically, this right is inequitably distributed across human bodies and populations, especially along axes of race, gender, class, disability, age, and nationality. In fact, persons residing in the U.S. do not have a right to healthy life. Issues of health and illness are, quite literally, matters of life and death that are shaped by broader political and economic institutions in human societies. In neoliberal nation states like the U.S., the guardian of the right to live a healthy life is a highly bureaucratic and technological form of corporate medicine. Medicine comprises a network of social institutions and technoscientific practices that people have created and use to diagnose and heal our bodily and psychic ills. While the practice of medicine has produced dramatic improvements in life expectancy and quality of life for billions of people, most people on the planet do not have access to basic medical care. Who thrives, who gets sick, who dies, and why constitute core questions for social justice.

This course investigates the complex embroidery of biosocial and cultural processes that shape the unequal experiences and meanings of health. Cultural studies of health document the role of medicine as a great instrument of power that both generates and alleviates suffering. As more and more areas of social life and parts of bodies are falling under the control of medicine (a process called medicalization), we must ask, What are the dynamics and implications of medicalization for human societies and cultures? Drawing on provocative readings and media from diverse fields in sociology and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine, this course will investigate these questions and more with an emphasis on the answers to them might contribute to social justice and improve the conditions necessary for human thriving.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
This course explores contemporary developments in the study of media, focusing on three primary areas—music, video games, and the Internet—that depart from and sometimes challenge earlier frameworks rooted in visual and narrative forms. In the first unit of the course, we will examine the relation of music to identity formation, as well as revisit media scholars’ longstanding interest in questions of meaning in light of music’s particular characteristics. In the second unit of the course, we will investigate the social dimensions of video game play, focusing on the often-overlooked seriousness of play and on the unique properties of games as rule-bound systems. In the third unit, we will review and “unpack” some of the social, psychological, economic, and bodily transformations thought to be instigated by Internet use. Overall, the course aims to revisit sociologists’ and media scholars’ preoccupation with power, inequality, freedom, autonomy, and agency in light of the contemporary prevalence and particular characteristics of sonic and interactive media.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC262 The Rise and Fall of the Nuclear Family
In the United States, the “American Dream” family has often been thought to include a heterosexual, two-parent household with 2.5 kids, a house in the suburbs, and a white picket fence. While this is no longer the dominant family form, this “ideal” still holds great symbolic meaning, and non-normative family forms continue to be stigmatized and pathologized or rendered illegitimate and not considered as family. This course will examine the changing dynamics of families in the US and worldwide. We will consider how families function both within and beyond the context of the nuclear family as well as the political, legal, and social implications of who counts as family. We will focus on how race, class, gender, and sexuality shape family life and we will explore themes including marriage promotion policy, the division of household labor, gender inequality, intergenerational families, non-biogenetic kinship, families of choice, and more. Course texts will include sociological, historical, and queer theory approaches, in addition to sources from popular media. Through reading and engaging with literature on diverse family forms, this course aims to use a critical lens to approach the concept of the nuclear family and to consider the future possibilities of the family as a social institution.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC266 The Social Life of Data
All over the world, actions, feelings, and thoughts are becoming data. Divining future desires and anxieties, promiscuous digital networks collect and collate a wide variety of everyday data, marking populations as risky or profitable. Participation in these networks is frequently mandatory in order to access a wide variety of political, social, and economic opportunities. Even if you manage to delete your account or withdraw from these networks, digital systems leave ghostly activity traces or zombie profiles waiting to come back to life. The rise of these data systems offers profound sociological and philosophical challenges to how we understand social life, power, control, memory, conscious thought, and even the nature of humanity and the environment.

