

Sociology

Social Sciences Division

Sociology engages students in the systematic examination of social life, from everyday face-to-face encounters to the movements of civilizations throughout history. Unlike disciplines that focus on a single aspect of society, sociology stresses the complex relationships governing all dimensions of social life, including the economy, state, family, religion, science, social inequality, culture and consciousness. Sociology also examines social structures such as groups, organizations, communities, and social categories (class, sex, age or race) and analyzes their effect on people's attitudes, actions and opportunities in life. Sociological inquiry is guided by several theoretical traditions and grounded in the empirical observation of social reality.

The discipline emerged in the 19th century as a critical analysis of modern, Western society, yet it is informed by philosophers and theorists from earlier centuries. Today, sociologists study ways in which the modern world continues to change, often by making comparisons with societies at other times and in other places. Sociology majors go on to take active roles in corporate boardrooms, law offices, government, social service agencies, classrooms and policy think tanks. In a broader sense, everyone can benefit from sociology's unique understanding of our common humanity and the diversity of social life.

Beginning Studies

Students begin their study of sociology by enrolling in any 100-level course in the department. Each course combines lecture and discussion. All of these courses apply the theory and methods of sociology to achieve an understanding of the character of life in modern societies, especially our own. Each course is distinguished by a particular thematic focus and accompanying course materials. Students may enroll in only one 100-level course in sociology. After that, students should enroll in a mid-level course. Additional information about [beginning studies in sociology](#) is available on the department website.

The Curriculum

The sociology curriculum places emphasis on four substantive areas of sociological investigation:

1. Institutions and change studies the forms and dynamics of institutional life, with emphasis on structural, historical and comparative perspectives.
2. Culture and identity explores the construction and transformation of cultural and symbolic forms and the development of self within the social process.
3. Social theory examines the historical development of the discipline, the works of major contributors, and particular schools of sociological thought.
4. Research methods investigates the assumptions and tools of sociological research as well as the connection between research and theory in sociological study.

Requirements for the Major

Students majoring in sociology must complete a minimum of 10 courses in the discipline which meet the following requirements.

Foundation Courses SOCY 101–SOCY 108

One 100-level course is required. Students may not take additional foundation courses for credit.

Core Courses

Sociology majors are required to take SOCY 262 and 271 (or LGLS 371) as early as possible. Majors also are required to take two 300-level theory or methods courses of their choice. These core courses also count toward completion of area requirements. Students planning to attend graduate school in sociology or related fields are strongly encouraged to take more than four core courses.

Area Requirements

One course in each of the four areas of the sociology curriculum (institutions and change, culture and identity, social theory, research methods). Two courses are required in three of these areas. The social theory and research methods courses must be at the 300-level theory. One course must be 400-level seminar.

Area Courses

Nine courses are required. At least one course must be taken in each of the four areas of the sociology curriculum (institutions and change, culture and identity, social theory, research methods), and two courses must be taken in three of these areas. At least one course must be a 400-level seminar.

Seminars

At least one course taken toward completion of the area requirements must be a 400-level seminar. We strongly recommend that students take two.

Other

With departmental approval, students who do not receive sociology credit from off-campus study may count up to two courses in other disciplines toward the major requirements. Students who wish to pursue this option must first consult with their faculty advisor, then submit a written petition to the department chair, no later than their second semester junior year.

The Senior Capstone

The senior capstone asks you to explore central themes in sociology and articulate an in-depth understanding of the discipline. All sociology majors are required to give a public presentation of a research project in the fall semester of their senior year. (Honors students may use their research project as the basis for this capstone exercise.)

Important Dates for 2020-21

- Thursday, April 2, 2020: Common Hour mandatory information meeting for rising seniors in sociology. (Students studying off campus should notify the chair of the department and arrange to receive information electronically.)
- Monday, Sept. 7, 2020, 5 p.m. Presentation proposal due.
- Saturday, Nov. 7, and Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020, 1–5 p.m. Public presentation
- Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, 5 p.m. Research paper due for students who fail the public presentation.

Process of the Senior Capstone

Junior Mandatory Meeting

In April of the junior year, there will be a mandatory informational meeting for all sociology majors regarding the senior capstone, called by the chair of the sociology department. Students should start thinking about projects that could form the basis for the senior capstone, for example, projects initiated in earlier classes that may be able to be extended for the senior capstone.

Proposal

In early September of the senior year, all senior majors are required to submit a short proposal (no more than four pages total) for your public presentation. If your proposal is not approved initially, feedback will be given that should help with the revision. After revising or rewriting the proposal it must be resubmitted for approval. Only the proposals approved by the faculty of the sociology department can go forward.

The proposal must have the following components:

- A) A two-page proposal of the research project, which clearly states your research question and central thesis (double-spaced)
- B) A one-page list of courses you have taken in sociology that are relevant to your research project, with a brief explanation of how you expect the content of these courses to contribute to your chosen research objective (single-spaced)
- C) A one-page bibliography including both books and articles (single-spaced)

You are encouraged to use, as the foundation of your presentation, any research project you have conducted in past sociology courses. Your public presentation of the project, however, must go beyond your course work and demonstrate substantial improvement or enhancement. Since this is a senior capstone project, you alone are responsible for the content and quality of this research project, not any sociology professor you have worked with.

Honors students: For the proposal, Honors students may rewrite their original Honors proposal such that their research question and central thesis is more clearly and coherently defined. Additionally, the proposal will include parts B and C, listed above. Talk with your faculty mentor for details.

The Public Presentation

Prior to Thanksgiving break all senior majors will give a 15 minute public presentation that uses the research indicated in the proposal to demonstrate a solid command of the discipline.

Honors students: The presentation will revolve around your Honors project – talk with your faculty mentor for details.

Forms of the Senior Capstone

Theoretical

You may expand upon or challenge a social theory or theorist. This format may focus on any era and/or subfield of social thought, and thus may be framed in response to a close reading of texts, historical cases, or a contemporary social issue or problem of particular interest to you. Your presentation must go beyond a paper written for a class. For example, you may offer new interpretations or implications of theory, reflect upon its relevance to social issues, or articulate its importance to contemporary sociology.

