The discipline of sociology explores the nature, structure, and dynamics of social life, and also its causes and consequences for the world. With this broad mandate, sociology encompasses a diversity of substantive interests, methodological approaches, and theoretical orientations. Sociologists study diverse social phenomena ranging from online conversations, friendship, and families to neighborhoods, governments, and global markets. They study cities and communities, inequality, social mobility and social class, patterns of population change and migration, social identities such as race, class, and gender, ethnic relations and social conflict, social media and digital interaction, and social dimensions of sex, health, business, education, law, politics, religion, and science. Sociologists study the emergence, stabilization, disintegration, and wide-ranging implications of these social institutions, behaviors, and meanings. Methodologies of the field range from ethnography, interviews, and historical research to surveys, computational modeling, and big data analysis.

The University of Chicago's sociology department was the first in the United States, and it stewards the American Journal of Sociology, the discipline's longest running sociology journal. Chicago sociology builds on these legacies by continuing to sponsor pathbreaking research. Chicago training in sociology confers deep understanding of social organization and human relations, along with skill in drawing inferences from data, which has made it attractive for students considering careers in business, social media, data science, education, law, marketing, medicine, journalism, social work, politics, public administration, and urban planning. Chicago's sociology education forms an excellent basis for specialized graduate work and affords entry to careers in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as into business enterprises, private foundations, and research institutes. Chicago's sociology program provides a preeminent foundation for students considering careers in advanced research and university teaching. The program is designed to meet the needs of diverse students, and students declare a student-designed specialty that reflects their course work and BA thesis research, such as social policy or social analytics.

**Program Requirements**

Students pursuing a BA degree in sociology are expected to complete the following requirements.

All required sociology courses are offered annually, and students should inquire directly of the director of undergraduate studies if they need to know when a course will be offered in the next academic year.

**A. Social Theory**

Two required courses acquaint students with some of the fundamental problems and analytic perspectives of the field of sociology.

**SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change.** The central objective of this course is to introduce students to the sociological study of individuals in society—how individual actions are shaped by their position in society, while contributing to its structure and change. We focus on sociological approaches to American society, its position in the international system, and principal dimensions including race and ethnicity, age, gender, and social class.

**SOCI 20005 Sociological Theory.** Drawing on the classics as well as on contemporary works in sociological theory, this course raises questions about the nature of sociological theory and its relation to both empirical research and sociological inquiry. Authors include Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Dewey, Parsons, and Merton.

With the approval of the undergraduate program director, students may use other courses toward this requirement.

**B. Methodology**

Students are required to take at least one of the following methodology courses.

**SOCI 20001 Sociological Methods.** This course introduces the philosophy and practice of social research. It explores questions of causality in social research and the limits of knowledge. It then covers the basic practices that are components of all methods of social research through an in-depth examination of interviews, ethnography, surveys, and archival, online, and computational research. Students spend the quarter working on a series of assignments that culminate in a research proposal for the BA thesis.

**SOCI 20140 Qualitative Field Methods.** This course introduces techniques and approaches to ethnographic field research. Emphasis is placed on quality of attention and awareness of perspective as foundational aspects of the craft. Students conduct research at a site, compose and share field notes, and produce a final paper distilling sociological insight from fieldwork.

**C. Statistics**

Students must take the following statistics requirement.

**SOCI 20004 Statistical Methods of Research.** This required course provides a comprehensive introduction to widely used quantitative methods in sociology and related social sciences. Topics include analysis of variance
and multiple regression, tools used often by practicing social scientists. Substitutes for this course are STAT 20000 Elementary Statistics or higher. Students with AP examination credit for Statistics may count it toward this requirement, although we encourage such students to take an additional social science statistics course.

D. Additional Courses

Students must take seven additional courses in sociology or related fields, and at least four of these must be in sociology. They may be drawn from any of the 20000-level courses in sociology and, after the student completes SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change, from any 30000-level courses in sociology that have not been cross listed with undergraduate course numbers. Students may also count graduate courses (e.g., 40000-level or higher) in which they may enroll with permission of course instructors toward this requirement.

Courses outside of sociology must be approved by the undergraduate program director. Students must submit the College’s General Petition Form (https://college.uchicago.edu/advising/forms-and-petitions/) for review. With a few exceptions, courses offered in the Division of the Social Sciences are accepted. Other courses with significant social science content or special relevance to a student’s BA thesis may also be accepted.

Area of Specialization. At least three of the additional courses in sociology or related fields, outlined above, must comprise a self-defined area of specialization. Students will declare a specialization which reflects an emphasis of their course work and BA thesis research.