This course engages with the impact of data infrastructures and digital technologies in a non-deterministic fashion, which is to say that technical systems and structures, while powerful, do not fully determine social possibility. Focusing on historical, established, and emergent data systems, we look to understand technology as a field of affordance and prohibition, with feelings, thoughts, and politics dynamically interacting with rapidly modulating standards, norms, and methods. Course themes address a variety of theoretical topics that have been central to the social study of science and technology, including the efficacy of critique in encountering information processing systems.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC269 Bad Sex
In a 2003 op-ed in support of same-sex marriage, conservative New York Times columnist David Brooks writes, “Anybody who has several sexual partners in a year is committing spiritual suicide. He or she is ripping the veil from all that is private and delicate in oneself, and pulverizing it in an assembly line of selfish sensations.” Brooks is far from alone in this critique of promiscuity. What is it about “casual encounters” and hookup culture that so disturbs? Why is sex a magnet for anxieties about selfishness and irresponsibility? Why do we think of anonymity and intimacy in sex as mutually exclusive? What do we make of desires that are politically troubling? On what basis are particular forms of sex and sexuality vilified or valued? Is love the antidote to sexual hedonism, or hedonism in disguise? This course will consider widespread cultural anxieties about sex, sexuality, desire, and pleasure from sociological and psychoanalytic perspectives.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC270 Urban Societies
This course is a study of the social construction of the city focused primarily on the U.S. context. It examines various themes related to the development of modern cities beginning with the consolidation of capitalism during the industrial revolution. The class will consider the distinct experience of urban life as opposed to other modes of existence, or what Louis Wirth calls “Urbanism as a Way of Life.” In addition, students will look at forms of stratification such as race and class inequality and their relationship to spatial issues such as suburbanization and revitalization. Also considered are contemporary issues such as globalization, the revival or renewal process of many American cities, environmental issues, as well as the effect of new media on how we conceptualize the city. All of this will be done by focusing on the relationship between individual experiences and the effect of the urban environment on issues of identity construction and interpersonal relations. In order to develop critical thinking and engagement around these urban issues, the course emphasizes weekly writings and class participation in development towards a final paper.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC275 The Hair Class
Hair does things. It covers and expose us. We pluck, conceal, wax, curl, and otherwise manage it. Its presence and absence serve as sites of critical engagement, personal and cultural expression, and political strife. This course will explore the social significance of hair, wherever, and on whomever it grows (or fails to grow). We will discuss daily practices, politics, histories, and legends
about the manipulation of human and animal hair. We will draw on social theory, visual and social analyses, and cultural commentary to understand hair follicles as both incredibly ordinary and fantastical bizarre. This is an advanced discussion-based research seminar that is writing-intensive.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC277 Bored in the House: Work, Leisure, and the Domestic Mundane
For many of us, the Covid epidemic fundamentally changed our relationship to the home: extended periods of isolation and social distance have crystallized an understanding of the domestic as undergoing a period of flux or perhaps even crisis. This course considers the boundary problems of labor, home, relationships, and free time while doing historical and contemporary research on boredom, disassociation, and play.

More than ever we must engage with the vanishing material and psychic separations between work and leisure, the badly needed reimagining of public and private not anchored in a spectral domestic privacy, and the foundational dynamics of class, race, sexuality, gender, capacity, and institutionalized violence that structure where we can live, work, and play. Special topics of focus will include boredom as a technique of torture, social media and the gamification of leisure, content moderation of sex and violence, and the domestication of travel and tourism.

We will also use this course as an exercise in boredom praxis. We will do a bit of thinking about what we do when we are bored, and why, and will try to sit with and direct our boredom in gently experimental ways. This also extends to critically thinking about how we do work in this class, and our techniques and tactics of maintaining leisure time in academia.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC280 Abolition and Social Praxis
This course will examine some of the analyses of society, social power, and societal reform advanced and practiced by diverse activists who organize their work around the theme of abolition. Inspired by activist efforts to eliminate prisons and policing, abolition is here understood as an attempt to link a worldview that advocates for the disassembly of existing, oppressive social structures combined with efforts to generate new, more liberatory forms of social relationship in the here and now. As a form of activism, abolition thus brings utopian dreams to bear upon concrete practice, seeking to generate new structures of agency and pointing toward ways in which liberal notions of consent occlude deep forms of structural power and implicit constraint. Students will be asked to take on an activist project as part of the course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM374, FGSS374
Prereq: None