Empirical

You may extend previous or ongoing research in which you analyze either original or secondary data to explore a question from a sociological perspective. In most circumstances, this format should not include the collection of new data. Rather, you should use data you have collected for prior courses or projects. An empirical capstone must go beyond any analysis written for or presented to a class. For example, you may offer new interpretations of the data, establish new connections to theory, or outline new applications to social problems.

The public presentation is open to all members of the Kenyon community; that is, you will conduct the public presentation before the sociology faculty and your fellow sociology seniors, as well as other guests. You will have 15 minutes to present your project in front of the audience. Be sure to practice your talk to ensure that your presentation remains within the 15 minute time limit. There will be a brief Q&A session (7–10 minutes) for faculty to ask questions about your research project.

Evaluation

Once your proposal has been accepted, your work in the senior capstone will be evaluated on two primary criteria: (1) your demonstrated command of sociology as conveyed through your public presentation, and (2) the clarity and effectiveness of your presentation.

The result of the evaluation will be provided to you in writing following completion of the presentation for all students, indicating whether you have passed and whether you have earned distinction.

- To receive distinction, you must show excellence with respect to both evaluation criteria.

- Students who attempt but fail the public presentation will have the opportunity to pass by submitting a 15-page research paper within ten (10) days of the date when one is notified of the result of public presentation.

Academic Integrity

Please consult the College's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Honors

The Honors Program is designed to facilitate significant independent research by our department's finest students. Typically, the student will propose a topic for research in consultation with a member of the faculty who agrees to serve as the project advisor. The department will then approve (or decline to approve) the honors research on the basis of the merit of the proposal itself as well as the student's past classroom performance, motivation to pursue excellence and demonstration of the organizational skills required for successful completion. In consultation with the project advisor, the student will go on to build an honors committee consisting of two members of the sociology faculty (including the advisor), one member from another department on campus, and one member from another institution of higher education (chosen by the advisor). The student will spend the senior year conducting the research and writing an honors thesis. The thesis is finally defended orally before the honors committee, the members of which determine whether to award no honors, Honors, High Honors or Highest Honors.

Students interested in reading for honors should meet with a faculty member no later than March of the junior year to discuss procedures and develop a proposal. Proposals are due by the end of the first week in April of the junior year. Students approved for participation in the Honors Program will enroll in two semesters of Senior Honors (SOCY 497, 498) in their senior year.

Additional information about the [sociology honors program](#) is available on the department website.

Transfer Credit Policy

The sociology department typically accepts transfer credits from other colleges and universities for courses that are commensurate with the course offerings at Kenyon. Students should provide the department with the syllabus of the courses they wish to transfer. We especially encourage students to take courses that are not regularly offered in our curriculum.

We do not permit students to transfer credits earned through online evaluation or two-week special courses offered during winter breaks.

We do permit our majors to transfer two courses earned while abroad for a semester and four courses earned while away for a complete academic year. Students must make arrangements for these provisions with their advisor and the department chair to ensure that diversification requirements within the sociology curriculum are properly met.

Courses in Sociology

Powers, Energies and Peoples

SOCY 101 CREDITS: 0.5

This course introduces students to the field of sociology through the study of energy and power in several of their conceptual forms: as social levers of oppression and inequities, as the physical capacity behind economic development and material accumulation, and as complicated and contested cultural symbols of tremendous consequence for the natural and social worlds. The course looks at human labor and energy as interwoven dimensions of western society and uses theories of power as lenses for understanding five case studies: The production and consumption of sugar; The contemporary cotton apparel industry; Mass incarceration in the United States; Appalachian coal and Global Climate Change. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. Offered every year.

Social Dreamers: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud

SOCY 102 CREDITS: 0.5

This introductory course for first-year students traces the development of modern social theory from the 17th to the 20th century. It begins by examining the fundamental social institutions and values that characterize modern society and the Enlightenment in the works of Descartes, Locke, Dickens, Weber and J.S. Mill: (1) rise of modern state, political democracy and utilitarianism; (2) market economy, industrialization and economic liberalism; (3) new class system and capitalism; (4) modern personality (self) and individualism; and (5) principles of natural science, technological reason and positivism. The course then turns to the dreams and imagination of Romanticism in the 19th and 20th centuries with its critique of modernity in the works of Marx (socialism), Freud (psychoanalysis), Camus and Schopenhauer (existentialism) and Nietzsche (nihilism). We will outline the development of the distinctive principles and institutions of modernity in the following works: Dickens' "Hard Times," Marx's "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844," Weber's "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" and "Science as a Vocation," Locke's "Second Treatise of Government," Mill's "On Liberty," Descartes's "The Meditations Concerning First Philosophy," Freud's "Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria" and "Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis," Camus's "The Fall," Schopenhauer's "The World as Will and Representation," and Nietzsche's "Twilight of the Idols." Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Offered every semester.

Society and Culture

SOCY 103 CREDITS: 0.5

This course introduces students to the field of sociology through studying the role of culture in society. We examine the connections between culture and society by following four major sociological traditions and we combine theoretical discussions with concrete sociological studies. For the conflict tradition, we read Marx's writing on alienation as well as a study about the complex relationship between domestic help and their employers in contemporary America. For the Durkheimian tradition, we discuss Durkheim's view of religion and morality while reading about why women turn to Orthodox Judaism in New York City today. For the utilitarian and rational choice tradition, we discuss rational choice theory by examining a sociological and historical analysis of the rise of early Christianity and for the microinteractionist tradition, we explore the ideas of Goffman and Bourdieu through reading a French sociologist's ethnographic account of training to be a boxer in an African American gym in Chicago. This course helps students develop a sociological imagination, as well as familiarity with research methods and social theory. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. Open only to first-year and sophomore students. No prerequisite. Offered every year.