Students are encouraged to consider their specialization from the time that they enter the program in order to guide their selection of courses and prepare them for the substantial research project of the BA thesis. Students formally propose their specialization at the start of their penultimate quarter of residence (ordinarily, this will be due in January of the student’s fourth year). The proposal should include a theme with three (or more) courses in sociology or related fields that students have completed or are completing within that domain. These proposals are to be submitted on the College’s General Petition Form (https://college.uchicago.edu/advising/forms-and-petitions/) and must be approved by the undergraduate program director. Some examples of specializations might be:

- **Urban Studies** (e.g., SOCI 20215 Urban Health, SOCI 20219 Urban Ethnography, SOCI 20221 Crime and the City)
- **Social Policy** (e.g., SOCI 20192 The Effects of Schooling, PBPL 22300 Policy Implementation)
- **Gender and Sexuality** (e.g., SOCI 20107 Sociology of Human Sexuality, SOCI 20175 The Sociology of Deviant Behavior, GNSE 10310 Theories of Gender and Sexuality)
- **Organizations** (e.g., SOCI 20101 Organizational Analysis, PLSC 27500 Organizational Decision Making, ECON 28000 Industrial Organization)
- **Social Analytics** (e.g., SOCI 20157 Mathematical Models, SOCI 20209 Culture and Social Networks, STAT 22600 Analysis of Categorical Data)
- **Demography** (e.g., SOCI 28062 American Families: Inequality and Change, SOCI 20103 Social Stratification)

E. BA Thesis

During their fourth year, students majoring in sociology are expected to complete an original project of sociological inquiry on a topic of their choice, culminating in a final paper from twenty to forty pages in length. The project is an independent research project in which questions are formulated and data are collected and analyzed by the student. Recent projects have included studies of emerging forms of social interaction on the Internet, conflict and safety in urban Chicago neighborhoods, immigration and national identity in Germany and Guatemala, processes of gendering in the workplace, homosexuality and AIDS in South Africa, church leadership transition among Korean immigrants, the power of public rhetoric in public housing, role models among Mexican American youth, gender roles in families of graduate students, peer pressure and teenage pregnancy, and attitudes toward immigration.

The senior project is written under the guidance of an assigned preceptor from the department and a faculty member that students select during Spring Quarter of SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar. After a faculty member agrees to advise a student’s thesis, the student will have the faculty member sign a hard copy of the BA Thesis Faculty Adviser Consent Form available for printing at sociology.uchicago.edu/sites/sociology.uchicago.edu/files/AdvisorConsentForm_0.pdf, which is to be turned in to the Department of Sociology office. Students may register for additional reading courses (SOCI 29997 Readings in Sociology); however, only two sociology reading/research courses can be counted toward courses required for the sociology major.

**BA Seminar.** The senior project is researched, discussed, and written in the context of SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar, which is a required yearlong course. **Students are required to attend this senior seminar in Spring Quarter of their third year and in the Autumn and Winter Quarters of their fourth year, but they must register for the seminar in only one of the three terms.** Students who plan to study abroad during any of these quarters must still participate in the seminar by completing required assignments and submitting them online and on time. The completed thesis is submitted during Spring Quarter of their fourth year. Students graduating in a quarter
other than Spring Quarter must turn in their theses by Friday of seventh week of their final quarter. When circumstances justify it, the department may set individual deadlines and procedures.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

Two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20002</td>
<td>Social Structure and Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20005</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or approved substitute

One of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20001</td>
<td>Sociological Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20140</td>
<td>Qualitative Field Methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCI 20004   Statistical Methods of Research **

Three approved courses in an area of specialization *

Four additional courses in sociology or related fields *

SOCI 29998   Sociology BA Thesis Seminar

** Total Units 1200

* No more than three courses from outside sociology and no more than two reading and research courses may be used toward the major. Students must submit the College’s General Petition Form (https://college.uchicago.edu/advising/forms-and-petitions/) for approval of courses outside sociology. See “Additional Courses” section for details.

** May substitute STAT 20000 or higher

**GRADING**

All courses required for completion of the sociology program must be taken for quality grades (e.g., not P/F).

**HONORS**

If the student’s cumulative GPA is at or above 3.25 and the student’s GPA in the major is at or above 3.5, the student may be nominated for graduation with honors on the basis of the excellence of the thesis. The thesis must be based on substantial individual research conducted under the guidance of a faculty member, and it must be evaluated both by the student’s adviser and by the program chair at A- or A.

**ENTERING THE MAJOR**

No special application is required for admission to the sociology program, but students should discuss their plans with their College adviser prior to declaring the major. They must then declare their intention to major at my.uchicago.edu (http://my.uchicago.edu) and inform the Department of Sociology at sociology.uchicago.edu/content/majoring-sociology-intake-form/, which includes a short entry survey. Students may enter the program at any time upon completion of any social sciences general education sequence, but no later than the beginning of Spring Quarter in their third year.

Students are encouraged to complete the required introductory sociology courses (SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change and SOCI 20005 Sociological Theory) as early as possible, and to enroll in a required methodology course by Spring Quarter of their third year, the quarter in which students begin SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar.

