

Graduate Course Descriptions

403 Sociological Perspectives I

Important theoretical and methodological concerns will be discussed with particular attention paid to how these concerns affect substantive areas in sociology.

Outcome: Students will gain familiarity with major themes that will shape their graduate education in sociology.

404, Sociological Perspectives II

A survey of substantive, theoretical and methodological issues in the field, with a particular emphasis on exposure to original research in areas that are current strengths in the department.

Outcome: Students will gain familiarity with a range of substantive, theoretical and methodological concerns in contemporary sociology.

405 History of Sociological Theory

This course looks at the intellectual roots and expressions of the foundations of sociological theory in the 19th and early 20th century.

Outcome: Students will gain familiarity with the classical texts in sociological theory that established some of the basic perspectives, issues and debates that inform contemporary social theory and research.

406 Modern Sociological Theory

This course examines some of the dominant perspectives and trends of modern social theory.

Outcome: Students will develop familiarity with the primary sources that represent current trends in modern and postmodern theories.

410 Logic of Sociological Inquiry

This course explores the structures of sociological research, analyses, and explanations and provides a basic introduction to a variety of methods of data collection.

Outcome: Students will be able to formulate sociological problems, understand the relationship between problem formulation and data collection, measurement and analyses and develop the capacity to use different social scientific methods.

412 Qualitative Methods in Social Research

This course is an introduction to the major qualitative methods of social inquiry and the ethical issues raised by qualitative research. Research settings studied range from informal groups and communities to formal organizations.

Outcome: Students learn the skills of participant observation, interviewing, historical analysis, building theory from qualitative data, coding and content analysis.

413 Sociological Practicum

The class examines theoretical issues and past research relating to a particular social topic and then designs and completes a collective research project. Topics vary.

Outcome: Students gain facility with research design and group research practices.

414 Statistical Methods of Analysis I

After a review of bivariate regression and cross-tabular analysis, the course provides an extended treatment of the general linear model. Topics include model construction, interpretation of results, partitioning of variance, tests of statistical significance and interactions.

Outcome: Students will be able to employ general linear models in original research and critically evaluate existing empirical research.

415 Statistical Methods of Analysis II

The course extends the applications of the general linear model to topics including path analysis, logistic regression, factor analysis and spatial and cluster analysis.

Outcome: Students will understand the techniques with enough clarity to recognize when they are appropriate research tools, gain sufficient expertise to apply the techniques to moderately complex research problems, and be able to critically review the relevant literature.

418 Demography

This course examines the basic techniques used to assemble, analyze, and present demographic information, and also examines U.S. and world demographic trends and the causes and consequences of demographic change.

Outcome: Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of U.S. and world demographic trends as well as an understanding of the sources, limitations, and advantages of various types of demographic data.

421 Theories of Social Change

The course will critically appraise major theories of social change and examine different methodologies on both the macro- and micro-sociological levels.

Outcome: Students will gain a working knowledge of the major theoretical and methodological issues in the field.

423 Social Movements

This course will use case studies of contemporary social movements to examine collective efforts to promote social or cultural change.

Outcome: Students will be able to apply major theoretical perspectives on social movements to historical cases such as the civil rights movement, the New Left movements of the 1960s, the women's movement, the gay and lesbian movement, the environmental movement, and the global justice movement. They will gain an understanding of the recursive relationship between empirical research and theory development.

425 Inequality and Society

This is an empirical and theoretical inquiry into the causes, consequences, and dynamics of social inequality in modern societies.

Outcome: Students will be able to explain the distribution of economic, political, and social resources in society; the processes of class formation and the role of race and gender.

426 Sociology of Gender

This course surveys sociological and related scholarship on women and gender relations.

Outcome: Students explore a basic concept in sociology and learn to view societies through the lens of gender.

427 Political Sociology

The course examines major theories of political action and change. Particular attention is paid to policy development.

Outcome: Students will develop an empirical and theoretical knowledge of the working of political systems and be able to apply that knowledge to the development of social policy.

428 Poverty and Social Welfare

This course examines the development of poverty and social welfare efforts over time in the United States, with some comparisons to other industrial societies.

Outcome: Students will understand the character and consequences of poverty and social welfare policies in the United States, emphasizing current conditions and possibilities for the future.

431 Social Structure and Personality

This course examines the relationships between the individual and larger social structure and social trends.

Outcome: Students will gain familiarity with current research and theory concerning the relationship of self identity and personal narratives to socialization and structural factors, and the ways in which social class, work, race and nation construct age, gender and sub-cultural forms of subjectivity.