Identity in American Society

SOCY 104 CREDITS: 0.5

This introductory course explores the collective foundations of individual identity within the American experience. In what sense is the self essentially social? How are changes in identity attributable to the organization of experience throughout life? What are the effects of gender, race and social class on consciousness? How have changes in American industrial capitalism shaped the search for self-worth? In what ways have science and technology altered our relationship to nature? What challenges to identity are posed by emerging events in American history, including immigration and the African diaspora? How has the very advent of modernity precipitated our preoccupation with the question "Who am I?" Situated as we are in a farming community, we will consider these questions of identity through an examination of local rural society. Students will conduct group research projects to connect our ideas to everyday life. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. Open only to first-year and sophomore students. No prerequisite.

Society in Comparative Perspective

SOCY 105 CREDITS: 0.5

From our vantage point in the 21st century, we perceive that the nature and fate of American society is increasingly connected to the nature and fate of society in other parts of the world. But what is "society" and how does it change over time? How, exactly, does society shape the human experience and human behavior in the United States and elsewhere? And how can we understand the ties that bind society "here" to society "there"? Sociology crystallized in the 19th century to address big questions like these in light of the profound uncertainty and human suffering that accompanied the rise of industrial capitalism, rapid urbanization and the consolidation of the centralized bureaucratic state. This course introduces students to the discipline by revisiting the work of early sociologists, then using the analytical lenses they developed to examine concrete cases of social change and globalization. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. Offered every year.

Social Issues and Cultural Intersections

SOCY 106 CREDITS: 0.5

The objective of this course is to critically examine social problems in the United States by using sociological perspectives to investigate the cultural and structural foundations of our society. Toward that end, students will learn sociological and criminological perspectives that provide a basic understanding of the principles of social-problems research from a sociological perspective. Among the topics to be covered are education, crime, the family and work, using examples from the Age of Enlightenment up to the present day. The most fundamental expectation of students in this course will be to use their sociological imaginations in every class period to engage in focused discussion of the readings and assignments completed outside of class. This is expected to aid students in the goal of mastering necessary skills of critical thinking and discussion, both verbally and in their writing about contemporary topics of interest and concern. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation course requirement for the major. No prerequisite.

Institutions and Inequalities

SOCY 107 CREDITS: 0.5

This course introduces students to the field of sociology through the study of social inequalities as they are created, maintained and challenged within the institutions of our everyday lives. This course covers major themes in sociology by exploring how society operates within and through social institutions, how those institutions create and maintain social norms that disenfranchise some while privileging others and how individuals challenge those norms to enact change in their everyday lives, local communities and society at large. This course will analyze social structures and their impact on the experiences of individuals. We will look at the ways in which social structures construct and constrain reality for individuals and how society and social institutions shape individual values, attitudes and behaviors. The course will examine sociological concepts through an analysis of culture, social inequality, social institutions, social movements and social change. By the end of the course, you should understand common sociological concepts and perspectives and be able to consider aspects of the social world through the sociological lens. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation course requirement for the major. Offered every year.

Public Life

SOCY 108 CREDITS: 0.5

What forces enable or constrain our successes (and failures) in life? Should what goes on in our intimate relationships be up for public debate? If presented with evidence of a serious social problem, how should we act? The answers to these questions are demonstrably sociological; they require a rigorous and disciplined way to discern private troubles from public issues. This course explores the sometimes obvious and oftentimes hidden nature of our public lives: how we learn to interact and to understand each other, how we navigate life through and with institutions, and how our very essence as human beings is affected by historical and global forces. Through close reading and class discussion, this course introduces the basics of modern sociology and the discipline's general contributions to our collective knowledge of the human condition. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation course requirement for the major. No prerequisite.

Global Religions in Modern Society

SOCY 221 CREDITS: 0.5

Is religion still important in modern society? Consider the following snapshots of active religious life in our contemporary world: a Zen Buddhist center in San Francisco, a Theravada Buddhist temple in Philadelphia, a Catholic church in northern China, a Confucian temple in Korea and a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in India. In this class we approach these fascinating developments of global religions from sociological perspectives, and learn how to understand religions in the context of culture, politics, identity formation and globalization. We begin with an introduction to classical theorists such as Durkheim and Weber, and move on to contemporary sociology of religion classics such as Robert Bellah's "Beyond Belief." Using these theoretical tools, we proceed to discussions of specific cases, such as orthodox Judaism in America; immigration and religion; the formation of a Jewish-Buddhist identity; and Islam in contemporary France. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Economy and Society

SOCY 222 CREDITS: 0.5

What is the relationship between society and value, production, consumption and exchange? How might a sociological approach to the market reveal insights into its functions, successes and failures? This course probes those questions by bringing to bear a sociological lens onto economic behavior. We will explore the sociological foundations of the value of people and commodities, the logic of social networks and social capital and the institutional architecture of markets. To do so, we will draw from sociological theory and methods. Along the way, we'll investigate why some communities have seen economic success and others failure, the meaning of consumption for social class and the causes of the 2008 banking crisis. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course.

Wealth and Power

SOCY 223 CREDITS: 0.5

People in the United States are keenly aware of social differences, yet few have a very precise understanding of "social class," the magnitude of social inequality in U.S. society, or why social inequality exists at all. This course provides a semester-long examination of social stratification -- a society's unequal ranking of categories of people in historical, comparative, theoretical and critical terms. The historical focus traces the development of social inequality since the emergence of the first human societies some 10,000 years ago; the Industrial Revolution; and, more recently, the Information Revolution. The comparative focus explores how and why societies differ in their degree of inequality, identifies various dimensions of inequality, and assesses various justifications for inequality. Attention is also given to the extent of social differences between high- and low-income nations in the world today. The theoretical focus asks how and why social inequality comes to exist in the first place (and why social equality does not exist). This course offers a true diversity of political approaches, presenting arguments made by conservatives, liberals, libertarians and radicals about the degree of inequality in the United States and in the world. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

Sociology of Health and Illness

SOCY 224 CREDITS: 0.5

From fitness trackers on wristwatches to diet apps on our pocket devices, we are surrounded by ways to monitor or improve our health. Corporations and public figures engage in health activism by encouraging young people to "Play 60" or inviting us into healthier habits by suggesting, "Let's Move!" We have become a health-conscious society but what does it mean to be healthy and which factors determine who has access to it and who benefits from it? Through class discussions and critical analysis of classical and contemporary readings in medical sociology, this course will answer that question and many others related to the social meaning and determinants of health, the sociohistorical construction of both health and healthcare, healthcare systems and healthcare practitioners and health social movements. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of the instructor.

