Sociology

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Sociology courses deal with the structure and functioning of societies, the nature of social interaction, the relationship between the individual and society, and the nature of change in human societies.

A student who enters Whitman without any prior college-level preparation in sociology will have to complete 36 credits to fulfill the requirements for the sociology major. Courses completed in the sociology major apply to the social science, alternative voices and quantitative analysis distribution areas.

The Sociology major: Sociology 117, 207, 367, 490, either 492 or 498; additional work in sociology to make a total of 36 credits. In the final semester in residence the student must pass a senior assessment consisting of a one-and-a-half hour oral comprehensive examination which will include both questions specific to the student's thesis as well as to coursework taken throughout the major. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy the course and credit requirements for the major.

The Sociology minor: Sociology 117, 207, 367; additional work in sociology for a minimum of 18 credits. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy the course and credit requirements for the minor.

The Sociology-Environmental Studies combined major: The requirements are fully described in the *Environmental Studies* section of this catalog. Courses completed in this major apply to the social science and science (selected courses) distribution areas.

Those students interested in teaching sociology at the high school level should take Sociology 330, and a selection of advanced problems courses (numbered 257 through 348) as electives. Those interested in community organization should take Sociology 259, 260, 267, 300, 307, 317, 347, 350.

110 Social Problems
4, 4 **Finan**

A systematic and in-depth introduction to the sociology of social problems. This course examines, from a sociological perspective, some of the more commonly-identified social problems in contemporary America, and analyzes the structure and culture of this society, in the attempt to determine how and why these problems are produced and sustained. Three periods per week. This course is open to all students, and can be counted toward the 36 credits required for a major in sociology; however, those students who are fairly certain that they will declare sociology as their major and who wish to take only one course at the introductory level may want to consider taking Sociology 117 instead of Sociology 110.

117 Principles of Sociology
4, 4 **Janning**

A comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology. The course covers basic theoretical and methodological perspectives. Specific topics include culture, social interaction, deviance, socialization, organizations, the global economy, political sociology, race relations, gender relations, sexuality, social movements and the mass media. Emphasis is placed on integrating conceptual understanding with observation and analysis of familiar social settings. Three periods per week. This course is open to all students, but is primarily intended for students who have decided upon or who are seriously considering sociology as a major field of study. Required of all majors; should be taken as early in the student's program as possible.

127 Religion and Society
4, x **Wilcox**

Is same-sex marriage a religious issue or a political one? Was the first Matrix movie Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, or secular? Do people really get sucked into cults, and can deprogrammers get them out again? Why do so many ethnic groups have their own temples, mosques, or churches? What is witchcraft, and what does it have to do with feminism? This class invites students to consider religion through the lenses of sociology and cultural studies. It will explore the influence of religion on social institutions, politics, social movements, and popular culture, as well as considering the effects of society and culture on religion. Topics include: civil religions; religion and the social order; religion, gender, and race; new religious movements and "spirituality"; seekerism and secularization; religion and social change; religion in popular culture; and religion and violence. Open only to first-year and sophomore students. May be elected as Religion 107.

207 Social Research Methods
4, x **Janning**

A course designed to introduce the student to the

procedures by which sociologists gather, analyze, and interpret factual information about the social world. Topics to be covered in this course include the part which social research plays in the larger discipline of sociology, the relationships between sociological theory and social research, research design, measurement and the operationalization of concepts, probabilistic sampling, observational data-gathering procedures, survey research, the use of secondary source materials, and experimentation. Required of sociology majors; open to students in other social science disciplines with consent of instructor.

208 Social Statistics
4, x **Christopherson**

A course designed to complement and expand upon the knowledge gained in Sociology 207, as it introduces the student to the various statistical procedures by which social researchers carry out the quantitative analysis of sociological data. Topics to be addressed in this course include univariate and bivariate descriptive statistics, statistical inference, and techniques of multivariate analysis. The goals of this course are to instill within the student an understanding of these procedures at both the conceptual and practical levels, and to teach the student how to utilize these procedures using computer software packages. This course is particularly recommended for any student who is (a) contemplating writing a senior thesis involving the collection and quantitative analysis of original empirical data, and/or (b) considering the possibility of pursuing graduate study in the social sciences. *Prerequisites*: Sociology 207 or consent of instructor. Distribution area: social science or quantitative analysis.

230 Social Psychology
4; not offered 2008-09

An introduction to the field of social psychology from both a sociological and psychological perspective. Using theory and methodology, conceptual and experiential techniques, the effects of groups and individuals on one another will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on increasing awareness of oneself as a social being, as well as exploring links between power and the social construction of human behavior. A laboratory weekend is required. Team-taught by a member of the sociology department and a member of the psychology department. *Prerequisites:* no fewer than three credits in psychology and/or sociology, or consent of instructor.

257 Sociology of the Family
x, 4 **Janning**

A sociological investigation of the modern family. This course will consider the unique position which the family occupies within the larger society, and the particular patterns of social interaction which typically characterize individual family units. Specific topics which will be looked at in some depth include: 1) the reciprocal relationships between the family institution and other aspects of modern society; 2) the various stages of the family life cycle; 3) the structural positions of men and women, both within the family and in society more generally; and 4) the stresses, problems, and conflicts which often develop within and affect families in various ways. In considering these and other topics, particular emphasis will be placed upon the various theoretical perspectives which have informed the work of family scholars in recent years. This course is open to all students, but previous course work in sociology would be very helpful.

258 Gender and Society
4, x **Finan**

What is gender? How does gender inform our lives and the organization of society? This course provides a variety of theoretical, empirical, and narrative responses to these questions. Emphasis is placed on the interplay between theory and lived experience in a variety of interactional and institutional settings. The course investigates the economic, political, and cultural dimensions of gender relations in the context of race and class. Topics include: the global economy, domestic work, socialization, sexuality, violence, identity, the family, health, education, and social change. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

259 Sociology of Crime and Delinquency
4; not offered 2008-09

A sociological examination of the patterns, causes, and consequences of criminal and delinquent behavior in modern society. Specific topics to be studied in this course include: 1) the origins of and purposes behind criminal law; 2) the various theories of crime and delinquency; and 3) the relationships between the public's perception of and concern about the various forms of criminal deviance and the true impact of these behaviors upon society. This course is open to all students, but previous course work in sociology would be very helpful.

260 Sociology of Criminal Justice
4; not offered 2008-09

A sociological analysis of the criminal justice system as a social institution. In particular, this course will take an in-depth look at the workings of our nation's police, court, and prison systems to determine exactly how these elements of the criminal justice system operate in practice, and how effectively they meet their defined objectives of controlling crime and protecting the members of society from criminal behavior. Class lectures and readings will be supplemented by field trips to and speakers from the various components of the criminal justice system in the Walla Walla area. This course is open to all students, but previous course work in sociology would be very helpful.

267 Race and Ethnic Group Relations
x, 4 **H. Kim**

This course investigates ways in which power relations in the United States influence cultural, economic, and political meanings of race and ethnicity. A variety

of sociological meanings of race and ethnicity are explored. In addition to examining theoretical frameworks regarding race and ethnicity, the course draws upon historical analysis and considers current debates related to cultural politics and identity. Emphasis is placed on the interplay of race, class and gender in the United States. Intended for sophomores and juniors with at least one previous course in sociology. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

268 Sociology of Mental Health and Mental Illness
4; not offered 2008-09

An examination of the concepts of mental health and mental illness from a sociological perspective. Major issues to be addressed in this course include a consideration of the meaning and implications of the term "mental illness," a discussion of the most important sociological and social psychological theories of mental illness, an examination of the societal reaction that our society has traditionally made to the condition of mental illness, and an analysis of modern methods of treatment for mental illness. This course is open to all students, but previous course work in sociology and/or psychology would be very helpful.

271 Asian Americans in Contemporary Society
x, 4 H. Kim

This course serves as an introduction to sociological research of Asian American life in the United States, primarily focusing on the post-1965 era. We will focus on Asian American immigration, political movements, racial and ethnic identity, and economic and educational achievement. This class aims to highlight the multiple, heterogeneous experiences of Asian Americans and situate these in relation to those of other racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Students will be evaluated on active in-class participation and attendance, critical analyses of class materials and literature, a major research paper, and a take-home final exam. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

287 Sociology of the Body
x, 4 Bogard

This course examines the uses, representations and transformations of the body in Western societies from the early 19th century to the present. We will study the body's relation to the emergence of several institutions in society and its changing status as an object of knowledge and power. Topics covered include the body's role in modern medicine, sexuality and work, its stereotyped portayals in the media and its interfaces with modern technology. Evaluations are based on a series of short papers and projects. Three periods per week. Open to all students, although one course in sociology or related social science field is recommended.

290 The Sociology and History of Rock 'n' Roll
4; not offered 2008-09

This course will examine the development and significance of the musical genre typically known as "rock 'n' roll," from its origins in the 1940s and 1950s to the present. In order to understand this important phenomenon, the course will explore the rural and urban roots of blues, jazz, and folk music from which much of rock 'n' roll is ultimately derived; the development of the Cold War culture in the post-World War II years; the social and political upheavals of the 1960s; and the cultural and political fragmentation of American society in the past three decades. Particular attention will be paid both to the development of a distinct youth/alternative culture in response to (and supportive of) the development of rock 'n' roll, as well as to the gradual acceptance and integration of various forms of rock music into conventional economic and cultural systems. The course will focus upon the distinctive historical events and trends in the United States that have shaped and been associated with this type of music through the years, and subject these events and trends to theoretical analysis from a variety of sociological perspectives. This class will combine lectures with discussion, and there will be out-of-class listening assignments, as well as papers and exams or quizzes.

293, 294 Special Topics in Sociology: Intermediate Level
1-4

An intermediate course designed to review selected topics in sociology through lectures, seminars, or group research projects.

300 Field Laboratory in Applied Sociology
2, 2 Fall: Finan; Spring: Mireles

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply a sociological perspective to any of a number of "real life" organizational settings in the Walla Walla area. As the basis for the course, students arrange an internship at one of the many governmental, nonprofit and/or human service agencies in the local community, and commit themselves to work no fewer than three hours weekly in this field placement setting. At the same time the student is contributing time and talent to the organization in question, he/she will also be observing, from a sociological perspective, the events, activities, structure, and dynamics of this field environment. These field laboratory experiences will be supplemented by academic readings, a regularly scheduled seminar, and the keeping of a detailed field journal. This course may be taken twice, for a maximum of four credits. *Pre- or corequisite:* Sociology 117.

307 Human Communities
x, 4 Finan

It can be argued that disturbances in the natural environment are reflections of the changing state of

the human community. This course investigates the relationship between nature and community by raising questions such as: what is "the community," and how has it changed in modernity and postmodernity? What are the contradictions in the American community and the environmental consequences? Why is the concept of community so idealized? Is "sustainable development" more an aspiration of community than a possibility in nature? What are the historic and modern features of urban communities, and what is the urban basis for environmental problems and solutions? To what extent can community and urban social processes be viewed in ecosystem terms? Which forms of community best support the resolution of environmental problems? The course draws from sociological theories of community and the city, case studies taken from the developed and developing worlds, and contacts with local community organizations. There will be a series of short papers and a semester research project.

309 Environmental Sociology
4, x **Norgaard**

What social structural conditions produce ecological decline? What agricultural, extractive, and industrial technologies have driven global ecological problems? How are societies around the world impacted? This course will review sociological theory on the causes and consequences of ecological degradation and resource scarcity. Topics will include: specific local and global ecological problems, theories an political economy of the environment, the treadmill of production, environment and risk, the sociology of environmental science, globalization and environmental movements. The course will consist of lecture, discussion, papers and an out-of-class project. We will also view and discuss films. This course is open to all students but previous course work in sociology would be very helpful.

317 Population
4; not offered 2008-09

An introduction to population theories and to sociological research on population growth, distribution, and composition within a world context. Malthusian theory and its critics will receive special attention, as will population issues related to social and economic development. Problems of food production and distribution, agricultural development, and the environmental consequences of different farming systems will be analyzed in relation to population changes and the larger process of social change. Three meetings per week. Designed for sophomores and juniors.

337 Seminar in Cultural Sociology
4; not offered 2008-09

This seminar examines cultural dimensions of social processes and explores how cultural categories, symbols, and rituals are analyzed sociologically. Topics covered include: culture in everyday social interactions, identity and social status, culture and institutions, symbolic power, rituals and events, subcultures and countercultures, social change, mass media, and the arts. This course involves intensive reading and writing about classical and contemporary theoretical approaches to analyzing culture, as well as projects that involve innovative research methods in cultural sociology. *Prerequisite*: consent of instructor.

340 Economic Sociology
x, 4 **Mireles**

This seminar will provide an advanced exploration into the social bases of economic behavior in society. Three substantive areas will be covered in depth. The course opens with a unit on organizations where students will read classical, contemporary, and critical analyses of formal organizations in modern society. The second unit of the semester is focused on the interactions between organizations, or firms in the economic sense, and the broader sociopolitical contexts in which they are found. This includes classical political economics readings from Europe as well as more contemporary perspectives from the United States. Special emphasis will be placed on the rise of large capitalist firms in American society during the 19th and 20th centuries. The final unit of the course deals with the role of labor within the process of production in advanced industrial societies. We open with a discussion of labor and class conflict within industrial society. This is followed with an exploration of immigration and the contemporary American labor market. We close with a discussion on organized labor in capitalist systems of production. Distribution area: social science.

347 Complex Organizations
4; not offered 2008-09

This course is designed to provide the student with the theoretical concepts, practical methods, and historical background for the study of modern complex organizations. The focus will be on an analysis of the social conditions of organization from a variety of sociological perspectives — classical, critical, interactionist, functionalist, and poststructuralist — combining primary readings with critical discussions of each area's contributions and limitations. Basic issues examined include the origins and functions of bureaucratic management, technical rationality, role specialization, decisionmaking, and structures of administrative domination in contemporary society. Designed for juniors and seniors.

348 Technology and Society
4; not offered 2008-09

A critical approach to the social culture and history of technology. Topics vary, but may include the development of mass communications and war technologies, bioresearch, nanotechnologies, virtual systems, power generation, etc., and their impacts on social institutions and experience. A number of interdisciplinary materials will be used, ranging from technical, ethnographic, and historical studies, to literature, science fiction, and philosophy. Grading is based on performance within a range of options, which include papers, individual or group projects and presentations, artwork, journals, and experiments. Field trips to the Hanford reservation or other industrial sites in the region are planned at some point during the

semester.

349 Environmental Social Movements
x, 4 Norgaard

Why do social movements happen? Why do some social movements succeed in producing change while others fail? What are differences between environmental movements in the United States and other nations? How do different experiences across gender, race and class inform the emergence, goals and dynamics of environmental social movements? This course will use micro and macro sociological theory to study social change, reform and collective behavior using environmental movements and environmental backlash movements as case studies. We will bring both national and global focus to our study of collective action and social change. The course will be reading intensive. We will view and discuss films. Evaluation will be based on reading discussion, research papers and individual projects. This course is open to all students but previous course work in sociology or related topics is strongly advised.

350 Sociology of Hazards and Disasters
4; not offered 2008-09

This course analyzes the ways in which human communities prepare for, respond to, and bring about calamitous environmental change. Topics covered include the social/natural interface, the social construction of hazards, risk analysis, environmental justice issues, myths about human behavior in emergencies, preparedness and warning in disaster, the disaster cycle, sources of cooperation and conflict, informal and formal responses to disaster and hazards, and problems of prediction and control in chaotic natural and technological risk environments. Students will complete short papers and a semester research project.

353 Environmental Justice
4; not offered 2008-09

Ecological degradation from deforestation to declining salmon runs has human consequences: people lose jobs, face toxic exposure and are caught in the midst of conflicts over scarce resources. How does social inequality based on race, gender, class and nationality shape people's experience of environmental problems? The concepts of environmental racism and environmental justice represent the disproportionate exposure to environmental degradation faced by the poor, women, people of color and citizens of the South. This course will examine local and worldwide ecological problems from toxic exposure to global warming through the lenses of multiple inequalities. We will also study a variety of environmental justice movements. The course will consist of lectures, discussions, papers, films and an out-of-class project. Designed for junior and seniors. *Prerequisite:* instructor consent.

360 The Sociology of Everyday Life
4; not offered 2008-09

An introduction to the sociology of face-to-face interaction, communication, and the social construction of reality. Areas covered include symbolic interaction and dramaturgy, ethnomethodology, phenomenological sociology, and studies of habitus and social space. We will read sociological works by Erving Goffman, Pierre Bourdieu, Alfred Schutz and Harold Garfinkel, among others, as well as examine everyday life through popular media, film and literature. Evaluations are based upon completion of a journal, final paper, and participation in class. Intended for students with at least one previous course in sociology.

367 History of Sociological Theory
4, x Bogard

A critical examination, beginning with the Enlightenment and extending to the late 20th century, of important Western ideas concerning the nature of society and social interaction. Questions addressed include: How is social order possible? How and why do societies change? What is the role of science in sociology? Students will read a variety of primary and secondary sources, as well as works of literature illustrating theoretical concepts. Evaluation is based on the completion of three papers or projects and one group presentation. Two periods per week. Designed for junior and senior students in the social sciences or humanities; required of sociology majors.

368 Contemporary Theory
x, 4 Bogard

An in-depth examination of social theories after World War II. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, poststructuralism and postmodernism, symbolic interaction, phenomenological sociology, and feminism. Students will read a variety of primary texts. Seminar format; evaluation is based on a combination of student presentations and a final paper or project. Two periods per week. Designed for junior and senior students in the social sciences or humanities.

369 Social Stratification
x, 4 Mireles

An examination of the division of society into classes or strata which are arranged in a hierarchy of wealth, prestige, and power. This examination will include both theoretical and empirical studies and will focus primarily, although not exclusively, on modern industrial society. Three periods per week. Offered in alternate years. *Prerequisites*: prior sociology course. Distribution area: social sciences, alternative voices.

370 Educational Equality
4, x Kitchens

This course examines several sociological models of schooling and the ways in which these models explain the socializing functions played by schools, especially as they relate to the school's egalitarian mission in a democracy. Topics discussed will include the hidden curriculum; tracking and testing; teacher expectation; class, culture, and curriculum; and the effects of school funding. Specific attention will be paid to the ways students who differ by race and ethnicity, ability, gender, or class, for example, are affected by

the functions and structures of schooling. May be elected as Education 360.

381, 382 Independent Study
2, 2 Staff

Reading and/or research in an area of sociology of interest to the student, under the supervision of a faculty member. May be taken up to three times, for a maximum of six credits. *Prerequisite*: consent of instructor.

407, 408 Seminar
4; not offered 2008-09

Seminars in selected topics in sociology primarily for advanced students. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

490 Current Issues in Sociology
2, x Bogard (Coordinator)

Limited to, and required of senior sociology majors. Students will meet with the entire staff each week for discussions of and presentations on current sociological ideas and controversies. Must be taken the last fall semester in which the student is in residence. One period per week. *Prerequisite*: Sociology 117. *Pre- or corequisites*: Sociology 207 and Sociology 367.

492 Directed Research
x, 2 or 4 Janning and H. Kim (Coordinators)

A course in which the student conceptualizes, designs, and carries out a senior thesis. The major emphasis in this course will be upon the student's own individual thesis project, which may be completed under the supervision of any full-time member of the department. In addition, however, students also will be expected to participate in evaluations and critiques of the theses being written by the other senior majors in the course. Required of all senior sociology majors, with the exception of those completing an honors thesis. Must be taken the last spring semester in which the student is in residence. *Prerequisites*: Sociology 117, Sociology 207 and Sociology 367.

498 Honors Thesis
x, 2 or 4 Janning and H. Kim (Coordinators)

Designed to allow those students who qualify the opportunity to complete a senior thesis of honors-level quality. Requires application according to guidelines for honors in major study. Students enrolled in this course must also participate in and meet all requirements of the Sociology 492 seminar. Required of and limited to senior honors candidates in sociology. Must be taken the last spring semester in which the student is in residence. *Prerequisites*: Sociology 117, Sociology 207, Sociology 367, and admission to honors candidacy.