



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

FALL 2015

Last Updated: March 17, 2015

FALL 2015 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For the FALL 2015 semester, the following courses will fulfill the departmental requirements listed below:

Required Courses

SOC 63091: "Proseminar I" (2 credit hour)
SOC 63913: "Research Methods" (3 credit hours)
SOC 63992: "Statistics I" (3 credit hours)
SOC 61992: "Statistics I Lab" (1 credit hour)
SOC 63911: "Classical Social Theory" (3 credits)
SOC 63922: "Contemporary Theory" (3 credits)

Advanced Statistics and Methods

SOC 63901: "Social Networks" (3 credits)
SOC 63919: "Qualitative Cultural Methods" (3 credits)

Graduate Level Seminars¹

SOC 63281: "Sociology of Higher Education" (3 credits)
SOC 63515: "Political Sociology" (3 credits)
SOC 63651: "Sociology of Religion I" (3 credits)
SOC 63685: "Religion, Gender and Development" (3 credits)
SOC 63800: "Sociology of Gender" (3 credits)
SOC 63901: "Social Networks" (3 credits)

¹ Courses listed under the "Foundational" and "Advanced Statistics and Methods" sections can also count as a Graduate Level Seminars. However, these courses may only be counted towards ONE requirement.

COURSE OFFERINGS: FALL 2015

SOC 61992 – Graduate Statistics I (Lab)

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

TBA

This is the lab for Statistics I.

Sociology Graduate Students Only.

SOC 63091 – Proseminar I (2 credits)

Friday: 9:00- 10:15 a.m.

Jessica Collett

The main goal of Proseminar I is to expose students to the substantive areas of strength in the department. Representatives from each area exam committee in the department will coordinate a series of presentations on the overall intellectual landscape and cutting edge issues in their area.

Sociology Graduate Students Only.

SOC 63119 – Culture Workshop (1 credit)

Friday: 1:45-3:15 p.m.

Terry McDonnell

If your research examines the role of culture in society, we invite you to join our cross-disciplinary workshop. Every other week the workshop tackles one paper, circulated in advance. Our goal is to help both faculty and graduate students as they revise and refine works-in-progress: early manuscripts, articles under review, conference papers, dissertation chapters, grant and fellowship proposals, practice job talks, and the like. Polished or published papers are best reserved for other settings. The setting is informal. Since workshop participants are expected to have read the paper in advance, the author should not come with a formal presentation prepared. Instead, authors should be prepared to introduce the paper in 5-10 minutes by summarizing the argument and outlining for the group any questions or concerns hopes to have answered by the end of the workshop. Our definition of what constitutes culture is necessarily broad and cross-disciplinary. You'd be a good fit for the workshop if your work engages meaning and interpretation, cultural practice, ideology, cultural objects, discourse, creativity, production or reception of culture, morality, categorization, narrative, visual culture, cognition, materiality, tastes, media, and much more. We are even open to papers that might not have a cultural dimension but that might benefit from one.

SOC 63278 – CREO Seminar (1 credit)

Monday: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Mark Berends

Most sessions of the CREO Seminar feature a presentation of educational research by an invited speaker from off campus or by a Notre Dame faculty member or graduate student. The content of the presentation is discussed and students write a brief reaction. Other sessions are devoted to a discussion of chapters in the Handbook of the Sociology of Education. The seminar runs for both semesters during the academic year and students receive three credits for the entire year.

SOC 63281 – Sociology of Higher Education (3 credits)

Tuesday: 12:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Megan Andrew

This graduate seminar provides an overview of key topics in the contemporary study of the sociology of higher education. We will begin by examining the purposes of higher education and its basic institutional and demographic contours over time. In the remainder of the course, we will focus our attention on understanding a number of aspects of this system given its purposes and broad characteristics. Topics will include perspectives on decision-making in higher education; the college career and its linkages before and during post-secondary school; race, class, immigration, and gender in higher education including affirmative action policies and the female college completion advantage; intergenerational mobility in higher education; and labor market-education linkages. The course will mainly draw from research on the U.S. but will use international examples when applicable. Grading will be based on class participation, four discussion papers, and a final seminar paper.