Notions of Family

SOCY 225 CREDITS: 0.5

We all come from families and the family is a familiar social institution. But family is constituted not just by our individual experiences but also as a product of historical, social and political conditions. This course will examine how these conditions have shaped family life as we know it today. We will look at the social construction of the family, the psychosocial interiors of families and how governmental policy has shaped and will continue to shape families in the future. In addition, we will discuss the increasing diversity of family structures, the institution of marriage, and the social construction of childhood and parenting as represented in empirical research and legal decisions. Our underlying framework for analysis will be the gendered nature of family systems. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course. Offered every two years.

Sociology of Law

SOCY 226 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the social conditions that give rise to law, how changing social conditions affect law and how law affects the society we live in. In the first few weeks, we focus on how classical social theorists, the so-called founders of sociology, viewed the law and its relationship to the rapid social change unfolding before their eyes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the following weeks, we explore how social actors such as the environmental, civil rights and free speech movements attempt to use the law, litigation and legal institutions as instruments of social change. Turning this question around, we then look at how legal processes, actors and institutions -- criminal trials, lawyers and the courts, to name a few -- interact with the media to shape public opinion, protest and collective action. We will explore the diverse ways individuals experience and interpret the law, and why this matters for understanding how law operates in the real world. In the final weeks of the semester, we probe how broader cultural shifts in American society are radically redefining the role and scope of our legal system. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course. Offered every other year.

Social Movements

SOCY 229 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will examine social movements as attempts to bring about social change through collective action. The major goals of the course are: (1) to acquaint students with the sociological literature on social movements; (2) to examine the development, life cycle and impact of several important social movements in the United States; (3) to examine issues of race, class and gender within social movements; and (4) to develop students' skills in thinking sociologically about social discontent and social change. Substantively, the course focuses primarily on U.S. social movements from the 1960s through today. This course counts toward the American Studies major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Issues of Gender and Power

SOCY 231 CREDITS: 0.5

The primary objective of this course is to explore the socio-legal construction of gender in U.S. society as we interrogate the power of underlying contemporary debates predicated upon gender. The focus of discussion is specifically on legal issues that seem to be particularly affected by our societal understanding of the feminine and the masculine as presently constructed for example, sexual orientation, rape and domestic violence. This course satisfies a requirement of the concentrations in women's and gender studies and in law and society, as well as in the American studies major. This counts toward the institutions and change or culture and identity requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course, LGLS 110 or permission of instructor. Offered every two years, in rotation with SOCY 232.

Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions

SOCY 232 CREDITS: 0.5

This course provides the opportunity for students to become conversant with the wide range of experiences that may appropriately be called sexual harassment. The course is guided by the principle that sexual harassment is not, as many seem to think, simply a byproduct of sexual desire or misguided attraction. Sexual harassment is about power gaining power or retaining power in institutional settings. We will explore this concept both as legal construction, calling for specific determinants, and as a normative concept that arises in casual conversation and lived experience. This course counts toward the African Diaspora Studies and Law and Society Concentrations, and also toward the American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies Majors. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course, LGLS 110 or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Sociology of Food

SOCY 233 CREDITS: 0.5

This course explores the social world(s) we live in by analyzing what we eat, where it comes from, who produces it and who prepares it and how. Firstly, we examine the patterned culinary choices of Americans; how American foodways are differentiated by gender, race/ethnicity and class; and how political, social and historical forces have shaped these patterns in ways that are not necessarily obvious to the sociologically untrained eye. We then shift our focus away from ourselves and our own sociologically conditioned eating habits to analyze the local, regional and global processes and factors that bring food to our table. A major theme is the greater social and spatial distances our food travels from field, farm or factory to consumers in the United States and in other parts of the western hemisphere, and how these distances complicate and sometimes obscure the unequal power relations at the root of food production and consumption. Our exploration of the global ties that bind consumer and producer ends with a look at how social activists around the world have organized collectively to reduce these distances and inequalities. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Transnational Social Movements

SOCY 235 CREDITS: 0.5

Especially since the civil rights student and antiwar movements of the 1950s and 1960s in the United States, sociologists have studied how individuals mobilize collectively and self-consciously to promote social change at a national level. Building on this tradition, this mid-level course examines a recent wave of protest movements that self-consciously organize across national borders. Under what circumstances and with what chances of success do national movements form alliances that cross borders? Is it true that globalization has generated new resources and strategic opportunities for the rise of transnational movements? In an age of accelerated globalization, do national borders still contain movements in any significant way? We will address these questions and others using case studies of contemporary environmental, anti-sweatshop, indigenous rights and religious movements. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course. Offered every other year.

Popular Culture: Window on Inequality

SOCY 236 CREDITS: 0.5

In contemporary American society we are surrounded by imagery that reflects and reinforces hierarchical divisions between us. This course applies sociological theories of class in examining artifacts of popular culture that emphasize these social divisions. Drawing from popular television and film, the course pursues an academic understanding of how social class is portrayed in and projected upon society, as well as contemplates explanations and repercussions of those processes. The course establishes basic contemporary understandings of social class and popular culture before looking in greater depth at intersections of race, gender and stereotypes built around place and occupation. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

Borders and Border Crossings

SOCY 237 CREDITS: 0.63

Popular conceptions of globalization often allude to the growing magnitude of global flows and the stunning rapidity with which capital, commodities, culture, information and people now cross national borders. From this characterization, one might conclude that national borders and indeed nation-states themselves are becoming increasingly porous and irrelevant as sources or sites of social regulation and control. This course examines the material reality of border regions and movement across them as a means of interrogating these assumptions and exposing how globalization rescales and reconfigures power differentials in human society but does not eliminate them. It scrutinizes technological, economic, political and ideological forces that facilitate border crossings for some groups of people under particular circumstances, then explores the seemingly contradictory tendency toward border fortification. Topics include: regional trade integration and political economy of border regions; the global sex trade and illegal trafficking of economic migrants; global civil society and sanctuary movements; paramilitary and vigilante border patrols; and the technology of surveillance. This course includes a required off-campus experiential component at the U.S.-Mexico border that takes place during the first week of spring break. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Environmental Sociology

SOCY 238 CREDITS: 0.5

Our world is a blend of things that humans have shaped directly and things we define by our perceived lack of direct involvement with them. Over time we have depended on our ecological surroundings in myriad changing ways, but we have demonstrated inconsistent acknowledgment of our complex relationships with nature. Environmental sociology embodies a broad, thoughtful application of sociological insights to investigating the ways we shape and are shaped by our surroundings. This course explores through a sociological lens how Western society and more specifically contemporary American society interacts with nature. It frames central questions with regard to differentiating between humans and nature and explaining how interactions between the two vary, and it engages with current debates over conservation, sustainability, development and social justice. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course.

