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  
BA, New York University; PhD, CUNY The Graduate Center  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

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

Basak Kus  
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Courtney Patterson-Faye  
BA, University of Pennsylvania; MA, Northwestern University; PhD, Northwestern University  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

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

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Anthony Ryan Hatch  
AB, Dartmouth College; MA, University of Maryland College Park; PhD, University of Maryland College Park  
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

VISITING FACULTY

Peggy Carey Best  
AB, Earlham College; PhD, Union Institute Grad School  
Director, Service Learning; Visiting Assistant Professor of 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

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

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

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
SOC220 Metabolism and Technoscience
This course 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
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
This seminar will introduce students to the major themes and debates in political sociology. We will explore a wide variety of questions, including, What is the state? How did the modern nation-state come to being? How is the state related to other societal actors? What accounts for cross-national variations in the adoption and form of public policies? What is democracy? What is citizenship? How do forms of citizenship vary across the world? What is power? What accounts for the emergence, development, form, and success of social movements?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
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
Identical With: FGSS231
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
SOC238 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: SOCI151

SOC239 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
Identical With: MUSC280
Prereq: SOCI151 OR MUSC103

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: SOCI151

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.
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.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: AMST246, FGSS256
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
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Prereq: SOC151

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 difference between sociological and economic theories of markets; (4) 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 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
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 among 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: 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 revisist 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
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

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: SOC151 OR SOC212

SOC308 Baby Got Back: Embodiment, Gender, and Sexuality in Black Music
This multimedia course uses a sociocultural approach to explore how black
codies 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 reggae), 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
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

SOC312 Advanced Social Theory Seminar
This course offers students the opportunity to pursue in-depth advanced work in
sociological theory. Students develop close reading strategies to directly engage
primary texts from a variety of traditions and perspectives. The seminar requires
careful analysis of books and essays that frequently assume a specialized lexicon
and grammar. Students enrolled in the course will have already demonstrated
a command of foundational material through successful completion of SOC212,
Sociology and Social Theory, or other course work in social theory.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
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-SISP
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

SOC399A 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

SOC399B 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

SOC399C 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

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

SOC399E 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
SOC399F 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 course, 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  
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

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