

Sociology

MAJOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Sadie Snow

Students who enroll in sociology courses can expect to acquire a greater knowledge and appreciation of social behavior in human groups, organizations, and societies. Sociology students also develop an understanding of social and cultural diversity, the relationship between the individual and society, and social inequality.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY:

10 courses (38 credits)

CORE COURSES:

- SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology: Perspectives and Methods (4)
- SOC 227: Social Theory (4)
- GPS 216: Research Methods in Social Sciences (4)
- GPS 470: Senior Seminar (2)
- GPS 480: Senior Thesis (4) or an internship (4)

ELECTIVE COURSES:

- Four additional Sociology courses, two at the 200 level and two at the 300 level (16)
- One 200- or 300-level course from one of the other GPS programs of study (International Studies, Political Science, Religious Studies (4))

COURSES IN SOCIOLOGY:
SOC 110: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – PERSPECTIVES AND METHODS (4) Department

An introduction to the field of sociology and its major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and methods of inquiry. The study of human groups, organizations, and societies, and their impact on human behavior. Emphasis on the evolution and diversity of human societies. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (DIV)

SOC 227: SOCIAL THEORY (4) Department

Focuses on significant contributions to social theory during the last two centuries. The first section of the course will attend to pre-World War II social theory. The second section will attend to developments since World War II. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: SOC 110 or SOC 113. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD)

SOC 234: SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4) Department

What are social problems, and who gets to identify them? What historical, social, political, or global circumstances cause social problems? How do the perceptions of problems and solutions vary cross-culturally? Both global and U.S. social problems will be considered in this course. A wide range of social problems such as globalization, social inequality, access to health care, systems of education, reproductive rights, the environment, human trafficking, or other issues may be discussed in this course. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x)

SOC 241: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4) Department

This course analyzes religion as it relates to a range of social identities. We begin with a discussion of sociological theories of religion through which we will consider trends within religious practice, the purposes and effects of religion, and the intersection of religion and other social structures. The class will then consider these theories in empirical contexts. Also listed as REL 241. Not offered in 2023-24. (DIV)

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: CITING BLACK WOMEN (4) Department

This course examines key issues and debates in classical and contemporary Black feminist theoretical perspectives within and outside of the United States. Students will explore the contributions of Black feminist scholars and activists to the field of Gender and Women's Studies. A major focus of the course will be how Black women's lived experiences shape Black feminist theory and praxis. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered term 2.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: FROM TRAMP STAMPS TO DESIGNER GENES: BODY MODIFICATION (4)**Breitwieser**

This course examines understandings and experiences of body modification. We explore the social, political, and ethical aspects of body modifications and analyze what constitutes (un)natural enhancement, modification versus mutilation, and individual agency. We learn that we shape our bodies to express ourselves, as well as to deliberately conform to or defy bodily expectations based on gender, race, religion, and ability. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 2.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: MAD IN AMERICA: GENDER, MENTAL HEALTH, AND POPULAR CULTURE (4)**Breitwieser**

This course uses popular culture to understand how madness and mental disability are perceived and how we might improve our own wellbeing. It uses an intersectional perspective to understand mental health as a social and biological phenomenon; as part of a system that we use to categorize one another, organize daily life, and distribute resources; and as a lens through which we may study our world. Engaging media, scientific, legal, and historic texts, we consider the production of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional norms and discuss how these stigmatize difference. We ask how social relations impact mental wellbeing, and how do social institutions define mental “health” versus “illness” within gendered, racial, classed, and colonial frameworks? To answer these questions, we discuss major works in disability and madness studies, as well as debates about the mind, rational actions/actors, and (de-)institutionalization. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 1. (MOD, DIV)

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: MATERIAL GIRLS IN A MATERIAL WORLD: GENDER AND SCIENCE**Breitwieser**

This course examines how technology and scientific knowledge and practices produce, and are produced by, social norms and cultural imperatives. We challenge the idea that science and medicine transcend sociocultural influence or biases, and we identify how politics and law, family, religion, government, and economic conditions come to matter in the laboratory, clinic, or research site. With particular attention paid to gender/sex, sexuality, race, and (dis)ability, we trace western science’s historical and philosophical emergence; consider the objects and objectives of scientific study; discuss representation within STEM fields; outline the culture(s) of science; and identify science’s role within systems of power and privilege. We place science within historical and cultural context to better understand what constitutes “truth” and how we might approach research, medical interventions, and technological innovation ethically. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 1.

SOC 260: RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER - A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)**Department**

This course addresses central concepts, theories, and empirical findings found in the sociological literature on structured social inequality. Emphasis is on historical and contemporary U.S. society. Considerable attention is devoted to examining the intersections between issues of cultural diversity and individual biographical experience. Open to first-year students with permission. No prerequisite. Also listed as GWS 260. Offered Term 1. (DIV, MOD)

SOC 272: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (4)**Department**

This course examines the politics of reproduction within and outside of the United States, including the various actors and social institutions that shape reproductive legislation. Using an intersectional approach, students will explore topics such as forced sterilization, the policing of women of color’s reproduction, and the connection between reproductive justice and other important issues, such as immigration and mass incarceration. Open to first-year students. Also listed as GWS 272. Not offered in 2023-24.

SOC 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

SOC 343: CRITICAL RACE THEORY (4)**Department**

This course examines racial assumptions embedded in US law and traces the impact of racism on the development of the law and legal institutions. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a broad theoretical framework created by synthesizing the main themes of scholars who challenge dominant understandings of race and the law. This course surveys the texts that define the CRT framework. Not offered in 2023-24. (w, x, DIV)

SOC 360: DOING, UNDOING, RE-DOING GENDER (4)**Department**

This course will examine the ways in which gender informs our experiences in the social world. We will specifically examine gender as it relates to our experiences within social institutions, such as work, family, education, religion, and the media. While gender is the primary focus of this course, we will also look at gender as it relates to other facets of social identity, such as race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, and ability. In this way, this course assumes an

intersectional perspective, meaning we will examine the ways in which these various systems of inequality intersect and reproduce privilege and oppression. Prerequisite: SOC 110. Also listed as GWS 360. Not offered in 2023-24.

SOC 373: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (4)

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Environmental justice refers to both a field of study and an activist movement. Both the realm of study and the activism focus on the way the different groups of people are differently impacted by environmental issues. This course examines the roots of environmental justice, considers the role of citizen activism and citizen science, and considers the systemic roots of environmental injustices in the United States, its territories, and the broader North American continent. Also listed as ES 373. Prerequisite: ES 104, 117, or SOC 110. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

SOC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Department

Individual project work at the advanced level with a member of the sociology department. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

SOC 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

Department

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.

SOC 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

Department

Senior sociology majors with strong academic records may apply to work for honors recognition by presenting a thesis proposal to the faculty of the department. Work is completed over a full year (Fall, Short, and Spring Terms). Decisions on awards of departmental honor are made at the conclusion of the project. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.