Sociology of Crime and Deviance

SOCY 240 CREDITS: 0.5

Our common sense tells us that certain acts are "wrong"; that particular persons who engage in them are "deviant." But common sense suggests little about how and why a particular act or actor comes to be understood in this way. The objective of this course is to explore the significance of deviance and crime within social life. We carry the distinction between being different, being deviant and being criminal throughout the semester. This course provides a substantial introduction to criminology, with consideration of the social characteristics of offenders and victims, crime rates and various justifications of punishment. This course should be of interest to students within many majors who are concerned with theoretical, practical and ethical questions concerning the concepts of good and evil as foundations of human society. This counts toward the institutions and change or culture and identity requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Sociology of Gender

SOCY 241 CREDITS: 0.5

Sociology has long recognized the different roles of men and women in society, but the systematic, sociological analysis of how and why these roles have been developed and maintained continues to be a contested terrain of scholarship and popular debate. This course will analyze the social construction of gender and its salience in our everyday lives. Using sociological theory in the context of gender, we will link the private experiences of individuals to the structure of social institutions. The course will begin with the familiar world of socialization and move to the more abstract level of institutions of social control and sex-based inequalities within social institutions, including the economy and family. This counts toward the culture and identity or the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Science, Society and the Environment

SOCY 242 CREDITS: 0.5

The first part of this course will examine the underlying philosophical and sociological foundations of modern science and rationality. It will begin by examining the differences between the ancient Greek and medieval views of physics, causality and organic nature, and the modern worldview of natural science in Galileo, Descartes and Newton. We will then turn to the debates within the philosophy of science (Burt, Popper, Kuhn, Quine, Feyerabend and Rorty) and the sociology of science (Scheler, Ellul, Leiss, Marcuse and Habermas) about the nature of scientific inquiry and the social/political meaning of scientific discoveries. Does science investigate the essential reality of nature, or is it influenced by the wider social relations and practical activities of modern industrial life? Does science reflect the nature of reality or the nature of society? We will deal with the expanded rationalization of modern society: the application of science and technological rationality (efficiency, productivity and functionality) to economic, political and social institutions. We will examine the process of modernization and rationalization in science, labor, politics, the academy and ecology. Finally, we will discuss the debates within the environmental movement between the deep and social ecologists as to the nature and underlying causes of the environmental crisis. Readings will be from T. Kuhn, M. Berman, H. Braverman, E. A. Burt, M. Horkheimer, C. Lasch, F. Capra and M. Bookchin. This counts toward the culture and identity requirement for the major and the culture, societies and environment requirement for the Environmental Studies major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course.

Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions

SOCY 243 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will examine the various theories of ethics and social justice from the ancient Hebrew tradition of Torah and the prophets, New Testament writers Luke and Matthew, and medieval natural law, to modern discussions about social, political and economic justice. We will explore how critical social theory has been applied within the political and economic context of modern industrial societies and how biblical and later religious teachings have been used as the basis for social ethics. Questions of justice, freedom, development, individualism and alienation will be major themes in this study of capitalism, Christianity and Marxism. Special emphasis will be on contemporary debates about the ethics of democratic capitalism from within both conservative theology and philosophy and radical liberation theology. Readings will be from the Bible, papal encyclicals, the American Catholic bishops' letter on economics and social justice, Friedman, Wallis, Farmer, Novak, Baum, Miranda, Fromm, Pirsig, Schumacher and N. Wolf. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major and also towards the law and society concentration. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or 100-level religious studies course or permission of instructor.

Race, Ethnicity and American Law

SOCY 244 CREDITS: 0.5

This course focuses on the American legal system's effect on racial, ethnic and minority groups in the United States as well as on the manner in which such groups have influenced the state of the "law" in this country. It is intended to stimulate critical and systematic thinking about the relationships among American legal institutions and selected racial, ethnic and minority populations. We will examine various social and cultural conditions, as well as historical and political events, that were influenced in large part by the minority status of the participants. These conditions will be studied to determine in what ways, if any, the American legal system has advanced, accommodated, or frustrated the interests of these groups. Through exposure to the legislative process and legal policymaking, students should gain an appreciation for the complexity of the issues and the far-reaching impact that legal institutions have on the social, political and economic conditions of racial, ethnic and minority groups in America. The primary requirement of this course is completion of a comprehensive research project. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. It also may be counted toward the law and society concentration, African Diaspora Studies Concentration and the American studies major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

Cultural Sociology

SOCY 245 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the influence of shared meanings and practices on a variety of dimensions of contemporary American social life, including race, class, religion, political participation, close

relationships, economics and social commitment. We will consider the following questions: What is culture? How does culture operate in society? How does culture interact with social institutions and with individuals? How do we study culture sociologically? Fundamentally, cultural sociology is a way of seeing society; the goal of the course is for the student to learn to see the structured meanings and practices that order all of our lives, and the possibilities the culture provides for us to influence our society's future course. Our emphasis is distinctly on the contemporary American cultural mainstream. We will discuss in class the question of whether or not such a "mainstream" exists and, if so, how we might understand it. Our starting assumption is that Americans must understand the themes of our own culture if we are to be responsible global citizens. This counts toward the culture and identity requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