**ADVISING**

Students should address technical questions regarding the program (e.g., required courses, petitions) to the undergraduate program director. During Spring Quarter of the third year, students will also select a faculty member to serve as adviser. Students may wish to contact their faculty adviser to address general questions regarding the discipline of sociology and to receive guidance in designing an individualized program of study and selecting a specialization.

**HANDBOOK**

Students interested in pursuing the BA degree in sociology are encouraged to read the brochure Undergraduate Program in Sociology, which is available in the Office of the Department of Sociology (SS 307).

**SOCIOLGY COURSES**

**SOCI 2000. Invitation to Sociology. 100 Units.**

What do sociologists do all day? This course introduces students to the vast terrain of contemporary sociology, including: culture, deviance, economic life, education, family, health and the body, politics, population, professions, race, science and knowledge, and sex/gender, employing institutionalization as a basic lens that leads sociology to have a somewhat different approach from other social sciences. Why an invitation? Unlike introductory courses that cover 10 topics in 10 weeks with an emphasis on foundational texts, students will get to know sociology by reading and analyzing a rotating selection of books and articles that exemplify the field today. Students will complete exercises and write-ups that link claims about the social world to evidence.
Throughout the quarter, class format takes a variety of forms, including lectures, informal presentations, student-led discussions, debates, and guest speakers.

Instructor(s): J. Martin Terms Offered: Spring

**SOCI 20001. Sociological Methods. 100 Units.**

This course introduces the philosophy and practice of social research. Working from the idea that the research process is fundamentally a critical dialogue, we begin by exploring questions of causality and the epistemology of social research. Then we turn to examine the basic practices that are a component of all methods of social research through an in-depth examination of interviews, ethnography, surveys, and archival research.

Assignments culminate in a research proposal for the BA thesis.

Instructor(s): R. Vargas Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Sociology

**SOCI 20002. Social Structure and Change. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to the main principles of sociological thought and research through an exploration of social action, social structures, social reproduction, and social transformation. These themes are explored through a range of sociological works addressing diverse substantive issues including but not restricted to social class, racialization, the construction of gender and sexuality, globalization and global capitalism.

Instructor(s): J. Go Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Sociology

**SOCI 20004. Statistical Methods of Research. 100 Units.**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to widely used quantitative methods in sociology and related social sciences. Topics include analysis of variance and multiple regression, considered as they are used by practicing social scientists.

Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Priority registration for Ugrad Sociology majors and Sociology PhD students. No prior instruction in statistical analysis is required. Others by consent of instructor.

Note(s): Students are expected to attend two lectures and one lab per week. Required of students who are majoring in Sociology

Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30004

**SOCI 20005. Sociological Theory. 100 Units.**

The course provides a basic introduction to modern sociological theory. Readings focus on classical texts by Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Polanyi, Foucault, Bourdieu, Goffman ending with an individually chosen (by each student) text by a theoretical writer from outside Europe or North America. Lectures provide a background history of modern social thought.

Instructor(s): J. Martin Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Sociology

**SOCI 20103. Social Stratification. 100 Units.**

Social stratification is the unequal distribution of the goods that members of a society value - earnings, income, authority, political power, status, prestige etc. This course introduces various sociological perspectives about stratification. We look at major patterns of inequality throughout human history, how they vary across countries, how they are formed and maintained, how they come to be seen as legitimate and desirable, and how they affect the lives of individuals within a society. The readings incorporate classical theoretical statements, contemporary debates, and recent empirical evidence. The information and ideas discussed in this course are critical for students who will go on in sociology and extremely useful for students who want to be informed about current social, economic, and political issues.

Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30103

**SOCI 20104. Urban Structure and Process. 100 Units.**

This course reviews competing theories of urban development, especially their ability to explain the changing nature of cities under the impact of advanced industrialism. Analysis includes a consideration of emerging metropolitan regions, the microstructure of local neighborhoods, and the limitations of the past American experience as a way of developing urban policy both in this country and elsewhere.

Instructor(s): M. Garrido Terms Offered: Spring. Not Offered in 2021/22

Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30104, ARCH 20104, CRES 20104, SOSC 25100, GEOG 22700, CHST 20104, ENST 20104, GEOG 32700

**SOCI 20106. Political Sociology. 100 Units.**

Political sociology explores how social processes shape outcomes within formal political institutions as well as the politics that occur in the family, civic associations, social networks, and social movements. This course surveys the emergence of the most historically significant forms of political ordering (particularly nation-states and empires); explores the patterns of participation, mobilization, and policy feedback’s within nation-states, both democratic and non-democratic; and considers how transnational politics and globalization may reorder political relations.