SOC284 The Past Tense
This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the past. Grounded in the sociology of memory, it draws from various fields to examine the intersections of biography, history, and memory in popular culture and politics. The course focuses on the nature of memory, and on struggles around it, including debates about memorials and monuments, truth commissions, and PTSD. From memoir to confessions, we will consider how the past gets represented as truth, memory, and story.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC288 The Medium and the Message
Do you like to draw autobiographical comics, record bedroom pop songs, make queer zines, write ChatGPT poetry, choreograph burlesque performances, design and print ugly posters, sew avant-garde garments, create absurdist TikToks, or produce niche podcasts? This seminar is for students who want to think through the sociological content, implications, and impact of their creative work. In the course, students will develop and make substantial progress on a creative project that addresses sociological themes in its form and/or content. Students need not have any formal training, but should have demonstrated experience in their preferred medium. Course texts will address sociological issues surrounding cultural production, including representation, dissemination, and professionalization. Class sessions will be divided between discussion of readings and example work, experimental exercises, workshop, and student presentations.

To apply for the seminar, students should submit the following: 1) a description of the specific project they wish to develop over the semester, keeping in mind that they will be expected to make and share progress each week; 2) a sample of previous work that demonstrates familiarity with any necessary technology (software, instruments, tools, recording devices, etc.); and 3) a “bibliography” of personal influences (including any relevant readings, creative work, etc.).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC292 Death and Dying at the End of the World
Death looms large over life. The digital has given people unprecedented access to global media focused on death and dying, from far-flung calamities killing thousands to intimate gofundme pages for your friends’ cancer treatments. In an age of data-enabled prediction and preemption, death is capricious and untimely, remaining stubbornly resistant to scientific and philosophical certainty, despite ever more complex systems for death management. Meanwhile, circulating discourses of ecological and political catastrophe have proliferated thoughts of genocide, extinction, and planetary death. In this course, we look at contemporary encounters with death and dying at a variety of scales, from the search for death’s meaning/a meaningful death, to understanding death as a public feeling and inspiration for political imagination.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC299 The Future Perfect
Sociology is typically preoccupied with the present and, to a lesser extent, the past, favoring empirical methods that aim to reveal a variety of truths: for example, the logics underlying social structures and systems, the causes of social inequality, and the mechanisms by which inequality is reproduced. Where does this leave the future? Despite the persistence of patterns of social life, the future remains always and ultimately undetermined. We cannot know it; we can only
imagine, speculate, and fantasize. The future, it seems, belongs to the world of fiction: to novels, films, television shows, and music that offer visions of what it might hold. These visions are sometimes suffused with hope for a changed world and sometimes with anxiety at the prospect of change. What can we learn about the present from images of the future? Might they offer an antidote to suspicions that we are headed toward a future of increased inequality and scarcity and looming environmental catastrophe? What traps might we find ourselves in when we treat the future as a distinct category of time? This course pairs social theory with works of fiction in addressing these questions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151 AND SOC212

SOC302 Paternalism and Social Power

This course will consider the construction of caring and helping in the structuring of social relations. What does this entail? How does power operate in the velvet glove? What, if anything, lies beyond paternalism? How does social change occur? Competing perspectives on paternalism from within social and political theory will be considered as vehicles for tracing power dynamics in a survey of U.S. social formations related to family, gender, sexuality, race, labor, class, medicine, criminal justice, religion, environmentalism, and international relations.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC307 Authenticity and Perversity in Contemporary American Movies

This course will examine scholarly and popular conceptions of sincerity & perversity; authenticity & inauthenticity in contemporary American movies. How do notions of authenticity function within contemporary culture? What are the various inauthentic others to which authenticity is juxtaposed?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC308 Baby Got Back: Embodiment, Gender, and Sexuality in Black Music

This multimedia course uses a sociocultural approach to explore how black bodies continue to be sized, classified, sexed, and gendered through black musical expression. We will examine black music as a cultural object, both embedded in and responsible for steering national cultures, to argue that black music is indeed a lens through which to examine the struggles, contradictions, and triumphs of black peoples in the U.S. and abroad. Connecting theoretical frameworks of race, embodiment, socioeconomic status, gender, and sexuality with: (1) visual cultures of black bodies in motion (stemming from minstrelsy and chitlin' circuits to musicals and music videos) and (2) a variety of songs written, produced, and/or performed by black musicians (that include but are not limited to: the blues, jazz, rock and roll, rhythm & blues, soul, afrobeat, hip hop, dancehall, pop, soca, hip life, and reggaeton), this class will seek to interrogate how black music creates, replicates, regulates, packages, and distributes identity through a paradigm of production and consumption. We will discuss topics such as commodification, resistance, and representation while listening to artists such as Nina Simone, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Las Crudas, former 2 Live Crew member Luke, Biggie Smalls, Mr. Killa, De La Soul, Lil' Kim, Outkast, Jill Scott, Ayisoba, Big Freedia, Alison Hinds, Nicki Minaj, and Fela Kuti to attempt to understand exactly what type of power (and magic) that music possesses.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC309 America's Lure: The Politics of the Transnational US University