SOC 63515 – Political Sociology (3 credits)

Thursday: 12:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Samuel Valenzuela

A survey of the major theoretical traditions in the field, followed by a special focus on issues such as the process of state formation, sequences and forms of political development, the social bases of parties and their formation, the characteristics of party systems, the origins and characteristics of democratic and authoritarian regimes, the relationships between labor movements and politics, etc. Examples and case studies will be drawn from Europe and the Americas.

SOC 63578 – Social Movements & Politics (1 credit)

Thursday: 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Kraig Beyerlein

Seminar for graduate students conducting research in the areas of politics and social movements. The course focuses on presentation of on-going research projects and structured feedback about those projects. Participants will also read and discuss recent contributions to the social movements literature.

SOC 63651 –Sociology of Religion I (3 credits)

Tuesday: 3:30-6:15 p.m.

Mary Ellen Konieczny

This seminar considers classical and some contemporary approaches to the sociological study of religion through a study of theoretical and empirical works on religion. Topics include: classical approaches (Marx, Durkheim, and Weber) and their contemporary iterations and uses; the construction of religion as a category; religion and identities (e.g., race, class, gender, sexualities); religion in secular settings; the relation of religion to secularity, secularism, and atheism; and religion and globalization. Case studies will be drawn from international contexts as well as from the American religious landscape.

SOC 63685 –Religion, Gender and Development (3 credits)

Monday: 3:30-6:15 p.m.

Atalia Omer

Much attention has been given to the diverse and instrumental roles religion, religious institutions, religious networks, leaders, and entrepreneurs have played in conceptualizing the meanings of development and in implementing programs conventionally classified as catalysts of development. In this particular set of conversations, religion is often interpreted instrumentally and in a manner unreflective of the genealogical analysis of religion as a category that has been complicit with the history of empire. Within this critical discursive context, “development” is often interpreted as yet another chapter in a long legacy of cultural, political, economic and other forms of global domination. The course will scrutinize what happens to the instrumental approach to religion and development when confronted by these modes of critique. Other scholarship has begun to theorize the connections between religion, development, and strategic peacebuilding but left out the critical engagement with questions of gender, systemic violence, and divergent normative horizons and interpretations of what exactly does it mean to be “developed” and whether being “developed” entailed certain normative prescriptions on the level of a gender analysis. Therefore, the course will engage synergistically the conceptual obstacles for theorizing development, focusing on questions of agency within religious traditions and the divergent and often contested meanings of development through a gender analytic lens.

SOC 63691 – Research and Analysis in Sociology of Religion (1 credit)

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Konieczny

This one-credit workshop will engage students with key pieces of literature related to empirical research, measurement, and data analysis in the sociology of religion; teach some alternative approaches to basic data analysis strategies in the sociology of religion; and provide an informal seminar-based context for the collective reading, discussing, and critiquing of each other’s scholarly papers in sociology of religion. Workshop readings are drawn from the reading list for the ND doctoral exam in sociology of religion, to also help facilitate preparation for that exam.

SOC 63800 –Sociology of Gender (3 credits)

Wednesday: 12:30-3:15 p.m.

Elizabeth McClintock

Gender is arguably the most fundamental social division and axis of inequality in human society. Although gender categories differ cross-culturally, all societies use gender as a key organizing and stratifying principle. But what exactly is gender and how does it relate to biological sex? What is the history of gender as a category of analysis in sociology and how have gender scholars influenced other sociological sub-fields? In this course we will read foundational tracts on theorizing gender and gendering theory, we will consider feminist methodological critiques, and we will examine empirical manifestations of gender and of gender inequality across varied arenas of social life and sociological research.

SOC 63901 – Social Networks (3 credits)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

David Hachen

This seminar will examine both classical and more recent theory and research on and methods for studying social networks. The focus will be on both (a) the important substantive, theoretical and sociological issues that network analysis can address and (b) the methods, techniques and statistical models for analyzing social networks. Among the topics we will explore are the structure and dynamics of personal and community networks, conceptual and empirical definitions of role and position in social networks, theories of relationship formation and interpersonal attraction and repulsion, dynamics of diffusion of objects and ideas through social networks as well as more recent theory and research on the structure and properties of large-scale networks and attempts to analyze the micro-structure of social networks through statistical modeling techniques. Students are required to have taken the sociology's required graduate statistics course or its equivalent. Having taken an advanced statistics course is a plus.

