

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Spring 2015 Course Schedule

NO.	COURSE TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	DAYS	TIME
101-6 Sec. 20	First-Year Seminar	Lisa- Jo Van Den Scott	Library 4646	TTH	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><i>"It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine." R.E.M.'s enduring lyrics launch this course into an analysis of dystopias in novels and movies. What are the social issues which these dystopias address? What role do they serve? We shall examine how social organization is treated, as well as gender and class. Are there implicit arguments couched within these dystopic presentations or are they merely venting at the meaningless void? Who or what is targeted and blamed in these scenarios? This course is organized around the themes and social issues which we will be examining. Our activities in class are geared towards the development of your analytical writing and critical thinking skills through the study of this evocative topic.</i></p>					
110-0 Sec. 20	Intro to Sociology	Mary Pattillo	Fisk 217	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>Sociology is the study of the individual in a range of social contexts - from the dyad (parent-child, romantic partners, boss-employee, friends, assailant-victim) to the large and often anonymous groups that we might embrace or reject (e.g., Germans, Asian-Americans, bisexuals, lawyers), to the institutions that surround and envelop us (religions, economic systems, sexism). This course aims to awaken students' sociological imagination by going beneath our common sense assumptions to ask: How do social relationships, contexts, institutions and organizations work and how are we participants? What are the major trends in employment, crime, political party affiliation, and racial inequality? How does sociology help to understand concepts like power, passion, and popularity? At root, all of these things are "social constructions," but as the early sociologist W.I. Thomas teaches us, "If men [and women] define situations as real, they are real in their consequences." This course uses theory, research, and real-world examples to explore all three parts of this postulate: our definitions, the situations, and their consequences.</i></p>					
221-0 Sec. 20	Social and Health Inequalities Combine w/ Anthro 221	Thomas Mc Dade Leslie Mc Call	Locy 111	TTH	2:00-3:20 PM
<p><i>Income inequality in the U.S. is expanding, while social inequalities in health remain large, and represent longstanding challenges to public health. This course will investigate trends in social and health inequality in the U.S., and their intersection, with attention to the broader global context as well. It will examine how social stratification by race/ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, education, and/or other dimensions influence the health status of individuals, families, and populations; and, conversely, how health itself is thought to be a fundamental determinant of key social outcomes such as educational achievement and economic status.</i></p>					
232-0 Sec. 20	Sexuality & Sociology Combine w/ Gender 232-0	Hector Carrillo	Annenberg G21	TTH	3:30-4:50 PM
<p><i>Sexuality is fundamental to the cultural, economic, political, and social organization of the United States. This course examines the theoretical and methodological approaches that have been used in sociological studies of sexuality—including those that guide sexuality-related analyses of meanings and identities, practices and behaviors, power and politics, and morality and social control. Topics will include sex work, sex tourism, sexual migration, LGBT social movements, relationships, the sexual moment, sexual diversity (including diversity by race, ethnicity, and social class), and moral panics.</i></p>					
251-0 Sec. 20	Introductory Topics in Sociology Sport, Competition, and Society	Jeremy Freese	Annenberg G21	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
<p><i>Sports are routinely characterized as "just a game," so many people care so much about sports that they have enormous social, political, and economic ramifications. Why are there such stakes in competitions that we learn as kids as games? Why is elite achievement in some sports more heavily rewarded than others, and how should we understand the success and failure of aspirants to competitive achievement? This course uses tools of social science to help understand debates and puzzles from contemporary sports, and in doing so shows how sports and other contests provide many telling examples of enduring social dynamics and larger social trends. As importantly, we consider how sports provide a key entry point for many ongoing social discussions about the morality and ethics raised by ongoing social change.</i></p>					

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276-0 Sec. 20	2nd Gen. Asian American Experience Combine w/ AAS 203	Carolyn Chen	Annenberg G32	TTH	9:30-10:50 AM
<i>This course offers a critical sociological examination of what it means to be a 1.5 and second-generation Asian American today through scholarly works, memoirs, blogs and popular journalism. How does the second-generation Asian American experience compare to other racial groups? How is the second-generation changing the United States' racial and ethnic structure? How is the second generation becoming American? We will explore these questions through second-generation Asian American experiences of race and ethnicity, religion, family, education, dating and sexuality, and mental health.</i>					
302-0 Sec. 20	Sociology of Organizations	Jessica Koski	555 Clark B03	MW	9:30-10:50 AM
<i>Structure and function of formal organizations, especially in business and government. Stratification, social control, and conflict. Discretion, rules, and information in achieving goals. Modes of participation. Development of informal norms.</i>					
303-0 Sec. 20	Analysis & Interpretation of Social Data	Leslie Mc Call	Norris 104	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<i>An introduction to the quantitative analysis of data, with an emphasis on the interpretation of statistics, such as tables, graphs, hypothesis and significance tests, and regression analysis. Students will work with real data and learn the statistical software program SPSS or Stata.</i>					
305-0 Sec. 20	Population Dynamics	Christine Percheski	Searle 1441	MW	2:00-3:20 PM
<i>This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the field of population studies, also known as demography. Demography covers all of the factors related to changes in the size and characteristics of a human population. The topics that will be covered in the course include health disparities in the U.S., the impact of AIDS on family life and longevity in Africa, migration patterns within and from Latin America, the reasons behind sex-selective abortions in Asia, and the implications of the current low birthrates in Europe.</i>					
306-0 Sec. 20	Sociological Theory	Charles Camic	Locy 111	TTH	9:30-10:50 AM
<i>This course seeks to provide a thorough understanding of the central ideas of the three classical social thinkers whose work has been foundational for sociological analysis: Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. The course examines each thinker's major concepts, the larger arguments that he builds from those concepts, and the distinctive manner in which he proposes to analyze the social world.</i>					
310-0 Sec. 20	Sociology of the Family	Christine Wood	555 Clark B03	TTH	12:30-1:50 PM
<i>This course explores the social dynamics, history, and cultural significance of families in Western countries. We will consider the modern family as an institution with a social and cultural history. The course engages the theoretical and historical definition of family, patterns and shifts in marriage and partner selection trends, changes in family structures, and theories of the meaning of family in modern industrialized nations. The course begins with an exploration of the meaning of the family in sociological, historical, and cultural terms. Next, we consider marriage and partner selection in historical terms, exploring changes in peoples' intentions to marry and form families. We further examine the social makeup of families in modern industrialized nations by exploring changes in family structure and the processes that resulted in those changes, including the rising numbers of women in the workplace and the extension of marriage rights to lesbian and gay couples. Finally, we engage the meaning of the modern family in theoretical terms, by returning to the question of what makes a family, the values inherent to family life, and the possibilities for redefining the meaning of the family.</i>					
316-0 Sec. 20	Economic Sociology	Brian Sargent	Tech L221	MW	11:00-12:20 PM
<i>Sociological approach to production, distribution, consumption, and markets. Classic and contemporary approaches to the economy compared across social science disciplines.</i>					