Over the course of the last decade the number of international students traveling to the United States has more than doubled. As of 2016, over a million students travel annually to U.S. campuses. In popular culture, governmental rhetoric, and statements from university administrators, this movement has been ascribed to the "lure" of American institutions of higher education and the knowledge, prestige, and futures they are thought to provide access to while simultaneously providing evidence of the successful internationalization of the U.S. university. Students will engage queer, feminist, postcolonial, indigenous, and critical race studies as we historicize and theorize this phenomenon while grappling with the transnational dynamics of the U.S. university from its founding as a central institution of settler colonialism in the 17th century through to the current moment of the so-called global, neoliberal university.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC313 Time, Masks, Mirrors: Aging in America

Longevity is almost universally wished for, but its actual accomplishment may also invite fear, even dread, depending on the context in which it occurs. We will study the socio-cultural meanings of aging in the US as they are informed by history (collective and personal), cultural background, social scripts, caregiving relationships, institutional support/constraint, and current conceptualizations of the life course and the "aging" mind and body that often rely heavily on categorization and vocabulary associated with biomedicine. In addition, we will explore the idea of age in relation to sustainability and disposability as it is applied to dwellings, objects, the natural environment, and even persons. Enrolled students will be introduced to qualitative methods and analysis of qualitative data through conducting a series of interviews with an elder living in the local community that focus on the relationship between place and well-being over the life course, culminating in a record that can be shared with others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
SOCC318 Imagining Difference: Social Science & Black Life
This class has two interrelated areas of focus: first, the racist habits of imag(in)ing Blackness’s presumed racial-sexual difference that preoccupied social science in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; and second, the formative role that social scientific research and methods played in Black people’s quests for institutional inclusion in racial slavery’s afterlife. Focusing particularly on the careers of Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Zora Neale Hurston, we will explore the often contradictory relationship between Blackness and institutional power that is discernible in empiricism’s primacy during the long era of postbellum Black inclusion. Rather than seeking evidence of Black artists’ and intellectuals’ departure from empiricism and its attendant violations, we will explore the messiness of their efforts to experiment with and imagine beyond their misrepresentation and erasure in dominant empirical discourses. Indeed, Black artists and intellectuals sometimes recapitulated the violence of empiricist paradigms and their enabling truth claims despite their sound political intentions—particularly in their imaginings of Black women and queers. In considering the nexus of social science and Black life in this period, we will also consider the intramura! politics of racialized gender, the myriad costs of institutional incorporation, and the stubborn durability of epistemological authority. Secondary texts include works by Hazel Carby, Émile Durkheim, Jacqueline Goldsby, Saidiya Hartman, Katherine McKittrick, Brit Rusert, Autumn Womack, Alexander Weheliye, and others.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGS
Prereq: None
Identical With: FGSS354, AFAM354
SOCC319 Theories of Capitalism
Capitalism has profoundly shaped world history, acting as one of the primary drivers of social change, and working to shape a tremendous variety of social institutions ranging from colonialism to our sense of time. This course takes a critical approach to the study of capitalism, looking at the ways capitalism has intersected with and transformed the nature of social oppression (particularly in relation to nation, race, gender, and sexuality), as well as the ways it works to shape everyday consciousness. Historical changes within capitalism will be explored, considering particularly the rise of corporate capitalism and of contemporary neoliberalism. We will examine a wide variety of theoretical approaches to capitalism, taking Marx’s thought as a jumping-off point for elaboration and critique. We will conclude by considering alternatives to capitalism that have been proposed in both historical and contemporary contexts, together with an examination of practical efforts to implement these possibilities.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SBS-FGS
Identical With: AMST309
SOCC321 Disgusting? Revolting!
Who or what do we find utterly repugnant? Are we the nasty, vile ones? Is it possible that we are unconsciously attracted to that which disgusts us? What might it take to turn disgust into desire, and vice versa? In what ways might disgust indicate not only disruption or transgression, but some kind of threat and alternative to the status quo? What might be lost or gained when the disgusting clean up their acts, or are shown to have been respectable all along? In this course we will explore the politics of filth, particularly in terms of the desires, attitudes, identities, and behaviors that elicit disgust. We will consider how disgust infuses political ideology—i.e., how people understand and approach the social groups that disgust them (for example, racialized immigrants, queers, fat people, and drug addicts), but also the wealthy, the privileged, the “basket of deplorables.” We will also explore the psychoanalytic relation of disgust to desire.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SBS-SOC
Identical With: CHUM328
SOCC322 The Sociology of Nina Simone
An artist, activist, and visionary, Nina Simone possessed both a talent and political platform that continues to permeate discussions inside and outside the walls of academia. Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon, Simone was trained as a classical pianist that would eventually travel the world to perform music that encompassed the struggles of black life. This course acknowledges that her music, with pieces such as “Mississippi Goddam” and “To Be Young, Gifted and Black” undoubtedly made social, cultural, and political contributions to American society. However, much of Simone’s personal life, including her battles with racism, sexism, and mental illness, as well as her relationships with her contemporaries, like Lorraine Hansberry and Miriam Makeba, is often eclipsed by and not considered alongside with her body of work. This course will examine Nina Simone as a whole person, wrought with contradictions, that poured her life experiences into her music, often at the expense of her own success. This class will: sociologically examine the emergence of such a person by interrogating the social environments that impacted her views on social justice; deploy black feminist and womanist analytical frameworks to deeply understand how white
supremacist capitalist patriarchy may have taken a toll on Simone’s career, but ignited her passion to speak truth to power; and utilize cultural and sociological paradigms of framing, stratification, and symbolic interaction to fully understand the sociology of Nina Simone.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOCI151