Instructor(s): E. Clemens Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Completion of the general education requirement in the social sciences
SOCI 20116. Global-Local Politics. 100 Units.
Globalizing and local forces are generating a new politics in the United States and around the world. This course explores this new politics by mapping its emerging elements: the rise of social issues, ethno-religious and regional attachments, environmentalism, gender and life-style identity issues, new social movements, transformed political parties and organized groups, and new efforts to mobilize individual citizens.
Instructor(s): T. Clark Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GEOG 30116, HMRT 20116, PBPL 27900, GEOG 20116, HMRT 30116, SOCI 30116, LLSO 20116

SOCI 20120. Urban Policy Analysis. 100 Units.
This course addresses the explanations available for varying patterns of policies that cities provide in terms of expenditures and service delivery. Topics include theoretical approaches and policy options, migration as a policy option, group theory, citizen preference theory, incrementalism, economic base influences, and an integrated model. Also examined are the New York fiscal crisis and taxpayer revolts, measuring citizen preferences, service delivery, and productivity.
Instructor(s): T. Clark Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 24800, SOCI 30120, GEOG 30120, GEOG 20120

SOCI 20122. Introduction to Population. 100 Units.
This course provides an introduction to the field of demography, which examines the growth and characteristics of human populations. It also provides an overview of our knowledge of three fundamental population processes: fertility, mortality, and migration. We cover marriage, cohabitation, marital disruption, aging, and population and environment. In each case we examine historical trends. We also discuss causes and consequences of recent trends in population growth, and the current demographic situation in developing and developed countries.
Instructor(s): L. Waite Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): 2nd through 4th year undergraduates only
Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 20122, GNSE 20120, ENST 20500

SOCI 20125. Rational Foundations of Social Theory. 100 Units.
This course introduces conceptual and analytical tools for the micro foundations of macro and intermediate-level social theories, taking as a basis the assumption of rational action. Those tools are then used to construct theories of power, social exchange, collective behavior, socialization, trust, norm, social decision making and justice, business organization, and family organization.
Instructor(s): K. Yamaguchi Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30125

SOCI 20140. Qualitative Field Methods. 100 Units.
This course introduces techniques of, and approaches to, ethnographic field research. We emphasize quality of attention and awareness of perspective as foundational aspects of the craft. Students conduct research at a site, compose and share field notes, and produce a final paper distilling sociological insight from the fieldwork.
Instructor(s): O. McRoberts Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20140, CHDV 20140

SOCI 20157. Mathematical Models. 100 Units.
This course examines mathematical models and related analyses of social action, emphasizing a rational-choice perspective. About half the lectures focus on models of collective action, power, and exchange as developed by Coleman, Bonacich, Marsden, and Yamaguchi. Then the course examines models of choice over the life course, including rational and social choice models of marriage, births, friendship networks, occupations, and divorce. Both behavioral and analytical models are surveyed.
Instructor(s): K. Yamaguchi Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30157

SOCI 20179. Labor Force and Employment. 100 Units.
This course introduces key concepts, methods, and sources of information for understanding the structure of work and the organization of workers in the United States and other industrialized nations. We survey social science approaches to answering key questions about work and employment, including: What is the labor force? What determines the supply of workers? How is work organized into jobs, occupations, careers, and industries? What, if anything, happened to unions? How much money do workers earn and why? What is the effect of work on health? How do workers and employers find each other? Who is unemployed? What are the employment effects of race, gender, ethnicity, and religion?
Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30179

SOCI 20192. The Effects of Schooling. 100 Units.
From at least the Renaissance until some time around the middle of the twentieth century, social class was the pre-eminent, generalized determinant of life chances in European and, eventually, American societies. Social class had great effect on one’s social standing; economic well-being; political power; access to knowledge; and even longevity, health, and height. In that time, there was hardly an aspect of life that was not profoundly
influenced by social class. In the ensuing period, the effects of social class have receded greatly, and perhaps have even vanished. In their place formal schooling has become the great generalized influence over who gets access to the desiderata of social life, including food, shelter, political power, and medical care. So it is that schooling is sociologically interesting for reasons that go well beyond education. The purpose of this course is to review what is known about the long-term effects of schooling.

Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Spring; Cancelled
Equivalent Course(s): EDSO 30192, SOCI 30192, EDSO 20192

SOCI 20233. Race in Contemporary American Society. 100 Units.

This survey course in the sociology of race offers a socio-historical investigation of race in American society. We will examine issues of race, ethnic and immigrant settlement in the United States. Also, we shall explore the classic and contemporary literature on race and inter-group dynamics. Our investigative tools will include an analysis of primary and secondary sources, multimedia materials, photographic images, and journaling. While our survey will be broad, we will treat Chicago and its environs as a case study to comprehend the racial, ethnic, and political challenges in the growth and development of a city.

Instructor(s): S. Hicks-Bartlett Terms Offered: Autumn; Spring, Autumn quarter offered at the Undergraduate level only and Spring offered at the Graduate level only
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30233, MAPS 30233

SOCI 20242. States, Markets, and Bodies. 100 Units.

An introduction to political economy, this course will introduce students to theories, concepts, and tools for studying relations between states and markets that affect the structure of power relationships. Taking a global approach, we will examine the different forms of state repression, the consequences of a neoliberal and decentralized global market, and its affects on individual people/workers. This course is motivated by three interrelated questions: (1) What is the appropriate role of the government in the economy? (2) How should states govern their citizens? (3) What is the role of the individuals who make up civil society?

