

Sociology

Chair: Michelle Janning

Alissa Cordner

Keith Farrington

Mathew Gougherty

Helen Kim

Gilbert Mireles

Alvaro Santana-Acuña (on Sabbatical, Spring 2020)

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.

Total credits required to complete a Sociology major: 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.

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

- Understand the discipline of sociology, including foundational concepts such as the sociological imagination, social inequality, stratification, social change, culture, structure, institutions, identity, interactions, and the importance of place and natural environment in social relations.
- Describe, effectively apply, and engage basic theories or theoretical orientations in at least one area of sociological inquiry.
- Employ various sociological research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, to ethically investigate sociological questions.
- Identify underlying assumptions, effectively apply, and critically engage sociological work that uses different theoretical and methodological approaches.
- Connect sociological questions with appropriate theories and methods in research.
- Critically and effectively communicate verbally and in written form according to professional standards in sociology.
- Understand both the importance of public and applied sociology and the individual student's role in civic engagement using a sociological lens.

The Sociology major: Sociology 117, 207, 251, 490, either 492 or 498; and additional work in sociology to make a minimum of 36 credits. Students must take at least one 300-level course in sociology, excluding Independent Studies or courses taken off campus, to fulfill major requirements. Students complete a senior thesis. 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.

Honors in the major: Students do not apply for honors. Honors in Major Study will be conferred to students who: 1) receive an A- or higher in Senior Thesis (Soc 492), 2) pass the senior assessment with distinction; and 3) attain a 3.30 cumulative gpa and a 3.50 major gpa by graduation. The department will notify the Registrar's Office of students attaining Honors in Major Study by the third week in April for spring honors thesis candidates, and students' registration will then be changed from Senior Thesis to Honors Thesis (Soc 498). An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day.

The Sociology minor: Sociology 117, 207, 251; 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.

Course levels: 200-level courses are designed to introduce students to subfields in sociology. 300-level courses include: more depth and specificity; seminar-style pedagogies; smaller class size; more intensity in reading assignments; deeper engagement with, and application of, theories and methods in sociology; greater emphasis on written and/or oral communication; and an emphasis on thesis preparation. Most 200-level courses in sociology do

not have prerequisites. For 300-level courses, the prerequisite includes at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

110 Social Problems

Not offered 2019-20

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 globally, and analyzes the structure and culture of this society, in the attempt to determine how and why these problems are produced and sustained.

117 Principles of Sociology

Fall, Spring Fall: Mireles, Gougherty; Spring: Janning

4 credits

Principles of Sociology is 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 theories and quantitative and qualitative methodological perspectives. Course topics include historical foundations of the discipline, social interaction, socialization, structure, culture, groups and networks, applied sociology, inequalities, globalization, and the relationship between humans and the built and natural environments. Student work includes reading assignments, exams, papers, and an empirical research project that entails research design, data collection and analysis, oral and written presentation of findings, and application of a sociological theory and past empirical research to the findings. Required of all majors; should be taken as early in the student's program as possible. This course is open to first years and sophomores only, and others by consent of instructor.

207 Social Research Methods

Fall

Cordner

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. *Co-requisite:* Sociology 207L

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

Spring

Cordner

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.

211 Community-Based Sociology

Fall

Janning

2 or 4 credits

Community-Based Sociology is designed for any student interested in combining an ongoing or new local paid or unpaid community placement with sociological investigation into the topics central to the placement, to the placement's interactional and group-level organizational dynamics, and to the overarching connection between social inquiry and its application in local organizations and/or projects. Professor-approved placements can be located in non-profit, for-profit, educational, governmental, human service, or other similar community settings in the Walla Walla Valley. Topics for placements can connect to fields in social sciences, humanities, arts, and/or sciences, and placements may be arranged using existing College resources or by the student and professor. Readings, lectures, and discussions cover epistemological, political, and conceptual overlaps and differences between traditional, public, applied, and other forms of community-based sociology, as well as issues surrounding reciprocity and ethics in the relationship between academic inquiry and on-the-ground work in the community. Students who take the class must have an arranged placement by the second week of classes, and must spend at least one hour per week in the placement. Placements must be concurrent with the semester the course is taken. Student work includes readings, reflective writing about the experience, class meetings (which includes discussion and presentation), responses to readings, and a project that integrates sociological investigation with the placement experience.

212 Political Sociology

Not offered 2019-20

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 current 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 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.

220 Latin@s in the United States

Not offered 2019-20

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.

250 Latinos in US Politics and Society

Not offered 2019-20

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.

251 Social Theory

Fall

Santana-Acuña

4 credits

This course introduces students to major thinkers, ideas, concepts, and debates that are part of the trajectory of social theory from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. The course also addresses the question of how social theories relate to the context in which they are produced and how they can be put in practice to help us explain social issues. Required of sociology majors and minors. Formally Sociology 367-may not repeated if taken as 367.