SOC323 "Racing" Across Africa
Is Africa post-racial? Have you wondered how someone becomes Black/ African, white, ethnic, and/or native and its implicit hierarchies, which scholars refer to as racialization? When you think about race and racism, does Post-Independence (PI) Africa come to mind? If not, why is PI Africa removed from our understanding of race? How can we think about Africa today as always undergoing processes of racial imperialism and how does it intersect with sexuality, gender, and class? Lastly, how do we conceptualize Post-Independence Africa in relation to the African diaspora?

We will go from Ghana to Kenya, Nigeria to South Africa, to understand how race is articulated in these spaces during colonization and after formal colonization has ended. We will also gain theoretical language needed to refute raceless logic. These processes will help us recognize why PI Africa is perpetually marginalized within a globally racialized capitalist economy. This course will contribute to thinking about forms of solidarity in our own lives toward visions of decoloniality, equity, and justice for those racialized as Black, especially in Africa.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC

SOC324 Black Girl Magic?: Survival and Speculative Fiction in the Social World
"Black Girl Magic?" explores and examines the sociological origins, usages, and deployments of the now-popular hashtag. Shortened from "#BlackGirlsAreMagic," coined by CaShawn Thompson in 2013, #BlackGirlMagic has seen its share of celebration and controversy. Used by and for figures such as former First Lady Michelle Obama and Janelle Monae, the hashtag appears almost everywhere to provide exemplars for the resilience of Black women and girls. However, some critics have questioned trending characteristics among those who have been branded with the hashtag--cisgender, well-to-do, fit/thin, non-disabled, and/or famous--and have asked since the beginning: To whom exactly does this phrase belong? Who does it include? And why should we use it? This course aims to survey all those questions and more. It will highlight Black women, trans and gender non-conforming writers, as well as sociologists and those not officially affiliated with the field, to deepen our understanding of Black life experiences in a global social world. We will dive into and deconstruct what we know about concepts such as "survival," "joy," "imagination," and "community" via Black feminist thought, queer/queer studies, popular culture, political science, speculative fiction, and cultural sociology.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM324, AFAM322
Prereq: SOCI151 OR AFAM151

SOC326 Race, Fantasy and Fetish
What role do fantasy and fetish play in the making and unmaking of race? How might fantasy and fetish disrupt and reinforce power differentials in surprising or unexpected ways? From comic book heroes to ‘race play,’ this course explores how bodies, relationships, and space itself are fetishized in the racial imagination. It moves beyond the basic observation that race is socially constructed to consider how fantasy, desire, and fetish render such constructions volatile and spectacular, yet also banal and predictable.