Instructor(s): K. Hoang Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 20242

SOCI 20251. Trade, Development and Poverty in Mexico. 100 Units.

With a focus on the past two decades, this interdisciplinary course explores the impact of economic integration, urbanization, and migration on Mexico and, to a lesser extent, on the United States-in particular, working class communities of the Midwestern Rust Belt. The course will examine work and life in the borderland production centers; agriculture, poverty, and indigenous populations in rural Mexico; evolving trade and transnational ties (especially in people, food products and labor, and drugs) between the U.S. and Mexico; and trade, trade adjustment, and immigration policy.

Instructor(s): C. Broughton Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course is offered in alternate years.
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 24901, LACS 24901

SOCI 20252. Urban Innovation: Cultural Place Making and Scenescapes. 100 Units.

Activists from Balzac, Jane Jacobs, and others today seek to change the world using the arts. Ignored by most social science theories, these new cultural initiatives and policies are increasing globally. Urban planning and architecture policies, walking and parades, posters and demonstrations, new coffee shops and storefront churches reinforce selective development of specific cities and neighborhoods. These transform our everyday social environments into new types of scenes. They factor into crucial decisions, about where to work, to open a business, to found a political activist group, to live, what political causes to support, and more. The course reviews new case studies and comparative analyses from China to Chicago to Poland that detail these processes. Students are encouraged to explore one type of project.

Instructor(s): T. Clark Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 20252, SOCI 30252, ARCH 20252

SOCI 20253. Introduction to Spatial Data Science. 100 Units.

Spatial data science consists of a collection of concepts and methods drawn from both statistics and computer science that deal with accessing, manipulating, visualizing, exploring and reasoning about geographical data. The course introduces the types of spatial data relevant to social science inquiry and reviews a range of methods to explore these data. Topics covered include formal spatial data structures, geovisualization and visual analytics, rate smoothing, spatial autocorrelation, cluster detection and spatial data mining. An important aspect of the course is to learn and apply open source software tools, including R and GeoDa.

Instructor(s): L. Anselin Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): STAT 22000 (or equivalent); familiarity with GIS is helpful, but not necessary
Equivalent Course(s): MACS 54000, GEOG 30500, GEOG 20500, SOCI 30253, ENST 20510

SOCI 20264. Wealth. 100 Units.

Wealth is the value of a person’s accumulated possessions and financial assets. Wealth is more difficult for social researchers to measure than earnings and income, and wealthy people are notoriously uncooperative with efforts to study them and their assets. Further, wealth data conveys less information than income data about the lives of the middle- and lower-classes – who tend to have little or no wealth at all. However, information about wealth gives fundamentally important insight into the values, attitudes, behavior, consumption patterns, social standing, political power, health, happiness and yet more characteristics of individuals and population subgroups. This
course considers the causes and consequences of wealth accumulation for individuals, the social groups to which they belong, and the societies in which they dwell.

Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30264

SOCI 20282. Immigrant America. 100 Units.

Nearly 60 million immigrants have arrived in the U.S. in the past 50 years, mostly from Latin America and Asia, but also from Africa and the Middle-East. Today, a near-record 14% of the country’s population is foreign born compared with just 5% in 1965. These profound demographic changes raise critical questions: Why do immigrants come to the U.S.? What impact do they have on U.S. society? Are today’s immigrants fundamentally different from previous waves of immigrants? Are these immigrants assimilating to the U.S. or retaining their culture? Why do some immigrant groups appear to fare better than others? This course will expose students to the latest social science research on contemporary immigration to the United States. We will explore its origins, adaptation patterns, and long-term effects on American society.

Instructor(s): R. Flores Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20282

SOCI 20283. Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis. 100 Units.

This course provides an introduction and overview of how spatial thinking is translated into specific methods to handle geographic information and the statistical analysis of such information. This is not a course to learn a specific GIS software program, but the goal is to learn how to think about spatial aspects of research questions, as they pertain to how the data are collected, organized and transformed, and how these spatial aspects affect statistical methods. The focus is on research questions relevant in the social sciences, which inspires the selection of the particular methods that are covered. Examples include spatial data integration (spatial join), transformations between different spatial scales (overlay), the computation of “spatial” variables (distance, buffer, shortest path), geovisualization, visual analytics, and the assessment of spatial autocorrelation (the lack of independence among spatial variables). The methods will be illustrated by means of open source software such as QGIS and R.

Instructor(s): M. Kolak Terms Offered: Spring Summer 2021-22
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30283, ARCH 28702, GEOG 28702, ENST 28702, GEOG 38702

SOCI 20295. Morrissey's America: Contemporary Social Problems. 100 Units.