American Folk Music

SOCY 246 CREDITS: 0.5

Music, like all art, is created, expressed, and understood within a social context. This course examines the relationship between art and society through a focused investigation of American folk music. Themes of particular interest include the movement of music across the color line and between folk and popular culture. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

Knowledge of the Other: Journey to the East

SOCY 249 CREDITS: 0.5

In this course we deal with some of the fundamental questions in our global age: How do we understand a culture or society that is radically different from our own? This course has two parts. In the first half, we read theoretical texts such as Said's "Orientalism," excerpts from Hegel's and Marx's writing on race and world history, recent work on the epistemology of ignorance, studies of religion from the East (Lopez and Masuzawa), as well as debates about the "clash of civilizations" (Huntington) and the "geography of thought" (Nisbett) in order to conceptualize the notion of "the Other" and our relationship with "the Other." In the second half, we focus on writings about Asia (Tibet, Japan and China), such as travel writing, historical analysis and fiction. By analyzing these accounts of the journey to the East, we learn to recognize the complex relationships we have with cultural, religious and social traditions radically different from our own, with the hope that we can develop a meaningful connection with them through reflective understanding. This course helps both sociology and Asian studies students theorize the complex and creative relationship between oneself and "the Other," and it is of use to students who have recently returned from study abroad (particularly Asia), as well as those preparing to go abroad. This counts toward the culture and identity requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Systems of Stratification

SOCY 250 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

The objective of this course is to investigate systems of stratification through reading texts and empirical investigation. We will also provide regular opportunities to investigate several different data sets to pursue questions that arise from a reading of the texts we cover during the course of the semester. Stratification topics to be covered include education, gender, class, sexuality and race as they have permeated U.S. society and, therefore, as they have shaped the everyday lived experience of U.S. citizens. With a heavy emphasis upon the critical assessment of quantitative information as presented in the readings for this course, as well as the use of quantitative analysis, this course satisfies the quantitative reasoning requirement. This course satisfies a requirement of the African Diaspora Studies Concentration and may be counted toward the American Studies Major. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Social Change, Dictatorship, and Democracy

SOCY 251 CREDITS: 0.5

Why are some countries more democratic than others? What effects have industrialization and colonization had on developing world democracies? This course probes those questions from a comparative and sociological perspective. We will explore the relationship between political regimes and

socioeconomic factors, like class relations, state-led development, and racial and ethnic tensions. We will look at the contrasting political and social trajectories of European nations, the United States, East Asia and Latin America, using historical texts, sociological theory and in-depth case study research. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor.

Cultural Foundations of Politics

SOCY 252 CREDITS: 0.5

Inspiring stories, dog whistles like "looters," "thugs" and "Real Americans," authentic populists and out-of-touch elites, graphic images of torture and the ecstasy of jubilant crowds: these cultural features of our political world stoke our emotions and engage our senses. Do these feelings and experiences exist to manipulate us towards the goals of others? Or do the emotional and sensuous features of politics have power in and of themselves? This course explores culture and politics by looking at the sociological foundations of narratives, coded language, performances and iconic imagery as they pertain to a variety of political phenomenon. Cases and applications to be explored include populist politics, social movements, civility vs. violence, identity formation, electoral campaigns and the conduct of war and terrorism. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course.

Women, Crime and the Law

SOCY 255 CREDITS: 0.5

This course, a seminar and directed research course, focuses upon the role and status of women within the U.S. criminal justice system. Students will examine the evolution of roles, responsibilities and treatment of women who occupy various statuses within the system, including that of criminals, victims/survivors of crime and criminal justice professionals. We will examine contemporary theories of women and crime, especially a growing body of literature in the field of feminist criminology. Using a wide range of texts, monographs and articles to stimulate critical thinking and discussion about crime and gender, a primary overarching inquiry will be: Does one's sex or gender affect one's treatment within, access to, and response from the American criminal justice system? Through exposure to the legislative process, legal policymaking and the tools of socio-legal research, students will gain an appreciation for the complexity and far-reaching impact that sex and gender have upon the social, political and economic conditions of women who come into contact with the criminal justice system. This course counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. This counts toward the law and society concentration. Permission of instructor required. No prerequisite.

Linking Classical Tradition to Contemporary Theory

SOCY 262 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will help to guide students to draw linkages from classical theory to the formation of contemporary sociological theory. Discussion will be guided by the personal biographies of the theorists: their family background, where they were educated and what events or persons they were influenced by as they formulated the theories for which they are known. Emphasis is placed upon acquiring breadth of knowledge, rather than depth. For a more comprehensive understanding of many of the theorists discussed in this class, students are directed to SOCY 361 and SOCY 362. This course is not intended for seniors, although it is required for all majors. Students are advised to enroll in this class as soon as they begin to consider majoring in sociology. This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course. Offered every year.

Methods of Social Research

SOCY 271 CREDITS: 0.5

Knowing how to answer a question, including what constitutes good evidence and how to collect it, is a necessary ability for any sociologist, or for any student reading the sociological research of others. Our goal will be to learn to understand when and how to use research strategies such as survey questionnaires, interviews, fieldwork and analysis of historical documents. Students will conduct small-scale research projects using these techniques. This course is not intended for seniors, although it is required for all sociology majors. Students are advised to enroll in this class as soon as they begin to consider majoring in

sociology. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course. Offered every year.

