Program of Study

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.

SOCl 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.

SOCl 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.

SOCl 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.

SOCl 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.

SOCl 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 in the Class of 2019 and beyond are required to develop a specialization; students in the Classes of 2017 and 2018 may elect to do so.

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 Advisor 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 (SO CI 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: 200

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 20002</td>
<td>Social Structure and Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 20005</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
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or approved substitute

One of the following: 100

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 20001</td>
<td>Sociological Methods</td>
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<td>SOCI 20140</td>
<td>Qualitative Field Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 20004</td>
<td>Statistical Methods of Research **</td>
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Three approved courses in an area of specialization * 300

Four additional courses in sociology or related fields * 400

SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar 100

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](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](http://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*](https://college.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-program-in-sociology), which is available in the Office of the Department of Sociology (SS 307).

Sociology Courses

**SOCI 20000. 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 and J. Trinitapoli

Terms Offered: Spring. Not offered in 2019/2020
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.
The title of this course is traditional more than it is descriptively accurate. It should be called How to Think Sociologically. Rather than attempt to survey the state of the field as introductory courses typically do, this course advances a particular vision of the discipline. We will be reading authors that fundamentally inform this vision (not all of whom were sociologists proper), including Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Garfinkel, Goffman, Geertz, Levi-Strauss, Mauss, Bourdieu, and Fanon. We will learn how to identify properly sociological objects and how to engage in various modes of sociological analysis. We will discuss social facts, forms, types, and relations; the collective nature of social reality, social identities such as race and gender, and social class. We may even get to talk about social structure and change. The course has been designed to provide students majoring in sociology a more solid-although, again, a very particular-disciplinary foundation. The readings fill the gap between the classical sociology covered in the social science cores Self and Power and the contemporary sociology covered by other departmental offerings.
Instructor(s): M. Garrido Terms Offered: Winter
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): S. Raudenbush 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): K. Hoang Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in Sociology

SOCI 20101. Organizational Analysis. 100 Units.
This course is a systematic introduction to theoretical and empirical work on organizations broadly conceived (e.g., public and private economic organizations, governmental organizations, prisons, professional and voluntary associations, health-care organizations). Topics include intraorganizational questions about organizational goals and effectiveness, communication, authority, and decision making. Using recent developments in market, political economy, and neoinstitutional theories, we explore organizational change and interorganizational relationships for their implications in understanding social change in modern societies. Social network analysis will inform much of the discussion.
Instructor(s): E. Laumann Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 23000, SOCI 30101

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: Winter
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
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30104, GEOG 32700, SOSC 25100, CRES 20104, GEOG 22700
SOCI 20106. Political Sociology. 100 Units.
This course provides analytical perspectives on citizen preference theory, public choice, group theory, bureaucrats and state-centered theory, coalition theory, elite theories, and political culture. These competing analytical perspectives are assessed in considering middle-range theories and empirical studies on central themes of political sociology. Local, national, and cross-national analyses are explored. The course covers readings for the Sociology Ph.D Prelim exam in political sociology.
Instructor(s): E. Clemens Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Completion of the general education requirement in the social sciences
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30106, PBPL 23600, ENST 23500

SOCI 20107. Sociology of Human Sexuality. 100 Units.
After briefly reviewing several biological and psychological approaches to human sexuality as points of comparison, this course explores the sociological perspective on sexual conduct and its associated beliefs and consequences for individuals and society. Substantive topics include gender relations; life-course perspectives on sexual conduct in youth, adolescence, and adulthood; social epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections (including AIDS); sexual partner choice and turnover; and the incidence/prevalence of selected sexual practices. Network analytic approaches will be introduced.
Instructor(s): E. Laumann Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Introductory social sciences course
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30107, GNSE 27100