What are the most pressing social problems in the U.S.? What do we know about them and what can we do to address them? We will use the life and music of Morrissey, the controversial former frontman of The Smiths, as a lens through which to explore our country’s most critical social issues. An outspoken defender of animal rights and disaffected youth’s preeminent lyricist, Morrissey has also increasingly flirted with nationalist policies. As such, he embodies the tensions, complexities, and ambiguities around critical topics that characterize our time. Guided by sociological theory, we will examine the latest social science evidence on race, immigration, gender and sexuality, health, poverty, segregation, crime, and education as they are key sites in which social inequality is produced and reproduced today. Finally, we will discuss potential solutions to these problems.

Instructor(s): R. Flores Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 22295

SOCI 20502. Bi(l)ack to the Future: Racial Visions of Tomorrow. 100 Units.

Scholars, novelists, filmmakers and social movements alike often construct visions of the future through claims about what will happen, what could happen, or what should happen. Using a diverse array of sources, this course will look specifically at the kinds of racial futures that are anticipated, feared and hoped for. We will read sociological texts, examine the use of allegory and parables by historians and social scientists, look at the visions set forth by social movements, and dissect future-oriented films, visual art, poetry and fiction all toward understanding the sociology of race in the U.S.

Instructor(s): J. Bell Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20502

SOCI 20503. Sociology of Race and Racism. 100 Units.

This course is designed to help students begin to develop their own informed perspectives on American racial “problems” by introducing them to the ways that sociologists deal with race and racism in the US. We will begin by talking generally about the basic structure of racial formations in the contemporary US, the mechanisms by which they are reproduced, and possibilities for resistance and change. In the second part of the course, we will turn to the issue of popular representations of people of color in the US. We will look specifically at how African American, Asian American Latino and Native American women and men are portrayed in popular culture.

Instructor(s): J. Bell Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 12903

SOCI 20508. Working with Found Data: Library/Internet Research. 100 Units.

This course is an introduction to the methods involved in "research with found data:” that is, found material like manuscripts, books, journals, newspapers, ephemera, and government and institutional documents. (Such materials can be found both in print and on the Internet.) The course covers the essentials of project design, bibliography, location, access, critical reading, source evaluation, knowledge categorization and assembly, and records maintenance. The course is a methodological practicum organized around student projects. The texts are Thomas Mann’s Oxford Guide to Library Research and Andrew Abbott’s Digital Paper.
SOCI 20513. Beyond Hashtags: Social Movements in Digital Society. 100 Units.
In today’s global network society, the Internet permeates our lives, whether it be our jobs, politics, or relationships. You’re probably reading this course description online, and perhaps next you’ll check your email or social media accounts. Social movements, powerful drivers of social change, are no exception. Digital activism has transformed political and social protest over the past two decades, changing how events, protests, and movements are organized and generating alternative ways to build social movements. Students will receive an introduction to sociological perspectives on social movements and the Internet, and consider the influence of networked communication technologies on the mobilization of social movements throughout the globe, with particular emphasis on feminist, queer/trans, human rights, and racial equity movements.

Instructor(s): L. Janson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20514, GNSE 20514

SOCI 20514. The Sociology of Higher Education. 100 Units.
Why do consistent, differential education and economic outcomes exist in American society, and what role does higher education play as a change agent, equalizer, and/or reproducer of society’s inequalities? In this introductory course to key issues and debates in the sociology of education, students will explore theoretical and practical perspectives on social, scientific, economic, and political forces that shape approaches to higher education and its reform. Though the course focuses primarily on higher education in the US, we will also cover topics in elementary and secondary education in the US, as well as from an international comparative perspective. Students will conduct sociological inquiry-based projects, exploring questions related to these key topics, such as the “achievement gaps” in American higher education.

Instructor(s): L. Janson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20514, GNSE 20514

SOCI 20515. Virtual Ethnographic Field Research Methods. 100 Units.
“Virtual worlds are places of imagination that encompass practices of play, performance, creativity and ritual.” - Tom Boellstorff, from Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method This course is designed to provide students in the social sciences with a review of ethnographic research methods, exposure to major debates on ethnographic methods, opportunities to try their hand at practicing fieldwork virtually, and feedback on a proposed study that employs ethnographic methods. By way of analyzing and problematizing enduring oppositions associated with ethnographic fieldwork - field/home, insider/outsider, researcher/research subject, expert/novice, ‘being there’/removal - this seminar is a practicum in theoretically grounded and critically reflexive qualitative methods of research. By introducing students to participant observation and interviews in virtual worlds, ethics, data analysis and writing up, the course offers an opportunity to make sense of the current pandemic we’re all experiencing in real time. An emphasis will be placed on multimedia, digital, and virtual ethnography.

Terms Offered: Summer
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 31432, ANTH 21432, SOSC 20224, ENST 20224, SOSC 30224, GLST 26220

SOCI 20521. Sociology of urban planning: cities, territories, environments. 100 Units.
This course provides a high-intensity introduction to the sociology of urban planning practice under modern capitalism. Building upon urban sociology, planning theory and history as well as urban social science and environmental studies, we explore the emergence, development and continual transformation of urban planning in relation to changing configurations of capitalist urbanization, modern state power, sociopolitical insurgency and environmental crisis. Following an initial exploration of divergent conceptualizations of “planning” and “urbanization,” we investigate the changing sites and targets of planning; struggles regarding the instruments, goals and constituencies of planning; the contradictory connections between planning and diverse configurations of power in modern society (including class, race, gender and sexuality); and the possibility that new forms of planning might help produce more socially just and environmentally sane forms of urbanization in the future.