Sociology of Sexualities

SOCY 277 CREDITS: 0.5

Social life is saturated by sexuality in unstable and disjointed ways. From advertisements that promote the use of sexual enhancement pharmaceuticals to laws restricting access to safe and healthy sexual encounters, the sociocultural framing of sexuality is unequal and often illogical. This course examines sexualities as they are constructed, experienced and regulated across multiple social contexts and institutions. We will explore the social history of sexuality and the evolution of its framing in contemporary society; lived experiences of those labeled or identifying as sexual minorities; privileges associated with hegemonic sexual identity categories; the ongoing sociopolitical regulation of sexual bodies, communities, and desires; and the history of social activism centered on sexual minorities. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course

Classical Social Theory: Marx, Weber and Durkheim

SOCY 361 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the development of classical social theory in the 19th and early 20th centuries. First, we will explore the philosophical and intellectual foundations of classical theory in the works of Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Kant and Hegel. We will examine how social theory integrated modern philosophy, classical political science (law) and historical political economy in the formation of a new discipline. Distinguishing itself from the other social sciences as an ethical science, classical sociology, for the most part, rejected the Enlightenment view of positivism and natural science as the foundation for social science as it turned instead to German idealism and existentialism for guidance. It also rejected the Enlightenment view of liberal individualism and utilitarian economics, and in the process united the ancient ideals of ethics and politics (Aristotle) with the modern (neo-Kantian) concern for empirical and historical research. Next we will examine the classical analysis of the historical origins of Western society in the structures and culture of alienation (Marx), rationalization and disenchantment (Weber), and anomie and division of labor (Durkheim). At the methodological level, we will study the three different views of classical science: critical science and the dialectical method (Marx), interpretive science and the historical method of understanding and value relevance (Weber), and positivistic science and the explanatory method of naturalism and realism (Durkheim). This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: SOCY 262 or permission of instructor.

Contemporary Social Theory

SOCY 362 CREDITS: 0.5

Social theories offer systematic explanations of human behavior as well as insights into the historical moments in which they were created. We will investigate some of the last century's major theories concerning the nature of society and the human social process. Most of these sociological theories are American in origin, but some new developments in Western European thought will be included as well. Specific theories to be considered include: (1) the functionalist theory of Talcott Parsons; (2) social behaviorism, as articulated by George Herbert Mead; (3) Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann's sociology of knowledge; (4) the critical theory of Herbert Marcuse; and (5) intersection theory, as developed by Patricia Hill Collins. The consideration of the intellectual and social contexts in which these theoretical traditions have arisen will be central to our analysis throughout. This course will be of value to students interested in developing a systematic approach to understanding society and should be especially relevant to those concentrating in the social sciences. This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: SOCY 262 or permission of instructor. Offered every year.

Quantitative Research Methods

SOCY 372 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

Ever wonder how sociologists gather the information upon which they base their claims? Curious about all those charts and graphs in newspapers and magazines? Thinking about a career in marketing, survey research or program evaluation? This course is designed for students who want to become proficient in

doing and understanding quantitative social research using SPSS. The focus of this class is survey research and design. Students will learn the basics of data mining, recoding and analysis while also learning to write and present their research findings. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing, 100-level sociology course and SOCY 271. Offered every two years.

Qualitative Research Methods

SOCY 373 CREDITS: 0.5

This course focuses on learning to use qualitative methods to answer questions about social life. We will discuss individual and group interviews, observational techniques and content analysis of documents and visual images. Students will practice using these techniques by carrying out a semester-long research project using these methods. We also will discuss the "nuts and bolts" of designing a research project, writing research proposals, collecting data, analyzing data and writing up qualitative research. Finally, we will contextualize this practical instruction with discussions of research ethics, issues of reliability and validity in qualitative research, the relationship between qualitative methods and theory-building and the place of qualitative methods in the discipline of sociology. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing and SOCY 271 or LGLS 371 or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Comparative-Historical Analysis

SOCY 374 CREDITS: 0.5

Social scientists have used comparative-historical methods to answer "big questions" about social and political phenomena. Indeed, focusing on historical patterns in small numbers of key cases, scholars have contributed canonical texts about democratization, revolutions, identity formation and economic development (among others). Students will work closely with exemplary texts, learn and apply different techniques of causal inference and explore the ongoing debate between comparative-historical methods and quantitative analysis. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: SOCY 271 or LGLS 371 or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Community Based Research

SOCY 375 CREDITS: 0.5

This course enlists community partners to join Kenyon students in collaboratively designing and executing sociological research projects of clear benefit to their organization. Students will collaborate in groups to make substantive contributions to problems or issues in the greater Knox County community. The range of partner organizations may include those addressing public and environmental health, natural resources management and sustainability, social welfare and services, community infrastructure and planning and local economic development. Class meetings will take diverse formats, including occasional field trips (campus transport provided), guest speakers, group planning sessions, short lectures and lab/ group work sessions. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course and SOCY 271 and sophomore standing. Offered every year.

Social Demography

SOCY 376 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course offers students an introduction to sociological demography paired with training in research methods relevant to applied planning and policy situations. It explores demography's contributions to the study of race, health, gender, inequality and migration, as well as the central foci of formal demography. This counts toward the methods requirement for the major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Gender Stratification

SOCY 421 CREDITS: 0.5

This course critically examines several genres of literature on the social roles of men and women at both the social-psychological and structural levels of society. We will discuss, in particular, how gender relates to concepts such as socialization, attitudes, interpersonal behavior, work roles and stratification by race, sexuality and class; and social problems that arise as a result of gender inequality. This counts toward the

culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major and also counts toward the African Diaspora Studies, Law and Society, and Women and Gender Studies Concentrations. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two to three years.

Topics in Social Stratification

SOCY 422 CREDITS: 0.5

The primary objective of this course is to pursue a comprehensive examination of contemporary issues which determine social stratification in the United States and, thereby, impact public policy and societal values. Some topics that may be addressed are race relations in the United States, gender, work, family, sexuality, poverty and religion. Topics may vary from semester to semester, but they will be of importance to any discussion of the institutional forces that govern our society. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of the instructor. Offered every two to three years.