257 Sociology of the Family

Not offered 2019-20

4 credits

This course examines contemporary and historical families in the U.S. and globally through a sociological lens. Simultaneously a public and private entity, the family has long been considered by many to be the critical building block and pivotal institution in society, but over the course of many generations and in countless cultures, the concept of family itself has been defined and redefined. Students will learn about changing families as they relate to growing lifespans, globalization, shifts in paid work experiences, changing religious and political perspectives, technological changes, shifting media representations, and innovative lifestyles and dwelling design. Upon completion of the course, students will demonstrate an understanding of, and connection between, topics such as: family theories, research methods used to study families, love and sex, courtship, cohabitation, care work, reproduction, parenting, childhood, paid work and family boundaries, violence, break-up/divorce, family policy, stepfamilies, aging, home design, and more. Through course readings, written assignments, class discussions, and

exams, students will explore how race, social class, gender, age, and sexual orientation intersect and shape processes of inequalities, family formation, intimacy, and decisions about various family life stages.

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

Fall

H. Kim

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

Spring

Farrington

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 2019-20

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-, meso-, 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 participation, a course term paper, a midterm, and final exam. This course is open to all students but previous coursework in sociology or a related field is strongly advised.

279 Sociology of Education**Not offered 2019-20****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 2019-20****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.

290 The Sociology and History of Rock 'n' Roll**Fall****Farrington****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: Sociology and History of Rock 'n' Roll II**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: Defining Ability and Developing Community

Fall

Janning

1 credit

This course offers Whitman College students and Walla Walla Valley adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are ineligible to attend "traditional colleges" the opportunity to share and learn together about community, inclusion, and ability using a sociological lens. Half of the students will be Whitman students; half will be local adults recruited via the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network. Class meetings will occur on- and off-campus. Focus will be on the daily lived experiences of people whose experiences vary depending on classifications associated with intellectual and developmental ability. The course will include collaborative learning, field trips to local work and living places of Walla Walla residents with I/DD, guest speakers, and readings, discussions, and reflection projects on how community, citizenship, and ability come to be collectively defined. Additional topics include disability policy, organizational sociology, ethics, funding, mapping local resources for adults with disabilities, and exploration into how regional innovative programs such as Washington State University's ROAR Program operate. The course components that involve local residents will be co-facilitated by a member or members of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network. A portion of the course, 25% or less, will involve Whitman students only; this portion includes course orientation and debriefing. Distribution area: social sciences.

318 Community-Based Research as Democratic Practice I

Not offered 2019-20

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 2019-20****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:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

337 Seminar in Cultural Sociology**Spring****Gougherty****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:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

340 Economic Sociology**Not offered 2019-20****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 different forms of labor in advanced industrial societies. Course evaluation will be based on participation, a course term paper, a midterm, and final exam. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

353 Environmental Justice**Fall****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:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

360 The Sociology of Everyday Life**Not offered 2019-20****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, qualitative research methods, and studies of habitus and social space. We will examine everyday life through popular media, observation, film, and literature. Evaluations are based upon student written work, projects final paper, and participation in class. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

368 Contemporary Social Theory: A Textual and Visual Approach**Not offered 2019-20****4 credits**

Using a hands-on approach, this course introduces students to key thinkers, ideas, concepts, and debates that are part of contemporary social theory from World War II to the present. This course acknowledges the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary social theory. Students are 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, students will also watch theorists at work in lectures, interviews, and debates. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

369 Social Stratification**Spring****Mireles****4 credits**

This course provides an advanced introduction to the study of structured inequality in late industrial, liberal democratic societies. This includes a look at the ways in which economic position, social prestige, and political resources affect individual life chances in society. Specific topics covered include classical approaches to social inequality, social mobility, networks and social capital, class and culture, and educational systems and social mobility. In addition, we review ascriptive factors such as race and gender and their impact on labor market participation and inequality. Student evaluation will be based on class participation, three written seminar papers and presentations, and a midterm and final exam. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

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 four 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:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology and 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. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

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****Staff****4 credits**

Limited to, and required of, senior sociology majors. The course meets in a seminar format with all available sociology faculty. Students will demonstrate advanced understanding and application of the sociology major learning goals through discussions of recent research in the field. Students will also make significant progress

towards the writing of their thesis and preparation for their oral defense. Must be taken the last fall semester in which the student is in residence. *Prerequisite:* Sociology 117. *Pre- or corequisites:* Sociology 207 and 251.

492 Thesis

Spring

Staff

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. 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 251.

498 Honors Thesis

Spring

Staff

2 or 4 credits

Students register for Sociology 492, not for Sociology 498. The registration will be changed from Sociology 492 to 498 for those students who attain honors in Sociology. Designed to allow those students who qualify the opportunity to complete a senior thesis of honors-level quality. 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 492 and two credits in Environmental Studies 488, for a total of four credits and then those who receive honors are switched by the registrar into Sociology 498 and Environmental Studies 498 on their registration. *Prerequisites:* Sociology 117, 207, and 251.