Instructor(s): N. Brenner Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30521, ENST 20521, GEOG 20521

SOCI 20523. Digital Media & Social Life: Contemporary Methods. 100 Units.
Digital and networked media include forms and social phenomena such as memes, social media, live-streaming platforms, video games, virtual worlds, electronic literature, and online communities. What methods taken from the humanities and social sciences enable the study of these digital media forms and cultures? In order to model a series of methods, this course runs one shared media object (this term, the video game Stardew Valley) through a series of research methods, one per week, taken from the humanities (e.g., close reading, critical theory, response theory, and critical making) and social sciences (e.g., interviews, digital ethnography, discourse analysis, and quantitative analysis) methods. At the end of the course, students will compose a research paper or create a digital project that uses one or more of these methods to analyze a digital or networked media case of their choosing.

Instructor(s): K. Schilt Terms Offered: Winter
SOCI 20524. Social Survey Design and Public Opinion Research. 100 Units.
This course will introduce the science behind social surveys and public opinion research and provide an overview of different research methods (focus groups, polls, panels, and surveys) used for gathering and analyzing data about social attitudes and behaviors. Students will critically evaluate claims made based on social surveys and public opinion research, and will be prepared for further coursework on research design and analysis (e.g., psychometrics).
Instructor(s): K. Cagney Terms Offered: Winter

SOCI 20535. Activist Survival Kits: Feminism, Race, and the Politics of Movement Health. 100 Units.
What makes activism sustainable and accessible? Not just ideologically or politically, but physically, emotionally, and some would ask, spiritually? How do actors in progressive social justice movements enact care for movement survival? Conversely, when might care serve to depoliticize or otherwise undermine political action? Including the contested topics of burnout and self-care, questions of movement survival and activist sustainability touch on Marxist, Black, and Disabled feminisms, queer theory, the sociology of health and illness, critical theory, and other theoretical landscapes. This course takes as its starting points Sarah Ahmed’s concept of feminist “killjoy survival kits,” Black feminist epistemology, adrienne marie brown’s Pleasure Activism, and the sociology of lay health experiences. Ultimately, this course will analyze, theorize, and critique care in activism and social movements. At the same time, it will create space to discern what our own visions of sustainable, politically committed wellbeing look like.
Instructor(s): Allison Reed Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course counts as a Concepts course for GNSE majors
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 23132, CRES 23132

SOCI 20538. Language, Culture, and Education. 100 Units.
In this course, we will examine current theories and research about differential educational achievement in U.S. schools, including: (1) theories that focus on the characteristics of people (e.g., their biological makeup, their psychological characteristics, their human nature, their essential qualities), (2) theories that focus on the characteristics of groups and settings, (e.g., ethnic group culture, school culture), and (3) theories that examine how cultural processes mediate political-economic constraints and human action. Course discussion will focus on understanding the ways in which language and/or culture are conceptualized in these positions and their educational consequences, especially for low income and ethnic and linguistic minority students in the US.
Instructor(s): Lisa Rosen Terms Offered: Autumn Spring. Offered 2021-22
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 27215, CRES 23007, EDSO 23007, CHDV 23007

SOCI 20537. Gender, Health, and Medicine. 100 Units.
In this course, we will examine the way gender organizes health and medicine, as well as how the medical system and health practices create and organize gender. Using interdisciplinary research with a focus on sociological studies, we will interrogate the social, institutional, and biological links between gender and health. We will discuss inequalities in between women, men, and trans* individuals from different race, ethnic, and class backgrounds, using sociological research to understand why these inequalities and forms of difference emerge and are sustained. We will explore how modern Western medicine views male and female bodies and defines their health and illnesses accordingly. Students will complete two short research projects over the term in which they use different data sources (interviews and media content) to examine gendered perceptions of health, health behaviors, help-seeking behaviors, and experiences with medical institutions.
Instructor(s): R. Ewert Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 12109

SOCI 28093. Racialization and the Racial Project of the American Immigrant System. 100 Units.
This course examines how immigration law, changes in the American immigration system, and the notion of “illegality,” have shaped the racialization and “othering” of Asian and Latino immigrants in the United States. The course will begin by exploring the concepts of racialization and racial project, and then shift to examining the context of, and resulting racialization surrounding, major changes in U.S. immigration policy. Indeed, immigration law is shaped by the economic moment of the times and is often aligned with the long history of exploitation by American colonial and corporate capitalist interests. However, at the same time, immigration laws also serve to delineate the “worthiness” and “unworthiness” of different groups in the nation in question. We will study how this racialization has meaningful implications in the domains of migrant economic integration and cultural assimilation, the Census, as well as love and family. The course will cover several moments of exclusion and inclusion, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Bracero program, Japanese internment, as well as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (which provided amnesty for thousands of undocumented immigrants), DACA, as well as what racialization, illegality, and deportation look like today.
Instructor(s): Ilana Ventura Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 27546, CRES 27546