We will discuss the historical and social context of race as both imagined and imaginary in relation to western fantasies of the self and object others. This course draws on texts from race, queer, and postcolonial theory, along with popular material, including fantasy fiction and film, to highlight the fantastical underpinnings of the everyday realities of racial difference.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: SOCI151 AND SOC240

SOC330 Sociology of Knowledge
This course provides an in-depth exploration of the sociology of knowledge, a specialized field of sociology that investigates how social structures shape the production of knowledge and how knowledge, in turn, shapes society. The term knowledge must be understood broadly, encompassing multiple forms of human knowledge production, including but not limited to scientific knowledge, cultural products, and capitalistic ideologies. Knowledge is a shapeshifting social thing that takes on heterogenous forms, guises, and tongues. Sometimes knowledge wears the face of truth; other times, it dawns the cloak of lies. Knowledge has both ethereal and material forms and yet always wears the mark of its producers. Every piece of knowledge carries the imprint of the creatures and social forces that produced it--each is a tiny node in the transmission of culture and the reproduction of power. To map power-knowledge relationships, the sociology of knowledge grounds an analysis of knowledge in terms of social structures, the sets of patterned practices that define and give meaning to social life at individual, communal, and institutional levels. In the broadest sense, the sociology of knowledge is concerned with the relationship between the (epistemic) content and the social context of knowledge. How was knowledge produced and with what institutional resources? Who produced knowledge and why did they produce it? Who benefits from the circulation of knowledge? What effects in the world does knowledge engender? Our basic course objectives are to a) introduce sociology of knowledge as a form of critical inquiry, b) describe and distinguish the approaches and research methods associated with the sociology of knowledge, and c) learn how to analyze knowledge and knowledge-making practices in their social context using these methods.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP350, EDST350
Prereq: None

