SOCILOGY

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; Chair, Sociology

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AFFILIATED FACULTY

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Associate Professor of Science in Society; Associate Professor, African American Studies; Associate Professor, College of the Environment; Associate Professor, Sociology; Associate Professor, Environmental Studies Program

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Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Professor, Science in Society; Professor, Sociology

VISITING FACULTY

Mario Hernandez  
BA, University of California, Berkeley; MA, The New School  
Visiting Instructor in Sociology

EMERITI

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DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Robyn Autry; Jonathan Cutler

• Undergraduate Sociology Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/soc/ugrd-soc)

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 Sociological 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 Sociology and 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC221 Sociology of Fashion
Clothing is a social product, carries social meanings, and modifies social interaction, thus making it into the system of symbols known as fashion. This course will introduce students to the sociological study of fashion. We will examine early theories that regarded fashion as a "superficial" display of wealth and class distinction, then move into the current moment of worldwide capitalist inequality and postmodern identity formation. We will look at how race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity are both articulated and challenged through fashion. We will examine the relationship between fashion, clothing, the body, and body image, and how fashion is a system that can discipline or exert power over others and also construct the self. We will ask whether fashion, with its artistic expression and continual reorganization of styles, has the power to exact social change, or whether it simply reinforces and reproduces social inequality. In the process of studying these ideas, we will look at many practical examples, including various fashion experiences and styles, looking for the social and political forces behind the experience of clothing. We will study Jamaican "dance hall" fashion, drag and cross-dressing, hip hop fashion, and many other examples. We will also use fashion as a means of exploring various theories of social life, including Karl Marx's theory of capitalist exploitation, Pierre Bourdieu's theories of social and cultural capital, Foucault's theory of the body as a site of social discipline, Sigmund Freud's work on the unconscious and return of repressed trauma, Roland Barthes's theory of fashion as a social code, and Erving Goffman's theories of symbolic interactionism and impression management.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC222 Political Sociology
In the first part, we will talk about the state and citizenship. The state has been conceptualized in different ways by different theorists. What is the state really? Why do states do what they do? We hear terms like "the straight state," "the welfare state," "the penal state," "the regulatory state," "the submerged state" - what do they mean? Who governs? How do they govern? Why do they govern the way they do? What are some of the peculiar characteristics of the American state?

We cannot really talk about the modern state without talking about the other key element of the polity: the citizens. What is citizenship? Who is a citizen? These questions have remained central to political and social thought, and become politically salient in the context of the recent elections. We will talk about the theory of citizenship; political and cultural fault lines of citizenship in diverse societies; politics of naturalization; political, civil, and social rights, and the relationship between sexuality and citizenship.

In the second part of the course, we will learn about neoliberalism, and how the state and democratic citizenship have transformed in the US in the neoliberal era. We will talk about increasing inequality, penalization, changing patterns of civic participation, and policy changes that have transformed the legal terrain within which democratic citizenship operates.

In the third part of the course, we will directly engage with contemporary politics, and ask how the political, economic and social transformations of the past few decades matter for electoral politics. What do voters want? How does voter ignorance impact on policies and electoral outcomes? What have been the trajectories of the left and conservative movements in the US? We are told that populist politics is on the rise in the US. What does populism mean? What varieties of it do we see in contemporary American politics? How about the salience of fear in American political discourse? How does fear work in contemporary American politics? How do politicians and fringe organizations mobilize and capitalize on racial and religious fears?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: AMST222
Prereq: None

SOC223 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

SOC224 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

SOC230 Sociology of Emotions
This course is the critical study of the role of emotions in social life, spanning both the macro- and micro-level. We begin with theories of the social nature of emotions from the symbolic interactionist to the social psychoanalytic to the bio-affective. After critically examining Western assumptions about emotions as private property and emotions as entirely an individual expression, we move on to examine “emotion norms” in studies of grief and compassion, and then studies of “emotional labor” and capitalism’s role in habituating emotions in everyday life. In the second half of the class, the role of emotions and affect in the issue of social inequality is theorized, as we study the emotional roles of colonizer and colonized, oppressor and oppressed through race, class, and gender inequality. The course ends with an examination of theories of collective
memory and traumatic experience, focusing on accounts of ethnicity and diaspora. Throughout, the course will examine how new approaches to studying emotion and, possibly, emotions themselves, both support and challenge traditional sociological methodologies. 

