Sociology, Catalog 2025-26

MAJOR

- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Sadie Snow (visiting, sociology)
- **AFFILIATED FACULTY:** Lindsey Breitwieser (GWS), Susan Eagle (public health), Katelin McCullough (classical studies), and Kaila Thorn (environmental studies)

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:

9 courses (36 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 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)

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 207: MATERIAL GIRLS IN A MATERIAL WORLD: GENDER AND SCIENCE

Also listed and described as GWS 207.

SOC 227: SOCIAL THEORY (4)

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. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD)

SOC 234: SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4)

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. (w, x)

SOC 241: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4)

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 and described as REL 241. (DIV)

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: AGING IN THE 21ST CENTURY (4)

This course will follow a series of films to facilitate reflection and discussion on representations of aging in our contemporary society. Films will be paired with selected readings to cover topics like ageism, policy and globalization, health and healthcare, caregiving, discrimination, and inequality. Offered Term 1. (SMN)

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: CRIME AND DEVIANCE (4)

This course will introduce students to the field of criminology and criminal justice. Topics will include the criminal justice system as a social institution, critical methods for studying both crime and deviant behavior, and theories

of crime and deviance. Students will leave this class understanding the basic structure of the criminal justice system, experience interacting with datasets used in criminology and

sociology, and applying theoretical approaches to real world examples of crime and deviant behavior. Offered Term 1.

SOC 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: ARCGIS AND THINKING SPATIALLY (4)

Also listed and described as CLASS/ES 250.

While becoming familiar with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data structures, and applications in problem solving, students will seek to understand not only the physical world, but how humans interact with that world in both the past and present. In this course, students will focus on learning key skills and concepts necessary to analyze and manipulate data through ArcGIS. Offered Term 1. (TLAS)

ES 250: FOOD SCIENCE, SOCIETY, AND SYSTEMS (4)

Introductory course into the nutrition and science of food, ways that food shapes and is shaped by society, and the different agricultural and organization systems that food travels in. This overview is designed to introduce the many ways we engage with our food and help inform the decisions we make about it. No pre-requisite, not open to first-years, also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

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

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 and described as GWS 260. (DIV, MOD)

SOC 272: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (4)

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 and described as GWS 272.

SOC 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

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

SOC 301: Gender, Beauty, and Body Modification

Also listed and described as GWS 301.

SOC 306: Quantitative Analysis (4)

Students will learn to calculate and analyze simple, bivariate, and selected multivariate statistics, using common statistical software (Excel, SPSS). Course includes a strong emphasis on developing critical thinking skills needed to interpret findings, communicate results, and make evidence-based recommendations supported by analyses. Also listed and described as PH 305. Offered Term 2.

SOC 343: CRITICAL RACE THEORY (4)

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. (w, x, DIV)

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

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 and described as GWS 360.

SOC 373: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (4)

Environmental justice refers to both a field of study and an activist movement. Both the realm of study and 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. Additionally, the course incorporates applied examples and experiences from the field in adjacent study areas including public health and sociology. Also listed and described as ES 373. Prerequisite: ES 104, 117, PH 210 or SOC 110. (DIV, DJP)

SOC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

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)

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

SOC 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

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.