432 Socialization through the Life Cycle

This course traces the nature of socialization and development of the individual through the life cycle.

Outcome: Students will become familiar with research and theory concerning the processes by which persons are socialized into sexual, racial, religious, occupational, marital, and parental social roles, identities and patterns of interactions at various stages of life.

435 Adult Development and Aging

The older adult population and adult development is examined from social and cultural perspectives.

Outcome: Studies will develop a knowledge of gerontological theories and research which pertain to the family, the community, political life, the economy, work and retirement, religious life, and other social institutions.

438 The Family

This course explores families, their changing internal structures, and their roles in contemporary societies, with a focus on special topics of current interest.

Outcome: Students learn about the history and changing character of family life and develop an informed understanding of contemporary policy debates concerning families.

439 Community and Community Change

Contemporary communities are examined from a sociological perspective: both geographic communities, e.g. urban and suburban, and communities of interest, e.g., ethnic, racial, and religious, are studied.

Outcome: Students gain an understanding of how research can be used to facilitate social change in community settings, and an awareness of how community organizations, informal networks, and broader social forces shape the character and sustainability of particular communities.

440 Organizations and Organizational Change

This course examines the structures and processes that typify contemporary organizations, with particular attention to how organizations change.

Outcome: Students will be able to apply sociological methods to analyze organizations, and will develop an understanding of bureaucracy and alternative structures; the effect of organizational structure on administrators, workers, and clients; and how organizations are affected by their social environment.

441 Sociology of Religion

This course studies the relationship between religion and society, and explores central topics in the sociology of religion.

Outcome: Students will learn to define and explain religious organizations, beliefs, and practices as distinctly social phenomena. They will apply sociological methods to understand how social processes shape the form and content of religious life and how religious institutions and individual beliefs and practices in turn shape the social world.

442 Religious Conflict and Change in Contemporary Society

This course will use case studies of religious conflict and innovation to explore the complex reciprocal relationship between religion and historical processes of social change.

Outcome: Students will be able to apply the theory and methods of sociology to analyze historical instances of religious conflict and change in the U.S. and other regions of the world. They will gain an understanding of how religion both affects and is affected by historical, political, and social change.

446 Sociology of Knowledge, Power and Expertise

This course focuses on the relationship between knowledge, expertise and power in societies and how this relationship has consequences for the structure of knowledge and the organization of society.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate a sociological understanding of the construction of knowledge and the organization of authority and expertise

447 Sociology of Culture

This course will examine the relationship between social phenomena and cultural expressions, and the various ways sociologists have conceived of those relationships.

Outcome: Students will learn how to apply sociological theories and methods to an analysis of cultural fields such as literature, art, and music. They will gain an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultural expressions in the contemporary world, and will be able to analyze how such diverse cultural objects and symbolic expressions are produced and used in social action and political struggles.

448 Sociology of Technology and Material Culture

This course will serve as an introduction to the sociology of things, most notably the sociology of technology, design, consumer objects, and the built environment.

Outcome: Students will develop an understanding of both cultural, constructivist and political-economic approaches to the construction of technology and artifacts, and of a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of their impact and use.

452 Complex Organizations

Formal organizations treated comparatively and systematically as major components of modern social organization are featured.

Outcome: Students will develop an understanding of leading theoretical traditions, historical and cross-national variation, organization-environment relations, and selected internal processes in the field of complex organizations.

453 Occupations and Professions

This course focuses on the structure of paid work in modern society, and its relationship to unpaid work and to self-employment, with special attention being paid to the role of skills and knowledge in the structuring of work.

Outcome: Students will develop an understanding of both macro factors structuring work--capitalism, industrialism, structures of gender and race inequality, globalization--and micro factors such as work-place interaction and culture.

461 Race and Ethnicity in American Society

This course explores the construction, meaning, uses and consequences of racial and ethnic identity in American society over time.

Outcome: Students will understand the role of migration and immigration on the construction of identity; analyze prejudice, discrimination, and inter-group conflict; and explore how social movements have and are changing these group relationships.

462 The Urban Metropolis

This course examines urbanization and its consequences through social theory and empirical studies emphasizing the modern European and American experience.

Outcome: Students will understand ecological and political economy perspectives on metropolitan development; changing regional patterns of population, housing, and employment; and urban governance, planning, and policies for the future.

463 Sociology and the Natural Environment

This course examines the relationship between social life and the natural environment and focuses on how the natural world shapes the social world as well as human impact on the environment.

Outcome: Students will be able to demonstrate a sociological understanding of the relationship of humans to the natural environment and draw connections between basic ecological understandings of nature and human impact on the natural world.