SOC352 Race, Immigration, and the U.S. Empire
Did we all enter this country on equal grounds? How do our racialized ethnicities, immigration histories, gender, sexuality, and class impact our position in the United States? When you think about immigration, do black immigrants come to mind? This course provides an overview of critical assessments of immigrant communities within the U.S. empire. Theories of institutional racism, white supremacy, and ethnic fallacies are placed at the center of the conceptual framework of the course. Its aim is to demystify immigrant success narratives by relaying the historical, legal, political, and capitalist structures that affect access to upward mobility for immigrant groups and their descendants. Students will learn how black American, black immigrant, Latinx, Asian, indigenous, white eastern European, and white western European communities (including white colonial oppressors), and those at the intersection are grafted within an anti-
black, global racial hierarchy that informs their current position in a settler-colonial empire.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC355 The Personal Is Social
How do social forces show up in our everyday lives? Which forces grab our attention, and why? When are we more inclined to see something as individual rather than social? What kinds of conclusions can we reasonably draw about the social world based on our individual experiences? In this seminar, students will read texts that use personal experience as a foundation for sociological observation, reflection, and insight. We will spend time thinking about the appeal and limitations of various methods, surveying a range of approaches to incorporating personal experience into scholarship, including memoir, autotheory, and autoethnography. Students will practice these kinds of writing throughout the semester, culminating in a final paper that blends personal writing with sociological analysis.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC399G Advanced Research Seminar: Introduction to Critical University Studies
The university is in crisis, or so we are often told. With college and university budgets rapidly shrinking, tuition and student debt are increasing exponentially, especially for women and students of color. And yet, we're here. Students, instructors, and staff continue to look to the university as a productive space for thinking and working. As an academic field dedicated to a collective engagement with the ways power constitutes bodies, knowledge, and ways of being in the world, sociology is a key venue for contending with these processes. This course will introduce students to the emerging field of critical university studies through a feminist, queer, and anti-racist frame. What, we will ask, does it look like to think in and about the university at this historical moment? What does it mean to consider the university's history in relationship to power and the nation-state? What are the gender, sexual, class, and racial politics of knowledge production? And how can we most productively take up the university itself as an object of scholarly inquiry?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC399H Advanced Research Seminar: Hot Mamas: Black Women, Sexuality, and Body Size
Black women, no matter where they were born or currently live in the world, deploy survival strategies that propel them past perceived deviances and into discursive spaces of dynamic personhood. This is especially true for fat black women and how they navigate their respective identities in the areas of social, physical, and mental health; socioeconomic status; and beauty culture. In this class, we will interrogate these areas alongside blackness, womanhood, and sexuality to fully consider the implications of body size as a substantial category of intersectional analysis. By bringing medical and sociological studies into conversations with political and feminist theory, while also engaging with literary pieces and popular culture, this interdisciplinary course aims to equip all of us with a deeper understanding of sexuality and body size and their significance in the lives of black women. We will journey our way through this course using the works of black feminists such as Patricia Hill Collins, theorists such as Michel Foucault, sociologists such as Samantha Kwan, political scientists such as Cathy Cohen, lawyers such as Dorothy Roberts and Paul Campos, and writers such as Lucille Clifton and Alice Walker. In addition, we will bring our lived experiences and proximity to popular culture (magazines, music, films, and online resources such as personal blogs) to stake out our own truths and fill out any gaps that we believe are present in the literature. The class will mix lecture, class discussion, group presentations, and small-group work to advance mastery of the material.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC399I Advanced Research Seminar: Assembling the Self
This advanced research seminar is open to sociology majors in their senior year or in the second semester of their junior year and fulfills the capstone requirement for the major. The course is divided in two halves. In the first half, we will read a variety of autoethnographic texts, in which the authors use personal experience as a foundation for sociological reflection and insight. We will spend time thinking about the political and methodological benefits and limitations of autoethnography, surveying a range of approaches to incorporating one’s experience into scholarship, and attending to the ways that autoethnographic texts respond to existing research and theory. In the second half of the class, students will develop a substantial and original autoethnographic essay, with class sessions focused on workshopping and presenting writing in progress.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC399J Advanced Research Seminar: Law & Society
In this course we will explore law from a sociological perspective, in relation to the historical, political, and cultural contexts within which it exists.

- We will tackle the question, what is law?
- We will talk about the relationship between law and justice.
- We will discuss social phenomena as legal constructions. Who is a person? What constitutes a religion? What is gender? What is commerce? What is free speech? These questions find myriad answers in different bodies of thought, are understood and acted upon in a variety of ways by different social groups, and gain different levels of political salience in different societies and at different times. As matters concerning the organization of public life, they are also, and inevitably, framed as "legal problems" and make their way to courts. We will examine how courts construct social phenomena through the lens of several historical cases.
- We will talk about law and American government—the historical evolution of the relationship between the branches of government, and the changing role and politicization of the Supreme Court.
- We will learn about courtroom exchanges, and how race, gender, and class play out in a typical American courthouse.
- We will explore law as a professional field, and discuss the educational and professional formations of its major actors.

This course will involve writing a research paper.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
We’ll think about how writers, activists, and academics approach writing to move us in different ways. We’ll experiment with and repurpose diverse genres as we develop our own approaches to writing as an essential tool of social analysis.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

SOC402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

SOC403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

SOC404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

SOC405 Sociology Thesis Seminar
The purpose of the seminar is to help senior sociology majors develop their senior thesis projects by introducing them to the conceptual challenges and practical problems of sociological research. The seminar meetings will be devoted primarily to helping students advance their own research projects.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: (SOC151 AND SOC212 AND SOC202)

SOC406 Sociology Thesis Seminar
The purpose of the seminar is to help senior sociology majors develop their senior thesis projects by introducing them to the conceptual challenges and practical problems of sociological research. The seminar meetings will be devoted primarily to helping students advance their own research projects.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: (SOC151 AND SOC212 AND SOC202)

SOC407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

SOC408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

SOC409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
SOC410 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC419 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U

SOC420 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U

SOC420A Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: Cr/U

SOC465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

SOC467 Independent Study, Undergraduate  
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC468 Independent Study, Undergraduate  
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

SOC469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 1.00