SOC 63911 – Classical Social Theory (3 credits)

Wednesday: 3:30-6:15 p.m.

Eugene Halton

This course aims to familiarize students with the traditions and concerns of social theory. Social theory can be understood as growing out of eighteenth-century enlightenment thought and the conditions of nineteenth-century industrial society. Readings: In the first half of the semester we will concentrate on key figures in the emergence of sociological thought. In the second half we will turn to more contemporary thinkers who touch on central issues of concern to contemporary social theory.

SOC 63919 – Qualitative Cultural Methods (3 credits)

Thursday: 3:30-6:15 p.m.

Terence McDonnell

This class offers students an opportunity to learn, practice, and develop their skills in a variety of qualitative methods. We will focus primarily on varieties of interview techniques and content analysis, leaving some room to investigate additional methods according to student interest (i.e. case-studies, visual methods, etc.). For each we'll consider the entire process from study design, to data collection and analysis, to writing up the results. As students practice these methods outside of class, we'll use class to interrogate these methods. We'll ask: 1) What kinds of information can we get from these methods? What kinds of questions do these methods help us to answer? 2) What levels of analysis can we access through these methods? 3) What biases do we introduce into our research by adopting these methods? 4) What are the emergent methodological innovations in qualitative research? 5) What are the best tricks of the trade? 6) What are the debates and controversies among practitioners of these methods? 7) What are the different ways to analyze these data? Students will leave the class with a handful of new methods, confident in their ability to conduct sophisticated qualitative research.

SOC 63922 – Contemporary Theory (3 credits)

Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Omar Lizardo

This graduate seminar is an intensive overview of major currents of American and European theory that continue to have a strong influence in contemporary research and thinking in sociology. In particular the course focuses on lines of thinking in the sociological tradition that begin "after the classics," roughly from the post-war era in Europe and the United States to the present. A strong background in classical social theory (SOC 63911) is strongly recommended as a pre-requisite for this course. As defined here contemporary theory includes currently relevant strains of "neo-classical" theory (including neo-Marxian, neo-Weberian and neo-Durkhemian traditions), theories of symbolic interaction and micro-interaction emerging from the American pragmatist and post-functionalist traditions, contemporary re-interpretations of mid-twentieth century action theory and early twentieth century pragmatism, and current reinterpretations of utilitarian theories (e.g. rational action theory and methodological individualism) for application to sociological problems. We will also deal with post-classical lines of scholarship of European provenance (such as structuralism and field theory) as well as American network theory. Lines of theory that used to be influential but which have declined in influence or are no longer relevant will not be considered here (the course is not an antiquarian history of ideas, but is designed to prepare the student to be conversant with theoretical scholarship that is actually used in contemporary empirical work).

SOC 63992 – Graduate Statistics I (3 credits)

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Sarah Mustillo

This course provides an extensive introduction to the statistical techniques most commonly used by sociologists. The course will focus on both descriptive and inferential statistics in bivariate and multivariate analyses. We will also learn about sampling designs, measurement, and internal validity (i.e., causality) as they pertain to statistical analyses in the social sciences. Finally, the lab will provide an opportunity for students to learn how to use Stata (a powerful statistical software package). **Sociology Graduate Students Only. Prerequisite: Prior class in statistics. This course reviews basic descriptive statistics and probability, then concentrates on inferential hypothesis testing (analysis of variance, linear regression, dummy variables, standardized coefficients, chi-square tests and basic contingency table analysis).**

SOC 76098 – Directed Readings

Reading and research on highly specialized topics that are immediately relevant to the student's interests and that are not routinely covered in the regular curriculum. **Pre-requisite: Departmental permission.**

SOC 78599 – Thesis Direction

Reserved for the six credit-hour thesis requirement of the master's degree.

Pre-requisite: Departmental permission.

SOC 78600 – Nonresident Thesis Research

For master's degree students.

Pre-requisite: Departmental permission.

SOC 98699 – Research and Dissertation

For resident graduate students who have completed all course requirements for the Ph.D.

Pre-requisite: Departmental permission.

SOC 98700 – Nonresident Dissertation Research

For non-resident graduate students who have completed all course requirements for the Ph.D.

Pre-requisite: Departmental permission.