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, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Mary Ann Clawson
BA, Carleton College; MA, SUNY at Stony Brook; PhD, SUNY at Stony Brook
Professor of Sociology; Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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

Greg Goldberg
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Assistant Professor of Sociology

Kerwin Kaye
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Basak Kus
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Assistant Professor of Sociology

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

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Anthony Ryan Hatch
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Associate Professor of Science in Society; Associate Professor, African American Studies; Associate Professor, Sociology

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

EMERITI

Alex Dupuy
BA, University of Connecticut; MA, Brandeis University; MAA, Wesleyan University; PHD, SUNY at Binghamton
John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Emeritus; Co-Director, Susan B. and William K. Wasch Center for Retired Faculty

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Professor of Sociology, Emerita

Rob Rosenthal
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Professor of Sociology; John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Retired

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Mary Ann Clawson; 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
This seminar will investigate the scientific idea of metabolism through the lens of technoscience. Metabolism is a flexible and mobile scientific idea, one that has been applied at the micro-level of analysis within biological organisms, at the meso-level of social collectivities, and at the macro-level of global ecologies. Metabolism encompasses all of the biological and technosocial processes through which bodies (both human and not human) and societies (again, human and not) create and use nutrients, medicines, toxins, and fuels. The lens of technoscience enables us to investigate the technological and scientific practices that define and drive metabolic processes within sciences, cultures, and political economies. These processes implicate forces of production, consumption, labor, absorption, medicalization, appropriation, expansion, growth, surveillance, regulation, and enumeration. Accordingly, as we will learn, metabolism is also a profoundly political process that is inextricably linked to systems that create structural and symbolic violence as well as modes of resistance and struggle. In these contexts, we will interpret some of the most pressing metabolic crises facing human societies, including ecological disaster, industrial food regimes, metabolic health problems, and industrial-scale pollution.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Credits: 1.00
Identical With: FGSS231
Prereq: None

SOC228 The Family
This course explores issues in contemporary U.S. family life, as illuminated by historical experience. Guiding questions include, What different forms do family arrangements take? How and on what basis are families produced? How are gender, racial, ethnic, and class differences reflected in and produced by family life? What is and what should be the relationship between family and state, as expressed in law and public policy (e.g., divorce, welfare, and access to legal marriage)?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Credits: 1.00
Identical With: FGSS231
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
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Credits: 1.00
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
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Credits: 1.00
Prereq: SOC151

SOC254 Introduction to Social Psychology
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...
SOC151 Sociology of Music in Social Movements
It has long been noted that social movements typically create movement cultures, but the actual use of music, as one cultural form, is only beginning to receive attention. Is it used for recruiting new members or maintaining the loyalty of those already committed, for internal critique within the movement itself or to educate those who know nothing of a group’s discontent? When, where, and why do each of these, and other functions, develop? We will look at a number of theoretical and activist approaches and then apply these to movements in the U.S. (including the labor, civil rights, New Left, women’s, and current inner city movements) and elsewhere.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC239 Sociology of Music in Social Movements
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: MUSC280
Prereq: SOC151 OR MUSC103

SOC240 Comparative Race and Ethnicity
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
Prereq: None

SOC242 Nonprofits and Social Change
This course explores the world of nonprofits and how they help (or don't help) the process of social change. As nonprofits increasingly address issues and concerns that governments have previously addressed, a critical analysis of how and why they carry out their work is central to the Allbritton Center’s concern with public life. Each class session will include (1) background on a particular social issue (including global health, inner-city education, clean water, hunger, refugees, and national borders); (2) a case study of a nonprofit addressing that issue; and (3) discussion with leaders of that nonprofit.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: CSPL240
Prereq: None

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 arenas 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 identities 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
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
Prereq: None

SOC242 Nonprofits and Social Change
This course explores the world of nonprofits and how they help (or don't help) the process of social change. As nonprofits increasingly address issues and concerns that governments have previously addressed, a critical analysis of how and why they carry out their work is central to the Allbritton Center’s concern with public life. Each class session will include (1) background on a particular social issue (including global health, inner-city education, clean water, hunger, refugees, and national borders); (2) a case study of a nonprofit addressing that issue; and (3) discussion with leaders of that nonprofit.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: CSPL240
Prereq: None
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

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 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

SOC250 Sociology of Markets

This course will introduce students to some of the core theoretical and empirical works on market economies. We will explore (1) the historical and normative foundations of market economies; (2) the questions of how markets work, why they fail, and what kinds of social and political institutions they depend upon; (3) the role of governments, corporations, workers, consumers, epistemic communities, and international forces in the workings of markets; and (5) the different ways in which advanced nations organize the relationship among markets, states, and societies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
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 well 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.
36.4. Sociology

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: SISP262, AMST272
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 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

SOC270 Urban Societies

This course surveys the development of cities in Western and non-Western countries. Emphasis is placed on urban culture, migration, the global economy, gentrification, transnationalism, and xenophobia. The course highlights the intersections of race/ethnicity, class, gender, and nationality at the local, national, and global levels. A central objective is to think critically about the significance of American cities through comparisons with urban life in other times and places.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
SOC304 Sociology and Social Justice