SOCI 20112. Applications of Hierarchical Linear Models. 100 Units.
A number of diverse methodological problems such as correlates of change, analysis of multi-level data, and certain aspects of meta-analysis share a common feature—a hierarchical structure. The hierarchical linear model offers a promising approach to analyzing data in these situations. This course will survey the methodological literature in this area, and demonstrate how the hierarchical linear model can be applied to a range of problems.
Instructor(s): S. Raudenbush Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Applied statistics at a level of multiple regression
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30112, EDSO 20112, EDSO 30112, PPHA 44650

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): LLSO 20116, HMRT 20116, HMRT 30116, PBPL 27900, GEOG 30116, GEOG 20116, SOCI 30116

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): GEOG 20120, PBPL 24800, GEOG 30120, SOCI 30120

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
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 20500, GNSE 20120, CHDV 20122

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: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30125
**SOCI 20126. Japanese Society: Functional/Cultural Explanations. 100 Units.**
The objective of this course is to provide an overview of social structural characteristics and the functioning of contemporary Japanese society by a juxtaposition of universalistic functional (or rational) explanations and particularistic cultural (and historical) explanations. As well become clear as complementary to each other. Substantively, the course primarily focuses on 1) the forms of social interaction and structure, 2) work organization and family, and 3) education, social inequality, and opportunity. The course also presents discussions of the extent to which Japan is "unique" among industrial societies. In covering a broad range of English-language literature on Japanese society, the course not only presents reviews and discussions of various alternative theoretical explanations of the characteristics of Japanese society, but also a profound opportunity to critically review and study selected sociological theories.

Instructor(s): K. Yamaguchi
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30126

**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 20175. The Sociology of Deviant Behavior. 100 Units.**
This course examines how distinctions between "normal" and "deviant" are created, and how these labels shift historically, culturally, and politically. We analyze the construction of social problems and moral panics (e.g., smoking, "satanic" daycares, obesity) to explore how various moral entrepreneurs shape what some sociologists call a "culture of fear." Additionally, we investigate the impact on individuals of being labeled "deviant" either voluntarily or involuntarily, as a way of illustrating how both social control and social change operate in society.

Instructor(s): K. Schilt
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 20175

**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
Equivalent Course(s): EDSO 20192, SOCI 30192, EDSO 30192

**SOCI 20203. Emotions and Culture, Paradigms of Theoretical and Empirical Analysis. 100 Units.**
The sociology of emotions is of increasing interest to contemporary societies. We believe now that even intelligence is dependent on emotions, and we find, in a variety of settings, that emotions and emotional energy directly influence situational and organization outcomes. The course gives an overview of the current state of the analysis of emotions in social science fields. Students will be asked to read, analyze, and discuss major works in the social studies of emotions in class, and to think about ways to apply emotional concepts in future research. Particular attention will go to analyzing the challenges for theorization and empirical specification.

Instructor(s): K. Knorr Cetina
Terms Offered: Autumn. Cancelled- Not Offered in 2019/2020
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25125, ANTH 35125, SOCI 30203
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): MAPS 30233, SOCI 30233

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: Winter
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): SOCI 30252

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

SOCI 20258. Maverick Markets: Cultural Economy and Cultural Finance. 100 Units.
What are the cultural dimensions of economic and financial institutions and financial action? What social variables influence and shape ‘real’ markets and market activities? If you are so smart, why are you rich? Is a question economists have been asked in the past. Why isn’t it easy to make money in financial areas even if one knows what economists know about markets, finance and the economy? And why, on the hand, is it so easy to get rich for some participants? Perhaps the answer is the real markets are complex social and cultural institutions which are quite different from organizations, administrations and the production side of the economy. The course provides an overview over social and cultural variables and patterns that play a role in economic behavior and specifically in financial markets. The readings examine the historical and structural embeddedness of economic action and institutions, the different constructions and interpretations of money, prices, and other dimensions of a market economy, and how a financial economy affects organizations, the art and other areas.
Instructor(s): K. Knorr Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30258, ANTH 25440, ANTH 35405

