

Spring 2012 Undergraduate Course Offerings

Sociology 101 The Sociological Perspective: An Introduction

This course is an introduction to the distinctively sociological perspective of analyzing people, societies and their structures and cultures.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of themselves as human beings and how different forces and ideas affect their own society and culture.

Sociology 121 Social Problems

This course is an opportunity to examine major issues facing society. In addition to analyzing the roots of social problems, the course addresses social policy concerns and explores solutions.

Outcome: Students will be able to critically examine the impact of a social problem and its possible solutions, to integrate knowledge gleaned from a variety of disciplines, to find and utilize relevant data and research in defining issues and solutions, and to view social problems from macro and micro perspectives as a means of applying workable solutions for the issues facing society.

Sociology 122 Race and Ethnic Relations. (BWS 122.)

This course examines the development of cultural, society, and self-understanding by exploring the social construction of race in the United States. The course explores how social constructions of race affect interpersonal relations, laws, policies, and practices in various racial and ethnic communities.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the conditions which have worsened racial tensions as well as how social movements have been successful at eradicating racially oppressive laws and working towards a just society.

Sociology 123 Mass Media and Popular Culture.

This course examines the connections between the media of mass communication and multiple forms of popular art and culture. Topics considered include the social, political and cultural organization of mass communication and its impact on values, expectations, and life styles of contemporary society.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the social relationships between mass media and the general population.

Sociology 125 Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis

This course explores the development of Chicago metropolitan region from the 1830's to the present day. Students will explore the urban area not only through texts, but also through fieldwork.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the geography, history and people of the Chicago metropolitan region.

Sociology 126 Science, Technology and Society

This course serves as a broad introduction to the social study and analysis of science and technology in society. It examines how scientific knowledge and technologies are created and constructed and how they influence and are influenced by society.

Outcome: Students will be able to understand how scientific knowledge and technologies are developed in particular historical and cultural contexts and analyze their impact on our daily lives.

Sociology 127 Social Analysis and Social Action (ABI)

This course is open to students participating in a domestic Alternative Break Immersion trip or a Greeks for a Good Cause service trip. The class will prepare students to better understand the communities they will meet on their trips, and to take action with them on pressing social issues.

Outcome: Students will examine ways to address poverty and related social issues in the United States, and contribute to an action project in response to those issues.

Fulfills University Core requirement for a social and cultural knowledge course and a civic engagement value course.

Sociology 205 Sociological Thought

This course examines classical and contemporary sociological theories and uses them as frameworks for understanding modern society. Such social theories attempt to explain and understand the world, as well as inspire further research and theory.

Outcome: The class provides students with theoretical foundations for understanding social organizations as well as the social processes that transform societies.

Sociology 206 Principles of Social Research

The course is an introduction to the basic research methodologies of sociology. A variety of methods used in sociological analysis and data generation will be considered. Students learn how to select and use methodologies appropriate for various research projects.

Outcome: Students will learn how social science research is conducted. They will be able to critically evaluate existing research and select appropriate techniques to undertake original research.

Sociology 216 Sociology of Violence

The threat of violence is a significant concern for individuals in many societies. In this course, violence will be studied as a social phenomenon. Topics of particular concern include: family violence, gang violence and terrorism.

Outcome: Students learn to examine the causes of violence from a sociological perspective. They also learn methods to reduce violence and the harm it causes.

Sociology 225 Sociology of Health Care

This course examines the sociology of health care with particular attention to: social and psychological factors; health care professionals; inter-personal relations in health care; the organization and use of health services; and the relationship between aging and health.

Outcome: Students will understand the role that social forces play in the health and wellness of individuals, the community and society.

Sociology 230 Self and Society

This course examines the relationships between the self as a social product and the larger society in which that self is socialized, develops and expresses itself. Various theories of selfhood are explored.

Outcome: Students will come to appreciate how selfhood, their own and others, is a product of historical factors as well as social contexts such as class, gender, race and ethnicity.

Sociology 234 City, Suburbs & Beyond

Study of the historical emergence of cities, focusing on the ecological, demographic, and organizational processes involved in the continuing growth and change of metropolitan areas and in the relationship of a metropolitan area to the surrounding region.

Outcome: Students will understand fundamental facts and theories about the character and development of cities and urban regions.

Sociology 240 Families (WOST 242)

Contemporary family structures encompass a variety of living arrangements and social relationships. This course considers differences and similarities among the various family types and explores the social, cultural and economic forces structuring family life.

Outcome: Students will develop an expanded understanding of the varieties of family arrangements and the connections between family life and the wider social, political economic environment.

Sociology 245 Religion and Society

This course explores how individual behavior, organizations, and society as a whole are affected by religious ideas and institutions, and how religion is itself changed by its encounter with changing social circumstances

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of how individual behavior, organizations, and society as a whole are affected by religious ideas and institutions, and how religion is itself changed by its encounter with changing social circumstances.

Sociology 250 Inequality in Society (BWS 250)

This course examines the manner in which contemporary society is divided by race, ethnicity, class, sexuality and gender, and the impact of social institutions on these divisions. An emphasis will be placed on income/wealth differences, status differences, class conflict and social conflict over time.

Outcome: Students will acquire a better understanding of social inequality and what can be done to make society more just.

Sociology 261 Social Movement & Soc Change

This course examines the dynamics of collective behavior and movements promoting social change.

Outcome: Students will demonstrate understanding of competing explanations of social movements and social change, and will be able to test various theories by analyzing historical movements for change.

Sociology 271. Sociology of Sex and Gender (WOST 271)

This course explores the social organization of sex and gender.

Outcome: Students will be able to situate their pre-conceived experiences of the naturalness of gender in a particular historical and cultural context.

Sociology 275 The Sociology of Consumption

This course examines the profound ways society and individuals have been transformed by the abundance of consumer goods and mass media that encourage buying these goods.

Outcome: Student will gain a deeper understanding of the nature and origins of contemporary consumer society and the ways in which consumerism impacts society and individuals.

Sociology 301 Statistics for Social Research

The course is a comprehensive introduction to statistical analysis in social research. Topics include: univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis, computer statistical applications and interpretation of results

Outcome: Students will demonstrate understanding of statistical thinking and data analysis techniques and be able to use them to evaluate existing research and conduct original research.

Sociology 335 Urban Studies Seminar

Students explore how cities work through texts, field trips, and guest speakers, and help find solutions to pressing urban issues. Must be taken along with URB 397.

Outcome: Students will understand and address inequities in urban communities, and identify avenues of leadership and civic engagement in contemporary cities.

Sociology 365 Social Theory and Social Research

In this capstone course, each student designs and conducts an empirical research project resulting in a senior research paper.

Outcome: Student demonstrate mastery of sociological theory and methods by writing a research paper bringing a full complement of sociological skills to bear on an issue of substantial theoretical and/or practical importance.

Sociology 380 Internship

Supervised field experience for students working in a selected community organization, government agency, social agency, or business.

Outcome: Students have opportunity to apply the skills and analysis of sociology to a concrete situation.

Sociology 397 Independent Study

Independent study of a topic delineated by the student in collaboration with an individual faculty member.

Outcome: Student gains experience and expertise in defining and conducting independent scholarly work.

Sociology 399 Independent Study Project II

Advanced independent research in collaboration with a faculty member on a sociological topic relevant to the student. Limited to senior Sociology majors.

Outcome: Student gains experience and expertise conducting independent research.