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
Identical With: AMST244
Prereq: SOC151

**SOC241 Mental Illness and Society**

Psychiatric disorders are commonly viewed through a purely biomedical and/or 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
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

**SOC243 Queer Theory/Queer Politics**

This course will explore the social construction of sexuality within the U.S. and the emergence of heterosexuality and homosexuality as sites of identity, belonging, and conflict. In the first section of the course, we will contextualize heterosexuality, homosexuality, and queer identities within the theoretical paradigms of social construction, feminist thought, intersectionality, and queer theory. We will begin to consider the relationship of sexuality to other categories of identity. The readings will help us to think about queer identities in relationship to social, cultural, and geographic areas across space and time. The second part of the course will look more directly at the insights of queer theory and critiques of identity as a category for understanding experience and engaging in politics. Queer theory will be analyzed beside social movement literature. In this section, we will continue to concentrate on how sexuality relates to and is dependent on racial and gendered constructions and dynamics of power. In the last section of the course, using the historical and theoretical knowledge covered so far, we will question what/who exactly is a queer subject and what can be considered LGBTQ issues and politics. In this section, we will seek to expand an understanding of queer politics and LGBTQ studies to incorporate questions of social justice that include sexuality but aren’t limited to it alone. As a whole, this class will address contemporary understandings of LGBTQ studies and politics from both an intersectional and social justice framework to examine ideas of identity, political rights, and changing notions of community.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS242
Prereq: None

**SOC244 Feminist and Queer Theories of Social Reproduction**

This course will introduce students to the study of social reproduction and power with an emphasis on feminist, queer, and transnational approaches to inquiry and action. We will begin by exploring key methodologies and theoretical framings for understanding contemporary "American" cultural, social, and political formations both within and beyond the territorial U.S., focusing on the effectiveness of discursive and historical modes of critical analysis. The subsequent sections of the course will turn to three case studies of the historical routes and transnational implications of U.S.-based political discourses around (1) population control and reproductive justice, (2) abolition and the prison-industrial complex, and (3) debt and higher education. By engaging with each area of inquiry through theoretical, historical, and grounded activist texts, we will think through the possibilities for utilizing academic work in concert with movement-based engaged scholarship to address the uneven distribution of life chances and the potential of imagining the world otherwise.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS244
Prereq: SOC151

**SOC245 Intersectionality and Its Discontents**

This course will serve as an introduction to the concept of intersectionality as a mode of theory, method, and political practice that emerged out of women of color (particularly black feminist) scholarship and activism. We will examine its origins as a theoretical framework within critical legal studies and critical race theory and how this framework traveled to, and is used within, sociology and other disciplines. In examining its theoretical use, we will also investigate intersectionality as a methodological practice, as well as the ways in which it has been used to analyze and understand multiple forms of interlocking oppressions and identities, including class, sexual identity, and disability, as well as race and gender. This course will also address critiques of intersectionality that have emerged within and outside of feminist theory. Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to the sociopolitical climates in which intersectionality emerged, as well as its current usage in social media, popular culture, and grass-roots activism. In this vein, we will be able to ground our discussions of intersectionality within debates around social change/mobility, activism, and social movements both past and present.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS245
Prereq: SOC151

**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.
SOC249 Rethinking Capitalism: Prosperity, Crisis, and Reform
In this course we will discuss the historical origins and rise of capitalism, as well as its failures and its future. Capitalist economies have generated growth, innovation, and wealth. They have also generated inequality and caused massive human suffering. What is the nature of capitalism? What are its moral foundations? Is there only one type of capitalism, or are there several types? Is an egalitarian capitalism possible? Can capitalism be sustainable and compassionate? How do different nations regulate capitalism? How exceptional is American capitalism? In what ways is it exceptional? Is American capitalism the best model there is? How has capitalism evolved? What was the neoliberal revolution about? How did the rise of finance in the past few decades affect state-market relations? Why do capitalist economies end up in decline and failures every so often? What do we learn from these crises? Can capitalism be reformed? How?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS256
Prereq: SOC151

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 that form sex work, as well as the way in which prostitution is used 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 relationship? 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS255
Prereq: SOC151