Vigilantism and the Law

SOCY 424 CREDITS: 0.5

Why and under what historical conditions have particular groups of American citizens mobilized to take the law into their own hands? From the posses of the 19th-century Wild West, to the 20th-century Klan lynchings, to the emergence of contemporary right-wing "patriot" and militia movements, American history is replete with instances of extralegal or "self-help" justice administration. This course surveys the history of vigilantism in the United States against the backdrop of national state consolidation and the evolution of this country's criminal justice system. Through analysis of primary and secondary texts covering a broad range of vigilante movements, it explores how the line between public and private administration of penal law has shifted over time and across geographical regions. This course will be run as a Socratic seminar that fosters learning through individual and collective analysis of course material. It will allow students to develop the skills to conduct independent empirical research and to analyze findings in interaction with seminar participants. This counts toward the institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing and permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

Civil Society and Social Theory

SOCY 426 CREDITS: 0.5

For many scholars, activists and development professionals, a robust civil society increases the quality of democratic governance. NGOs, self-help organizations and even singing clubs have been seen as democratic bulwarks. On the other hand, some observers think civil society may weaken democratic institutions and may even be vehicles for extremism. What is civil society and how does it relate to democracy? Who belongs in civil society? Can we repair damaged civic relationships? To address those puzzles, this course explores contemporary theories of civil society through the work of four thinkers who extend the work of Tocqueville, Marx, Weber and Durkheim -- Robert Putnam, Antonio Gramsci, Jürgen Habermas and Jeffrey Alexander. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor.

Global Cities

SOCY 432 CREDITS: 0.5

Since the origins of the discipline in the mid-19th century, sociologists have been fascinated with cities, viewing them as icons of modernity and laboratories for studying the forms of human association they believed to be the hallmarks of this new age. Building on this rich but Western-centric history of urban studies, this course examines the urban form and experience today from the perspective of a more geographically and culturally diverse set of cities ranging from Mexico City to Mumbai, from Chicago to São Paulo. Drawing on concrete case studies from these cities and others, we will ask what we can learn about the global processes that characterize contemporary human society at large by studying so-called "global cities," and Third World cities. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between globalization and the spatial organization of cities, exploring, for example, how social actors and states in specific places claim, reclaim, purpose, repurpose, surveil, contest and govern public space as part of broader neoliberal social transformation. Students in this course will take an active role leading seminar discussion and, by the end of the semester, produce and present original research on a global city of their choosing. This counts toward the institutions and change area requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

French Social Theory

SOCY 450 CREDITS: 0.5

This course offers a systematic account of French social theory since the end of the 19th century, when sociology became an institutionalized academic discipline in France. We analyze the key theoretical texts that have influenced sociologists in France and beyond, examine the methodological debates that have engaged generations of theorists, and discuss several empirical studies that shed light on the ways social theories are connected to empirical inquiry. The course follows the historical trajectory from positivism to anthropological theory at the turn of the 20th century, and from structuralism to poststructuralism in the postwar era. We focus on the key ideas and concepts in classical theorists such as Comte, Durkheim and Mauss, and contemporary theorists such as Lévi-Strauss, Sartre, De Beauvoir, Althusser, Foucault and Bourdieu. This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

German Social Theory

SOCY 461 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the evolution of German social theory in the 20th century. Following a summary of the major tendencies and questions in social theory during the Weimar period, the course will consider a wide range of traditions, including phenomenology, existentialism, psychoanalysis, hermeneutics, Marxism and critical theory. Readings will include the works of Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Horkheimer, Fromm, Arendt, Marcuse, Gadamer and Habermas. This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

Intersectional Theory

SOCY 463 CREDITS: 0.5

This course explores the theoretical paradigm of intersectionality. Its principal objective is to develop an understanding of the ways in which the salient identities of class position, race and gender function simultaneously to produce the outcomes we observe in the lives of individuals and in society. While there is a large body of literature in each of the three areas (class, race, gender), only recently have theorists and researchers attempted to model and analyze the "simultaneity" of their functioning as one concerted force in our everyday lives. We will pursue this objective by exploring the roles of gender and race/ethnicity in the United States during the early development of capitalism and in the present, by re-examining key concepts in conflict theory through the lens of intersectional theory, and by studying the roles of class, gender and race/ethnicity at the level of the global economy today as in the past. This counts toward the culture and identity or theory requirement for the major. This also counts toward the senior seminar requirement for the African Diaspora Studies Concentration and toward the American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies Majors. Prerequisite: Junior standing and SOCY 262 or 361, or permission of instructor. Offered every two to three years.

Sociology of Knowledge: The Social Life of Knowledge in the Social Sciences and Humanities

SOCY 465 CREDITS: 0.5

This course is concerned with the social life of knowledge, particularly in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. We begin with questions such as: What are the social factors affecting the formation and production of knowledge? For instance, how is aesthetic knowledge legitimized? How does a new discipline (such as sociology and psychoanalysis in the early 20th century) establish its authority? How is the classification of race socially constructed? What is the gendered nature of knowledge? To answer these questions, we draw upon works of philosophers such as Kuhn and Hacking, as well as social theorists such as Foucault and Bourdieu, to formulate our theoretical framework. We then examine empirical studies by sociologists such as Becker, Lamont, Collins and Abbott to understand how institutional structures, shifting disciplinary boundaries, professionalization and power relations play important roles in the social life of knowledge. This counts toward the culture and identity or theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

The Politics of Identity Formation in the Global South

SOCY 466 CREDITS: 0.5

Recent years have seen the growing political importance of identity in the global south. Indigenous movements, religious and ethnic nationalism and class-based identities have impacted the practice of democracy, relations between social groups and transnational structures of power. But is what we see a detrimental splintering of identities and belongings or a new era of diversity and pluralism? What will latter-day identities do for democratization and social conflict? This course focuses on the political effects of identity in Latin America, Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. This counts toward the culture and identity or institutions and change requirement for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor.

Individual Study

SOCY 493 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

Individual study is an exception, not a routine option, with details to be negotiated between the student(s) and the faculty member and the department chair. The course may involve investigation of a topic engaging the interest of both student and professor. In some cases, a faculty member may agree to oversee an individual study as a way of exploring the development of a regular curricular offering. In others, the faculty member may guide one or two advanced students through a focused topic drawing on his or her expertise, with the course culminating in a substantial paper. The individual study should involve regular meetings at which the student and professor discuss assigned material. The professor has final authority over the material to be covered and the pace of work. The student is expected to devote time to the individual study equivalent to that for a regular course. Individual studies will be awarded 0.5 units of credit. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline.

Senior Honors

SOCY 497 CREDITS: 0.5

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Permission of instructor and department chair required. Prerequisite: senior standing and sociology major.

Senior Honors

SOCY 498 CREDITS: 0.5

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Permission of instructor and department chair required.