471 Sociology of Deviance and Control

This course is a socio-historical look at definitions of forms of deviant behavior and the identification of individuals as deviant.

Outcome: The student will learn how history and philosophy shape the definitions of deviant behavior and the methods used to control it. They will develop a sociological imagination that will allow them to perceive the meaning of deviance beyond today's headlines.

473 Criminology: Theory, Research and Application

This course examines sociological traditions in criminology, modern theories of criminology, and considers the implications of these theories for social control, with special emphasis on current work in criminology theory, social planning, and evaluation research.

Outcome: The student will acquire knowledge of the relationship between the various explanations of crime patterns and how these theories work to reduce or fail to reduce the level of criminal behavior.

481 Medical Sociology

This course will examine critical factors affecting mortality and morbidity; mental health; the organization and use of health services and agencies; community public health; cross-cultural studies of health services; aging and the strategy and conduct of socio-medical research.

Outcome: The student will be able to critically analyze the social components of illness and of health and to integrate sociological theory and research in the health care institution globally.

490 Workshop in Applied Sociology (1 credit hour)

Focus on special topics relevant to the development, application and transmission of public sociology in a variety of settings.

Outcome: Students will develop expertise in the varying topics.

491 Sociological Discourse

The course examines the nature of sociological argumentation in existing scholarly and popular literature and in the students' own writing.

Outcome: Students will be able to formulate and present sociological arguments in both oral and written forms. Students will also be able to demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between problem formulation, data collection and measurement and analysis in their own and others' work.

494 Sociology Internship

Placements are typically in non-academic settings, e.g., government agencies, community organizations, businesses, or labor organizations. Internships are supervised by a faculty committee. Students are expected to work a minimum of 300 hours and write an internship report. Three hours of this course may be counted toward M.A. course work and six hours toward Ph.D. course work.

Outcome: Students will develop skills in applying sociological methods and theoretical perspectives to the understanding and ameliorating of social issues in real world settings.

497 Independent Study Workshop

Students who wish to carry out independent study will meet as a workshop, under the guidance of a faculty member.

Outcome: Students will develop the skills and dispositions necessary to be successful and productive in independent work. These skills are important for expeditious completion of proposals, theses, and dissertations.

498 Independent Research

Students will carry out a piece of independent research under faculty supervision;

Outcome: Students will acquire the skills of independent research.

499 Directed Study

Students will explore a field of study of their own choosing under the guidance of faculty.

Outcome: Students will acquire expertise in their chosen topic.

500 Seminar in Applied Sociology and Social Policy

This course examines the use of sociology in determining and selecting alternative social policies; with special attention given to the use of social science research in developing policy, the effect of social policy on social research, and the implementation of social policy.

Outcome: Students will develop knowledge about the roles that applied sociologists play in society; the relationship between sociologists and clients or organizations; the social research process and how it affects the research product; and ethical considerations of applied sociologists.

505 Controversies in Current Sociological Thought

This is a seminar in which students and faculty will examine in detail particular controversies that are emerging in theoretical approaches to sociology. Topics will vary.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced skills in theoretical discourse.

510 Research Methods for Special Areas

Advanced methodology seminar in special topics.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced skills in the special area.

520 Topics in Contemporary Society

Various topics in the study of modern society.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced skills in the special topic.

525 Seminar in Comparative Studies

The seminar will expose participants to comparative approaches in defining issues, topics or institutions studied by comparative sociologists. Topics will vary.

Outcome: Students will acquire knowledge of the utility of comparative approaches to cultural and social structures in developing greater definition and clarity, and a deeper understanding of a given topic.

530 Issues in Social Psychology

Review of advanced topics in social psychology.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

540 Issues in Sociology of Religion

Review of advanced topics in the sociology of religion.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

550 Issues in Complex Organizations

Review of advanced topics in complex organizations.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

555 Issues in Work, Occupations, and Professions

Review of advanced topics in the sociology of work.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

560 Issues in Urban Sociology and Community

Review of advanced topics in urban sociology and community.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

570 Issues in Deviance and Criminology

Review of advanced topics in the study of deviance and criminology.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

580 Issues in Medical Sociology

Review of advanced topics in medical sociology.

Outcome: Students will develop advanced expertise in the field.

595 Thesis Supervision

Work on Master's thesis under faculty supervision

Outcome: Students will complete a Master's thesis.

600 Dissertation Supervision

Work on doctoral dissertation under faculty supervision

Outcome: Students will complete a doctoral dissertation.