SOC257 Applied Data Analysis
In this project-based course, you will have the opportunity to answer questions that you feel passionately about through independent research based on existing data. You will develop skills in generating testable hypotheses, conducting a literature review, preparing data for analysis, conducting descriptive and inferential statistical analyses, and presenting research findings. The course offers one-on-one support, ample opportunities to work with other students, and training in the skills required to complete a project of your own design. These skills will prepare you to work in many different research labs across the University that collect empirical data. It is also an opportunity to fulfill an important requirement in several different majors.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-QAC
Identical With: QAC201, GOVT201, PSYC280, NS&B280
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, 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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: AMST272, SISP262
Prereq: None

SOC260 Sound and Screen
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 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

SOC265 Social Science Research: Design and Methods
This course will introduce students to the principles of research design, data collection, and analysis in social sciences. We will cover the following topics:
1) Epistemology of social science research
2) Major elements of research design
3) Causality and causal inference
4) Concepts, operationalization, and measurement
5) Research Ethics
6) Historical Methods
7) Comparative Methods
8) Doing surveys
9) Doing interviews
10) Ethnography
11) Qualitative content analysis
12) Putting together a research design

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: QAC265
Prereq: None

SOC268 Gentrification and New Urban Renewal: Race, Class & The Aestheticization of the Inner City
This seminar studies the origins and contemporary process of gentrification focused primarily on the U.S. context. In the process, we will critically examine the writing in various themes related to the development of modern cities, including the transition from industrial to service sector economy, and the increasing importance of culture industries for attracting tourism, as well as the so-called "creative class." In addition, we will look at forms of stratification such as race and class inequality. We will also consider the contemporary revival or renewal process of many American cities, and the role of artists in shaping this new urban landscape. In order to develop critical thinking and writing around these issues, the course emphasizes group discussion and weekly writings to engage and deconstruct the various arguments presented throughout the semester.

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

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, and the role of artists in shaping this new urban landscape. 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

SOC284 Memory and Violence
This course offers historical, theoretical, and empirical perspectives to the study of personal and collective violence and memory. We will examine the intersections of biography, history, and memory in reference to traumatic events, ranging from personal abuse to mass atrocity. The course focuses on issues around memory--from memorialization and truth commissions to memoir and PTSD--in the aftermath of various types of violence. The central questions about the nature and politics of memory following traumatic events will entail conversations about the construction of personal and collective identities and the complexities of justice and healing.

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

SOC293 Pleasure and Power: The Sociology of Sexuality
This course seeks to denaturalize some of what are often the most taken-for-granted aspects of daily life: our bodies and genders, our erotic desires, and our sexual identities. To this end, this course will provide a critical-historical overview of dominant Euro-American understandings of sexuality and their embodied legacies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: FGSS293
Prereq: SOC151

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 helping 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 Its Others
This course will examine scholarly and popular conceptions of authenticity and inauthenticity. 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, classed, 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, afrobeats, 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 Cruudas, 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

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: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: AMST210
Prereq: None

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
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC315 The Health of Communities
Our focus will be on understanding the role of social factors (e.g., income, work environment, social cohesion, food, transportation systems) in determining the health risks of individuals; considering the efficacy, appropriateness, and ethical ramifications of various public health interventions; and learning about the contemporary community health center model of care in response to the needs of vulnerable populations. We will explore the concept and history of social medicine, the importance of vocabulary and the complexity of any categorization of persons in discussions of health and illness, ethical issues related to the generation and utilization of community-based research, the role of place and the importance of administrative and cultural boundaries in the variability of health risk, and the idea of just health care. Enrolled students serve as research assistants to preceptors at the Community Health Center (CHC) of Middletown.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.25
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: SISP315
Prereq: None
SOC151
Prereq: None
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Credits: 1.00
Grading: A-F
Offering: Host

SOC151 AND SOC240
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, what 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

SOC322 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: SOC151

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: SOC151 AND SOC240

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
This course will involve writing a research paper.

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

SOC399L Advanced Research Seminar: The Social Body
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 survey topics, perspectives, and approaches within the sociology of the body—a disciplinary subfield that examines the human body as a site where the social materializes and is rendered legible—as well as considering more generally the craft of academic scholarship. Substantive topics will include ADHD, anorexia, pain/pleasure and disability, and racial/ethnic cosmetic surgery. This overview will serve as a foundation for the second half of the course, in which students will develop a substantial and original research 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

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: Amp Graded
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 SOC202 AND SOC212)
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: A-F

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
Credts: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

SOC491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

SOC492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT