

# Sociology

*Chair:* Michelle Janning  
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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.

**Distribution:** Courses completed in sociology apply to the social sciences and cultural pluralism (selected courses) distribution areas, except for Sociology 208, which may also apply to quantitative analysis.

**Learning Goals:** Upon graduation, a student will be able to:

- **Major-Specific Areas of Knowledge**
  - Understand the discipline of sociology, describe how it differs from and is similar to other social sciences, describe how it contributes to a liberal arts understanding of social reality, define and apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to life. Understand the role of theory in sociology, define, compare, and contrast theoretical orientations, apply theory to social reality, show how theories reflect the historical context of the times and cultures in which they were developed. Define, give examples of, and demonstrate the relevance of culture, social change, socialization, stratification, social structure, institutions, and differences by race/ethnicity, gender, age, and class. Describe significance of variations by race, class, gender, and age, and know how to appropriately generalize or resist generalization across groups.
- **Accessing Academic Community/Resources**
  - Possess technical skills involved in retrieving information and data from the library and internet. Critically assess articles and books used in defining a body of knowledge.
- **Communication**
  - Critically and effectively communicate verbally and in written form.
- **Critical Thinking**
  - Think critically, move easily from recall analysis and application to synthesis and evaluation, identify underlying assumptions in theoretical and methodological orientations, show how patterns of thought and knowledge are directly influenced by political-economic social structures, present opposing viewpoints and alternative hypotheses on various issues.
- **Quantitative Skills**
  - Understand quantitative methods in sociology.
- **Research Experience**
  - Understand the role of evidence and qualitative and quantitative methods in sociology. Design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various decisions were made. Show an understanding and application of principles of ethical practice as a sociologist. Do social scientific writing that accurately conveys data findings.
- **Citizenship**
  - Develop attitudes and predispositions which contribute to effective and responsible leadership, citizenship, and self-growth.

**The Sociology major:** Sociology 117, 207, 367, 490, either 492 or 498; all additional work in sociology to make a minimum of 36 credits. In the final semester in residence, the student must pass a senior assessment consisting of an 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. No more than eight transfer credits may 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.

**110 Social Problems****Fall, Spring****Gougherty****4 credits**

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 United States, 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****Fall, Spring****Janning****4 credits**

A comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology, or the systematic study of human group behavior. With a balance between lectures and discussions, the course covers basic sociological theoretical and methodological perspectives, and topics that include socialization, structure, culture, ritual, institutions, inequalities, identities, and social relations. Through reading assignments, exams, papers, and oral presentations, emphasis is placed on integrating conceptual understanding of sociological issues with empirical analysis of familiar social settings. The course is 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. This course is open to first years, sophomores only, and others by consent.

**207 Social Research Methods****Fall****Farrington****4 credits**

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****Spring****Farrington****4 credits**

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. *Prerequisite:* Sociology 207 or consent of instructor.

**209 Sociology of Health and Illness****Not offered 2018-19****4 credits**

This course provides an introduction to the sociology of health and illness, also known as medical sociology. It examines the distribution and experience of health and illness, and explores how the health care system, health experiences, and health inequalities are shaped by social, cultural, political, and economic factors. The course will introduce sociological perspectives on health and disease, and focus on understanding illness trends and experiences in social and historical context. Topics covered include: the illness experience; doctor-patient relationships; hierarchies within the health care sector; the social construction of medicine; the impact of food, occupations, and

the environment on health; disparities in health outcomes and health care access; ethics in medicine; health social movements; and health care policy.

### **220 Latin@s in the United States**

**Fall**

**Mireles**

**4 credits**

This course provides an introduction to the social scientific study of Latina/os in American society. Major social, political, and economic trends will be discussed in historical and contemporary contexts. The course will focus on issues related to immigration and transnationalism, ethnicity and identity, gender and sexuality, and socioeconomic status and labor market participation. Course readings will focus primarily on the Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Mexican descent populations; however we will also consider other groups in the heterogeneous Latin@ community. Students will be evaluated on class participation, a midterm and final exam, and a short research paper.

### **229 Environmental Sociology**

**Spring**

**Cordner**

**4 credits**

How is the environment shaped by society, and how is society shaped by the environment? Who controls access to environmental resources, and who is impacted by environmental hazards? How is “nature” defined, and what role do societies have in that definition? This course addresses these and other questions, and provides an overview of the central debates in environmental sociology. We will explore current environmental topics from a sociological perspective, focusing on interactions between human societies and the natural environment. At the end of the course, students will be able to describe key theories in environmental sociology, explain how environmental sociologists look at issues like technological innovation and population stresses on resources, and apply these key theories to a variety of contemporary environmental problems. The course will include lectures, in-class discussions and assignments, papers, and applied research projects and exams.

### **230 Social Psychology**

**Fall**

**Gougherty**

**4 credits**

This course provides students with an introduction to the field of social psychology, specifically from the perspective of the discipline of sociology. It will point out how the sociological conception of social psychology is both similar to and different from the complementary psychological view, methodologically, theoretically and substantively. In addition to looking at the historical development of the discipline of social psychology during the 20th century, this course will focus upon some of its major emphases and subtopics at present: e.g., the cognitive processes which allow humans to perceive, organize and make general sense of the world in which we live; the development, internalization and social consequences of language, symbols and culture; the ways in which social reality is socially constructed by individuals and groups; the sources of and pressures toward conformity; sources of persuasion and influence in the social world; sources and manifestations of personal and group identity; social deviance, labeling and stigmatization; and the impact of gender, age, race and ethnicity upon basic social psychological phenomena. Emphasis in this class will be placed upon increasing awareness of oneself as a social being who both uses and is affected by others’ use of the social psychological processes, which we will discuss. A laboratory weekend is required of all students. *Prerequisite:* no fewer than three credits in sociology and/or psychology, or consent of instructor.

### **250 Latinos in US Politics and Society**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

This corequisite course to Politics/Sociology 318 enables students in that course to put their community-based research projects in critical context by examining the political and social experiences of Latinos in the United States. We read critical theories of race and ethnicity to explore the meaning of these concepts as well as the features and effects of racial and cultural forms of power. We consider how these types of power operate in the local and regional problems students are researching, and in turn gain critical insight on theory by considering these problems. We also place the contemporary circumstances of Latinos, especially those in our geographic region on which the research focuses, in historical perspective, with attention to the legacies of colonization, the uncertain position of Latinos in a predominantly Black/white racial order, and the politics of immigration reform. We also study how Latinos have

struggled to challenge domination and enhance democracy through labor movements, women's organizing, the Chicano Movement, electoral politics, and immigrant justice activism. May be elected as Politics 250. *Corequisite:* Politics 318 or Sociology 318.

### **257 Sociology of the Family**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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 coursework in sociology would be very helpful.

### **258 Gender and Society**

**Fall**

**Janning**

**4 credits**

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.

### **259 Sociology of Crime and Delinquency**

**Fall**

**Farrington**

**4 credits**

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 coursework in sociology would be very helpful.

### **267 Race and Ethnic Group Relations**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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.

### **269 The Sociology of Prisons and Punishment**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

This course will provide a sociological analysis of prisons in America and throughout the world. Specific topics to be covered include the history of imprisonment as a way of dealing with criminal offenders; the process by which persons become incarcerated in America; theoretical perspectives on imprisonment; the many different types of penal facilities which exist in our society; the impacts of prison upon the larger society; the internal dynamics of the prison institution; and alternatives to incarceration as a means of imprisonment. This course will be conducted as a large seminar, and all participants will be expected to complete a major analytical paper, and to present that paper to

the other members of the seminar. In-class lectures and discussion will be supplemented by visits to some of the prisons and jails which are located in eastern Washington and Oregon.

### **271 Asian Americans in Contemporary Society**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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.

### **278 Social Movements and Social Change**

**Spring**

**Mireles**

**4 credits**

This course provides an introduction to the sociological study of collective action and social change. The causes, trajectories, and outcomes of social movements will be analyzed from a macro- and microsociological perspective. The theoretical models presented stress political processes and organizational dynamics as well as the intersections of politics, culture, and identity. Case studies will be drawn primarily from liberal democratic societies. Course evaluation will be based on short paper presentations, a midterm, and final exam. This course is open to all students but previous coursework in sociology or a related field is strongly advised. Offered every other year.

### **279 Sociology of Education**

**Spring**

**Janning**

**4 credits**

A sociological investigation of education in society, including historical and comparative perspectives. Students will understand and apply fundamental social scientific theoretical and methodological approaches to studying education, with emphasis on early learning, K-12 education, and higher education. Topics include inequality, teacher/student/administrator experience, peer culture and cultural constructions of childhood and adolescence, learning abilities, school types, education reform, and intersections between education and other social institutions such as family, government, and media. Students will complete applied research projects and exams.

### **287 Sociology of the Body**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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 portrayals in the media and its interfaces with modern technology. Evaluations are based on a series of short papers and projects. Two 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**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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 credits**

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

**293 ST: Political Sociology: Power, Citizenship, and the State**

**Fall**

**Santana-Acuña**

**4 credits**

What is power and what forms can it take? What are nation states and why have they become the dominant form of ruling over people? Who elects our political representatives: markets or voters? Is democracy the best system of government? Are there viable alternatives to it? How is democracy achieved and what threats does it face in the Trump era? In an increasing globalized world, does it make sense to refer to citizens, states, and power in national terms? These are some of the questions we will analyze in this course, which reviews major approaches to political sociology through explorations of the following topics: state and nation formation, civil society, citizenship, democracy, elections, contentious politics, populism, terrorism, globalization, markets, media coverage, and the environment. A strong emphasis is put on historical analyses and empirical studies. As part of the final assignment and after reviewing the relevant literature, students will write an Op-Ed intended for large audiences (*The New York Times*, *Le Monde diplomatique*, *The Guardian*, and the like). The Op-Ed must address a theme of current political significance and in connection to one of the course's topics. Alternatively, students will be given the possibility of submitting an Op-Doc (a documentary Op-Ed). Distribution area: social sciences.

**293 ST: Sociology of Rock "n" Roll, 1968-2001**

**Spring**

**Farrington**

**4 credits**

This course builds upon the department's existing Sociology and History of Rock 'n' Roll class (Sociology 290), as it focuses upon important developments in (a) the musical form typically known as rock 'n' roll and (b) American popular culture more generally during the period 1968 – 2001. The major goal of this class will be to examine the intersections between (1) such important societal developments during this period as the latter stages of the Vietnam War; the Watergate scandal and the legitimacy crisis which it spawned; the experiences of African-Americans in this post-civil rights era; the rapidly-growing and increasingly important social movements focusing upon gender, the environment and sexual orientation; the Iran Crisis and other serious international tensions and conflicts; the objectives and consequences of the Reagan presidency; the fall of the Soviet Union and the "end" of the Cold War; and the 09/11 attack and other forms of terrorist threat facing the U.S., on the one hand, and (2) the many different forms of music which appeared and often flourished during this period – e.g., "classic rock," heavy metal, "progressive rock," disco, punk, rap/hip hop, new wave, MTV-inspired music video, country, "alternative rock," and "grunge," to name but a few. Particular attention will be paid both to the several distinct youth/alternative cultures which emerged in response to (and/or as part of) the musical developments of the day, as well as to the gradual acceptance and frequent commodification of various forms of rock music into conventional economic and cultural systems. The course will subject the distinctive historical events and conditions in the United States that shaped and were associated with these musical genres during the period under investigation to theoretical analysis from a variety of sociological perspectives, including social conflict and critical theories, feminist theory and postmodernism. Final grades will be based upon exams, one or more short papers, a major class project or term paper, and class discussion. This class is open to all students, including those who have taken Sociology 290. Distribution area: social sciences or cultural pluralism.

**294 ST: Childhood and Parenthood in Scandinavia**

**Summer 2019**

**Janning**

**3 credits**

In this three-week Crossroads course, offered in Copenhagen and Central Denmark, students will gain comparative understandings of childhood and parenthood in Scandinavia through a sociological lens, with a focus on political and historical contexts in which childhood and contemporary parenting roles in Scandinavia have emerged and

continue to be shaped. Topics covered by readings, lectures, site visits, research assignments, and class discussions include: comparative sociology; qualitative research methods and ethics; gender and parenting; the cultural construction of childhoods; immigration and families; the role of the marketplace in family consumption practices; education and schools; family policies; and material culture, design, and the public and private spatial geographies of childhoods and families. Included in the course are guest lectures from local scholars and practitioners, as well as field site visits and a multi-day visit to central Denmark to investigate rural childhoods and families. Student learning will be assessed via discussion participation/leading, reflection papers, site visit responses, and field research projects. Students will spend part of the course living with Danish families. Distribution area: social sciences or cultural pluralism. *Prerequisite:* Acceptance into the Crossroads Denmark Summer 2019 course. *Course fees and international airfare estimated will be announced in Fall 2018.*

### **318 Community-Based Research as Democratic Practice I**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

Students in this course design and carry out an original program of empirical research on a social or political problem affecting the local community, the state or the region. Projects typically contribute to Whitman's research on "The State of the State for Washington Latinos." This research is "community-based": students perform it in partnership with professionals from organizations outside the college. The research contributes something tangibly useful to these organizations. It also enables students to develop new independent research skills. Students typically work in research teams with peers and begin to write their reports collaboratively. The course also prepares students to communicate publicly about their research findings and recommendations. In all these ways, the research provides a concrete experience in the practices of democracy. May be elected as Politics 318. *Corequisite:* Politics 250 or Sociology 250.

### **329 Environmental Health**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

Environmental health issues are inherently interdisciplinary. This seminar-style course will examine how the natural, built, and social environments impact human and environmental health outcomes. The course will draw on research articles, theoretical discussions, and empirical examples from fields including toxicology, exposure science, environmental chemistry, epidemiology, sociology, history, policy studies, and fiction. Particular attention will be paid to the use of science to develop regulation, the role of social movements in identifying environmental health problems, and inequalities associated with environmental exposures. This course will be reading, discussion, and writing intensive. May be elected as Environmental Studies 329, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 329 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisites:* one 100-level Sociology course.

### **337 Seminar in Cultural Sociology**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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.

### **341 The Rhetoric of Hip Hop**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

This course critically explores the impact and influence of hip-hop music and culture on American popular culture, political and social activism, and the global marketplace. The course is designed to introduce students to the history, analysis, and criticism of the messages disseminated through hip-hop culture, its various genres, business models, lyrics, and videos. We will examine the political and artistic foundations of hip-hop as rhetorical modes of communication and the issues presented by the cultural phenomenon including its relationship to issues of race, violence, and gender. We will look at the musical, visual, lyrical, and aesthetic manifestations of hip-hop over the past thirty-five years and their impact on socio-political culture, gender, and race. We will also look at specific cultural aesthetics, discourses, and practices that have given rise to hip-hop's various rhetorical forms. In short, we will ask: what are the discursive boundaries, limits, and possibilities of something we can call "hip-hop"? In doing so, we hope to gain a better understanding of hip-hop as artistic expression and the discursive impact that this phenomenon has had on a generation. Course requirements will include class discussion, a final paper with an oral presentation, and weekly blog posts and/or discussion prompts. May be elected as Rhetoric Studies 341.

### **344 The Rhetoric of Social Protest: Exploring the Arab Spring**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

This course uses a number of moments of social protest throughout the Middle East to introduce students to theories and the practice of mass persuasion, propaganda, public advocacy, and social activism. Theories are illustrated through examination of a set of case studies (e.g., Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and more). By studying the rhetoric(s) of social protest in the context of the Middle East moment now commonly referred to as the "Arab Spring," this course examines how collective identification is created, and how groups are motivated to act in concert, particularly in contexts where protest is geared to alleviate injustice in a global context. May be elected as Rhetoric Studies 360. May be taken for credit toward the Race and Ethnic Studies major.

### **348 Technology and Society**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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**

**Not offered 2018-19**

**4 credits**

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. Open to declared sociology and environmental studies majors and others by consent of instructor.

### **353 Environmental Justice**

**Spring**

**Cordner**

**4 credits**

How are environmental problems experienced differently according to race, gender, class and nationality? What do we learn about the meaning of gender, race, class and nationality by studying the patterns of environmental exposure of different groups? Environmental justice is one of the most important and active sites of environmental scholarship and activism in our country today. This course integrates perspectives and questions from sciences, humanities and social sciences through the examination of a series of case studies of environmental injustice in the United States and worldwide. Biology and chemistry figure centrally in links between environmental contaminants and human health. Systematic inequalities in exposure and access to resources and decision-making raise moral and ethical questions. Legal and policy lessons emerge as we examine the mechanisms social actors employ in contesting their circumstances. This course will be reading, discussion and research intensive. May be elected as Environmental Studies 353, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 353 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisite:* one 100-level Sociology course.

### **360 The Sociology of Everyday Life**

**Spring**

**Gougherty**

**4 credits**

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**

**Fall**

**Santana-Acuña**

**4 credits**

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 Social Theory: A Textual and Visual Approach**

**Spring**

**Santana-Acuña**

**4 credits**

Using a hands-on approach, this course introduces students to key thinkers, ideas, concepts, and concerns that are part of contemporary social theory since World War II. This course acknowledges the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary social theory. Students will be exposed to theories in the following disciplines: sociology, history, anthropology, economics, political science, and philosophy; and in the following subfields: cultural analysis, gender and feminism, race and ethnicity, global studies, post-colonialism, science studies, environmental studies, and post-humanism. Along with close textual analysis, taking advantage of on-line visual materials, students will also watch theorists at work in lectures, interviews, and debates.

### **369 Social Stratification**

**Spring**

**Mireles**

**4 credits**

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. *Prerequisite:* prior sociology course.

**381, 382 Independent Study****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-4 credits**

Reading and/or research in an area of sociology of interest to the student, under the supervision of a faculty member. A maximum of six credits may count towards the major. Default of standard grading but can be graded credit/no credit if and when agreed upon by the professor and student, however, courses graded credit/no credit cannot count towards the major. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

**393 Special Topics in Sociology: Upper Level****1-4 credits**

An advanced course designed to review selected topics in sociology through lectures, seminars, or group research projects. Any current offerings follow.

**407, 408 Seminar****4 credits**

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

**490 Current Issues in Sociology****Fall****Farrington, Gougherty, Janning, Mireles Santana-Acuña****2 credits**

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 367.

**492 Thesis****Spring****Cordner, Farrington, Gougherty, Janning, Mireles Santana-Acuña****2 or 4 credits**

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, 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. Sociology majors must sign up for four credits. Sociology-Environmental Studies majors should sign up for two credits in Sociology 492 and two credits in Environmental Studies 488, for a total of four credits. *Prerequisites:* Sociology 117, 207 and 367.

**498 Honors Thesis****Spring****Cordner, Farrington, Gougherty, Janning, Mireles, Santana-Acuña****2 or 4 credits**

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 also must 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. Sociology majors must sign up for four credits. Sociology-Environmental Studies majors who are eligible for honors should sign up for two credits in Sociology 498 and two credits in Environmental Studies 498, for a total of four credits. *Prerequisites:* Sociology 117, 207, 367, and admission to honors candidacy.