SOCI 20263. Human Migration. 100 Units.
At any moment, spatial location is a fixed, essential characteristic of people and the places they inhabit. Over time, individuals and groups of people change places. In the long run, the places themselves move in physical, social, economic and political space. These movements can be characterized by their origins and destinations, as intentional or accidental, forced or voluntary, individual or collective, within political borders (e.g. the farm-to-city migration of the 1940s in the U.S.), migration across political boundaries (e.g. “displacement” of pariah ethnicities after World War II), and by other criteria. All of these phenomena are aspects of migration This course reviews contemporary demographic research and theory concerning the nature of migration, and its extent, causes and consequences for individuals and collectivities. The demographic perspective absorbs a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, including those of psychology (e.g. individual decision-making), sociology (collective behavior, stratification, race and ethnicity), economics (rational behavior, macroeconomic conditions), and more.
Instructor(s): R. Stolzenberg Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30263
SOCI 20364. 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 20268. Health, Medicine, and Human Rights. 100 Units.
The World Health Organization, United Nations and other international bodies consider health a fundamental human right. At the same time, most countries around the world are characterized by profound inequalities in health and wellbeing. In this course, we leverage sociological and social scientific concepts through a human rights framework to understand how these inequalities in mental and physical health are perpetuated by the structure and culture of society, with an emphasis on U.S. society. We will also examine medicine as an institution with a problematic history of repeated human rights violations (in the U.S. and around the world) and explore how that history shapes the current practice of medicine, medical research, and relations between doctors and patients. Finally, we will explore how institutions provide (or fail to provide) equal access to healthcare, and how state understandings of the right to health influence the lives of individuals and communities.
Instructor(s): Mueller, Anna; Offidani-Bertrand, Carly Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): CHDV Distribution: B, C, D
Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 23440, HMRT 23440, HLTH 23440

SOCI 20269. Policing the City. 100 Units.
This course explores the historical origins, evolution, and current manifestations of policing the United States. Using a political sociological perspective, this course explores policing in ways that will provide broader lessons about societal issues of social control, social order, race, class, crime, social psychology, and politics. The course examines key issues in policing, such as police brutality, racial profiling, and the management of social protest. It also reviews the historical origins of the policy in order to understand that modern day policing issues is much more of a continuation of the past than most think. Reading and course material will be discussed in relation to current events.
Instructor(s): R. Vargas Terms Offered: Autumn

SOCI 20273. Urban Spatial Archaeology I. 100 Units.
Space and time are fundamental concepts in urban spatial science. In this course, students will gain substantive and technical knowledge on how to analyze space and time through the tools of urban spatial archaeology. Specifically, this course will introduce students to various historical data sources on Chicago and New Orleans to digitize, then conduct a spatial historical analysis of any topic of their choice. By taking a historical approach to the study of time and space, students will walk away from the course with (1) ways to conceptualize time and space when studying urban issues, and (2) skills for designing a project to empirically demonstrate the workings of time and space in the real world. At the end of this course, students will be expected to have produced a historical dataset for a research paper that will be completed in the next course sequence.
Instructor(s): R. Vargas Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GEOG 30500 and GEOG 38201
Equivalent Course(s): GEOG 30273, GEOG 20273, SOCI 30273

SOCI 20274. Urban Spatial Archaeology II. 100 Units.
This course builds off Urban Spatial Archaeology I, by focusing on more specific ways to apply the concepts of space and time to contemporary urban research issues. Students will also learn methods for analyzing the data they chose to digitize in the previous quarter, which will culminate in a research paper on a topic of their choosing. Students will walk away from this course with a deeper understanding of how researchers and policy makers think of space and time with respect to a particular urban issue. In addition, students will have produced a research paper and data visualization that would critique the ways researchers have traditionally conceptualized time and space.
Instructor(s): R. Vargas Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): SOCI 20273/30273 and GEOG 20273/30273
Equivalent Course(s): GEOG 20274, SOCI 30274; GEOG 30274