This course will consider different theories on the relationship between modern capitalism and social justice. Among the central questions we will investigate are, Why does capitalism generate economic, political, and social injustices--such as those based on class, ethnic, racial, gender, environmental, and geographic divisions--and can these injustices be remedied within capitalism, or would they require the creation of a different social system, such as social democracy or democratic socialism? Some of the theorists we will consider include, among others, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, John Stuart Mill, Amartya Sen, Immanuel Wallerstein, David Harvey, John Rawls, Nancy Fraser, Glenn Loury, Martha Nussbaum, Ronald Dworkin, G. A. Cohen, Brian Barry, Thomas Pogge, and Jon Mandle.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOSP304

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, 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 Cruudas, former 2 Live Crew member Luke, Biggie Smalls, Mr. Killa, De La Soul, Ul’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 OR SOC212

SOC315 The Health of Communities

Our course 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 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

SOC316 Community Research Seminar

Small teams of students will carry out research projects submitted by local community groups and agencies. These may involve social science, natural science, or arts and humanities themes. The first two weeks of the course will be spent studying the theory and practice of community research. Working with the community groups themselves, the teams will then design and implement the research projects.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: ENV5316
Prereq: None

SOC320 Life and Death: Relations of Biopower and Necropower

This seminar is an advanced examination of how science and technology shape the politics of life and death. We will consider how science and technology have become handmaidens to human (and, in some cases, not human) life and death, impacting the social, legal, and ethical frameworks we use to define what constitutes the embodied, relational, and conceptual space between “alive” and “dead.” Using theories of biopower and necropower as our guides, we will cover a diverse set of themes including sexual reproduction, birth, population, toxicity, decay, genocide, mortality, and the afterlife as they intersect with modern institutions of power. We will ask, How can we better understand the ways in
which social institutions and actors deploy sciences and technologies to foster
health or manufacture death?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP320
Prereq: None

SOC325 Sociology of Medicine, Health, and Illness
This course will address the sociology of medicine, health, and illness from a
range of critical perspectives and theoretical vantage points, including feminist
social constructionism, actor network theory, the governmentality literature,
queer theory, neomaterialist feminism, and disability studies. We will examine
current manifestations of medicalization, health and illness, and biosociality
as social products of the neoliberal context and will pursue both illness and
disability as sites of social struggle. We will consider the promise and limits of
social constructionism in understanding the sick body and the disabled subject;
we will address the medicalization of impairments as well as trends in psychiatry;
and we will look at the emerging transnational trade in organs, cell lines, and
bioinformatics and consider how sociological frameworks can contribute to
understanding these.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS325, SISP325
Prereq: None

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

SOC339A Advanced Research Seminar: Work and Leisure
Work and leisure represent two of the central coordinates of life experience and
personal identity. How do work and leisure differ and what is the relationship
between them? How do they vary by gender and class? How are relations of
domination and resistance enacted in work and free time? Topics may include
men's and women's work, historical transformations in work and leisure,
workplace subcultures and workplace resistance, popular culture and the
construction of gender, class and race, sports, the mass media, and the sociology
of taste and consumption.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC339B Advanced Research Seminar: Educational Policy
This advanced research seminar involves researching and critiquing current
educational policy debates.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC339C Advanced Research Seminar: Culture Three Ways
The terms "culture" and "cultural" have taken on a wide range of meanings in
sociology, the humanities, and popular discourse. In this course, we will consider
three competing approaches to the study of culture: cultural sociology, sociology
of culture, and cultural studies. From declarations of "culture wars" to the rise
of reality television, we will discuss the theories, production, consumption, and
reception of processes and artifacts labeled cultural. Emphasis will be placed
on how relationships among power, representation, and identity are viewed
across each approach and in a variety of social, aesthetic, ethical, and historical
contexts. This course includes a substantial writing component.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: None

SOC339D Advanced Research Seminar: Marx: CAPITAL: A CRITIQUE OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY, Vol. I
This course fulfills the sociology capstone advanced seminar requirement.
The course will focus on Vol. I of CAPITAL, which is arguably the single-most
important text in Marx’s oeuvre. Students will be asked to write an extensive
research paper on any of the key issues Marx dealt with in Vol. I or other relevant
topics. The paper can be either an in-depth analysis/critique of Marx’s arguments
or can use his arguments to show how they are/are not relevant to analyze
contemporary issues (e.g., on ideology and fetishism; the working day; surplus
value or exploitation; labor issues; ethnicity or race, gender, and class divisions;
immigration; the role of slavery or colonialism in the development of capitalism;
uneven geographic development/imperialism/globalization; or other relevant
topics).
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151 AND SOC212

SOC339E Advanced Research Seminar: Food and Society
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. This course is divided into two halves. In the first
half, we survey a variety of food-related topics that may include food and
identity (class, ethnicity, nation, gender); food systems (the global, national, and
local intersections of production and consumption); and food politics, policy
formation, and activism. This overview will serve as a foundation for the second
half of the course, in which students develop a substantial research paper, with
class sessions focused on project-related reading, work-in-progress discussions,
and final presentations.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

SOC339F 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: None

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

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
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: A-F

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: 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

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