SOCI 28095. Introduction to Asian American Studies. 100 Units.
On May 6, 1882, the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first major federal legislation of its kind to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group. More than a century later, as the U.S. grappled with a deadly outbreak of COVID-19, President Donald Trump insisted upon referring to the virus as “Chinese,” reigniting historical and racialized anxieties of “Yellow Peril” and “Asian invasion,” even as Asians across the country
reported incidents of anti-Asian discrimination and violence. This course seeks to bridge these two moments by providing a critical examination of contemporary Asian American experience through the social, political, and historical contexts that come to bear upon it. Focusing on East and Southeast Asian communities, it will interrogate theories of race, class, and identity, alongside issues of immigration/migration, transnationalism, labor, citizenship, generational dissonance, and activism. Engaging a variety of historical events, social movements, racialized imaginaries, critical writings, and cultural representations, we will consider how Asian American history is vitally shaped by not only repression and assimilation, but also radicalism and innovation.

Instructor(s): Victoria Nguyen
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 20004, GLST 20004, ANTH 23608

SOCI 28906. Race, Ethnicity, and American Public Schools. 100 Units.
This seminar is designed to introduce students to recent trends in research about race and ethnicity in American public schools. Although there are no pre-requisites for enrollment, this is a reading-intensive course, and students will be asked to read one full book per week throughout the quarter (with the exception of weeks 1 and 10). In this discussion-based course, students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of scholars’ theoretical and methodological approaches to exploring how race and/or ethnicity shape and are shaped by the institutions of schooling. We will focus primarily on texts published in the past two decades in order to develop an understanding of the current landscape of the literature. For their final paper, students will evaluate the conceptualization and evaluation of a theme, concept, or theory across at least four texts from the course.

Instructor(s): Karlyn Gorski
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): EDSO 27547, CHDV 27547, CRES 27547, PBPL 27547

SOCI 28097. Introduction to Critical Race Studies: Historical, Global, and Intersectional Perspectives. 100 Units.
This discussion-based course offers an introduction to the core theoretical foundations of critical race studies, with an emphasis on historical, global, and intersectional approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. Critical race studies, which posits that race is endemic to society, is an interdisciplinary field of scholarship that calls us to address unequal relationships of power and domination by analyzing the historical and global construction, emergence, and consequences of race while remaining committed to justice and political action in pursuit of social change. Drawing on case studies from the Americas and elsewhere, this course aims to establish a foundation of key terms, theories, and ideas in the field as well as familiarize students with a broad survey of time and regions that challenge us to question how race has informed ideas about power, oppression, and liberation. We will read and discuss a variety of classic and contemporary texts from critical race theory, history, feminist studies, post-colonial studies, sociology, anthropology, and other disciplines. This course fulfills the CRES major requirement in theories of race/ethnicity, but is open to all undergraduates.

Instructor(s): Deirdre Lyons
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 19010, CRES 12200, GNSE 15200, LACS 13200, GLST 22200

SOCI 28098. Racial Consciousness and the Asian American Perspective. 100 Units.
What does it mean to be Asian American today? At once marginalized and woefully unspecific, Asian American identity seems to occupy a purgatorial status in the American racial imagination. How have Asian Americans been understood within, and how do they understand themselves within, White institutions, anti-Black hierarchies, and capitalist orders? And what are the cumulative psychic effects of their quotidian, uneventful, and often unspoken of racializations? This seminar examines how Asian American writers, artists, and thinkers reckon with in/visibility, ambiguity, and the “minor intensities” of Asian American life through stories, poetry, films, and visual art. We will engage in close reading and analysis of these materials, with an eye toward their specific social, historical, and political contexts as we read them alongside a range of critical theory on the politics of identity and subjectivity.

Instructor(s): Victoria Nguyen
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 27542, GLST 20004, ANTH 23608

SOCI 28099. Race, Ethnicity, and American Public Schools. 100 Units.
This required yearlong course is a forum for students who are majoring in sociology to present their BA papers. Students attend the seminar in Spring Quarter of their third year and in Autumn and Winter Quarters of their fourth year. They may enroll during any one of these quarters, but must attend all three. They submit a completed thesis during Spring Quarter of their fourth year. Students who are not graduating in June should participate in three quarters of the senior seminar in the twelve months before graduation. Students who plan to study abroad during Spring Quarter of their third year should consult with the Undergraduate Program Chair well in advance of their trip. For a general statement about the BA paper, students should obtain the brochure Undergraduate Program in Sociology in the departmental office.

Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open only to students who are majoring in sociology.
Note(s): Must be taken for a quality grade.