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322-0 Sec. 20	Sociology of Immigration	Carolyn Chen	University 122	TTH	11:00-12:20 PM
<i>Since the liberalization of immigration policy in 1965, immigrants and their children are becoming an increasing and emergent demographic of American society. This course examines how the children of contemporary immigrants have assimilated into American society, focusing on themes such as race and ethnicity, identity, education, religion, family, sexuality and mental health.</i>					
376-0 Sec. 20	Topics in Sociological Analysis Mental Health & Society	Mariana Craciun	555 Clark B01	TTH	3:30-4:50 PM
<i>This course offers a social scientific perspective on the professions and bodies of knowledge that make up the field of mental health -- the "psychological sciences" -- and experiences of health and illness. We will draw on historical, anthropological and sociological studies to understand how the psychological sciences have developed, how they have treated mental illness, and what kinds of influence they exercise in our everyday lives. We will also touch upon questions of stigma, race and gender, and non-Western contexts of mental illness.</i>					
376-0 Sec. 21	Topics in Sociological Analysis Sexuality, the Social Sciences, and LGBT Rights Combine w/ Gender 321-0	Aaron Norton	555 Clark B03	MW	12:30-1:50 PM
<i>In this course, we will first consider how the social sciences have played an important role both in categorizing people based upon sexual desires, practices, and identity, and in challenging how we have come to understand those very categories. We then consider how debates over how to define sexuality have been taken up in struggles for LGBT rights. Key topics will include: the pathologization and de-pathologization of homosexuality; same-sex adoption and marriage; fixed vs. fluid sexual desire; sexual reorientation therapy; and the relevance of disputes over the nature of sexuality to trans people's claims to legal recognition.</i>					
376-0 Sec. 22	Topics in Sociological Analysis Transnationalism, Culture & Ethnicity: Latinos/as Combine w/ Latino 392	Hector Carrillo	Annenberg G15	MW	2:00-3:20 PM
<i>At a time when borders between nations are so heavily defended, how do we understand the increasing flow of people, ideas, and social and cultural practices across those divides? This course focuses on transnationalism as a theoretical framework that has been increasingly used for understanding such movement. With a particular focus on Latina/o immigrants, we will examine the social mechanisms that make it possible for them to maintain close ties with their countries of origin and simultaneously become incorporated into U.S. life.</i>					
376-0 Sec. 23	Topics in Sociological Analysis Contemporary Jewish Identities Combine w/Relig 333-0	Yael Israel- Cohen	Tech LG76	MW	3:30-4:50 PM
<i>This course will examine the various contours of contemporary Jewish identities in a comparative perspective between Israel and the United States. Attention will be given first to the constructs of Jewish identity in ethnic, national, and religious terms and then to the most pressing in-group schisms that divide the Jewish people today. In this capacity, we will investigate topics such as the "who is a Jew" debate; denominational tensions and questions of recognition; religious and secular divides; and political/ideological rifts. The course will include weekly reading assignments, student-led interviews on the topic of Jewish identity, and a final paper.</i>					
376-0 Sec. 24	Topics in Sociological Analysis Women in Traditional Religious Movements Combine w/Relig 332-0-22, Gender 341-0	Yael Israel- Cohen	University 122	MW	12:30-1:50 PM
<i>In this course, students will be challenged to think about feminism through the lens of women committed to traditional, at times even fundamentalist, religious values. We will investigate the ways in which such women negotiate their status and examine the evolving feminist movements that have arisen within traditional religious life. More specifically, we will focus on a case study of feminist activism among Orthodox Jewish women in Israel, in a comparative perspective with Evangelical women in the USA and Muslim women in the Middle East. Some of the central questions we will engage are: how are the forms of feminist identity and activism among women in traditional religious traditions similar? In what ways can feminist activism within religious life be compared with secular feminist activism? Grades will be based on weekly writing assignments, participation, and a paper.</i>					

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