SOCI 20281. Library Methods for the Social Sciences. 100 Units.
This course is a graduate introduction to the methods involved with "research with records"--that is, material like manuscripts, books, journals, newspapers, ephemera, and government and institutional documents. (Such material has been typically printed but may now be stored electronically as well as physically.) The course covers the essentials of project design, bibliography, location, access, critical reading, source evaluation and provenance, knowledge categorization and assembly, and records maintenance. The course is a methodological practicum and will involve both small-scale exercises and a larger project. Major texts include Thomas Mann's Oxford Guide to Library Research and Andrew Abbott's Digital paper.
Instructor(s): A. Abbott Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Advanced undergrads by consent
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40142
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
Equivalent Course(s): GEOG 28702, SOCI 30283, ENST 28702, GEOG 38702

SOCI 20286. Classic Theories of Emotions. 100 Units.
This course is a seminar of classic readings in the social theory of emotion. Readings may include works by James, Freud, LeBon, Ekman, Lazarus, Steams, Devereux, and others.
Instructor(s): A. Abbott Terms Offered: Winter

SOCI 20292. The Social Psychology of Inequality. 100 Units.
Social inequalities hinge to a significant degree on perceptions and beliefs, fears and desires, and antipathies and affections. This course explores questions related to social inequality that lie at the intersection of sociology and psychology. How and why do individuals identify themselves with different social groups? How do beliefs, values, and norms shape social interactions? How do intergroup stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination develop and evolve? What engenders social conflict and aggression? In this course, we will explore how social psychological theory and research might help to explain a range of different social inequalities.
Instructor(s): G. Wodtke Terms Offered: Spring

SOCI 20293. Global Family Change. 100 Units.
This course examines sociological perspectives on changes in marriage and childbearing that have swept the globe from 1850-today. We will examine changes in arranged marriage, marriage timing, first birth timing, contraception to limit childbearing, family size and divorce. We will review theories of family change, research designs for studying family change, and empirical data about family change. We will investigate family changes in specific sites in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the European diaspora. The course will also investigate specific factors likely to produce family change, including industrialization, mass education, mass media, health care, migration, and attitudes and beliefs. Finally, the course will consider some of the important consequences of these changing families around the world. Students will prepare an in-depth study of family change in one specific place and time. Course examples will highlight family changes in South Asia, but students are welcome to select any region and time period for their own study.
Instructor(s): W. Axinn Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 21293, GNSE 31293, SOCI 30293

SOCI 20296. Revolutions and Rebellions China's Long Twentieth Century. 100 Units.
Ever since China's defeat in the Sino-Japanese War in 1894, Chinese have staged numerous revolutions and large-scale social movements, including but not limited to the Republican Revolution of 1911, the May 4th Movement of 1919, the December 9th Movement between 1935 and 1936, the communist victory of 1949, the Cultural Revolution between 1966 and 1976, and the 1989 Prodemocracy Movement. These historical events have brought fundamental changes to Chinese society from politics to everyday life. To understand modern China and its possible future development in this world of great uncertainty, we need to draw lessons based on a contextualized understanding of its past. Combining cutting-edge theories of contentious politics with rich historical accounts, this course analyzes the sociopolitical conditions leading to the rise of these revolutions and social movements and their impact on the Chinese society and the world beyond.
Instructor(s): D. Zhao Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30296

SOCI 28083. A Mixed-Methods Introduction to Criminal Justice in Chicago. 100 Units.
This seminar builds toward the draft of a viable empirical research proposal on criminal justice in Chicago. Over ten weeks, students learn to identify and describe the key stages, actors, rules and norms at work in determining guilt and punishment. To accomplish this goal, they read and evaluate important case law and court opinions as well as empirical papers on criminal justice topics.
Instructor(s): K. Bourne Terms Offered: Autumn
SOCI 28084. Global Future of Work. 100 Units.
Rapid social changes in the 21st century had significantly transformed the landscape of work and employment, and some of the most salient trends include globalization, increasing precarity, and automation. This course examines the political, economic, and technological contexts of the most recent and profound transformation of work that the Millennial Generation face, probes into their global impacts on skill formation, inequality, and workers' livelihoods, and explores what would be the future of work. This course includes theoretical and empirical readings about changes in work requirements across the spectrum of technology, skills, gender, migration status, sectors, and global regions.
Instructor(s): W. Xie Terms Offered: Winter

SOCI 28085. Political Culture: Power, People, and the Press in Contemporary Societies. 100 Units.
This is a course about the experience of politics in the Internet age. How do media technologies, social ties, and economic power shape politics and elections? Students critically engage with a mix of classic and contemporary approaches to understanding how media professionals, voters, and politicians interact.
Instructor(s): N. Judd Terms Offered: Spring

SOCI 28086. Defining the Feminist "Fourth Wave" 100 Units.
Intersectionality, Breaking the Binary, Hashtag Feminism, TERFs, SWERFs, Whimpsters, Woke Misogynists, Commodity Feminists, & Femocracies, Oh My! If contemporary feminism is characterized by its diversity of purpose, then what defines the current, so-called “fourth wave” of feminism? Students in this course will explore precisely that question and - in keeping with one characteristic of contemporary feminists, namely their resurgent interest in learning about past feminist efforts - will examine the history of feminist movements in the US. As an intellectual community, we will work together to consider and analyze contemporary writings about fourth wave feminist movements and build our own timeline and analytical and conceptual terminology for studying defining features of "the fourth wave."
Instructor(s): Lara Janson Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course counts as a Foundations course for GNSE majors.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 12102

SOCI 28087. Foundations in Masculinity Studies. 100 Units.
In recent years, the term "toxic masculinity" has been used in contexts from the #MeToo movement to the rise of Donald Trump, from Gillette advertisements to the behavior of men on the reality show The Bachelorette. Why is the conversation around "toxic masculinity" taking place in the United States at this moment? In this course, we will go beyond banal statements like "toxic masculinity" and "men are trash" to critically ask, What role does masculinity play in social life? How is masculinity produced, and are there different ways to be masculine? This course provides students with an intensive introduction to the foundational theory and research in the field of masculinities studies. We will use an intersectional lens to study the ways in which the concept and lived experience of masculinity are shaped by economic, social, cultural, and political forces. We will examine how the gendered social order influences the way people of all genders perform masculinity as well as the ways men perceive themselves and other men, women, and social situations. Verbally and in writing, students will develop an argument about the way contemporary masculinity is constructed and performed.
Instructor(s): Rebecca Ewert Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This class counts as a Foundations course for GNSE majors.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 12104

SOCI 28088. Sex and Gender in The City. 100 Units.
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the key concerns at the intersection of gender studies and urban studies. In this course, we will take gender relations and sexuality as our primary concern and as a constitutive aspect of social relations that vitally shape cities and urban life. We will examine how gender is inscribed in city landscapes, how it is lived and embodied in relation to race, class, and sexuality, and how it is (re)produced through violence, inequality, and resistance. Over the course of the quarter, we will draw on an interdisciplinary scholarship that approaches the central question of how and why thinking about urban life in relation to gender and sex matters.
Instructor(s): Sneha Annavarapu Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course counts as a Foundations course for GNSE majors.
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 12105, GNSE 12105

SOCI 29997. Readings in Sociology. 100 Units.
Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. With consent of instructor, students may take this course for P/F grading if it is not being used to meet program requirements.
Terms Offered: Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and program chair.
SOCI 29998. Sociology BA Thesis Seminar. 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, Spring
Prerequisite(s): Open only to students who are majoring in sociology.
Note(s): Must be taken for a quality grade.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.