



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

FALL 2017

Last Updated: April 11, 2017

FALL 2017 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For the FALL 2017 semester, the following courses will fulfill the departmental requirements listed below:

Required Courses

SOC 63091: Proseminar I (2 credit hour)
SOC 63992: "Linear Regression" (3 credit hours)
SOC 61992: "Linear Regression 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 73997: "Causal Inference" (3 credits)

Graduate Level Seminars¹

SOC 63653: "Religion and Public Life" (3 credits)
SOC 63701: "Sociology of Emotions" (3 credits)
SOC 63806: "Race and Ethnicity" (3 credits)
SOC 63826: "Social Stratification" (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 2017

SOC 61997 – Linear Regression (Lab)

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

TBA

This is the lab for Linear Regression

SOC 63091 – Proseminar I

Tuesday: 10:00- 11:00 a.m.

Lyn Spillman

The proseminar is designed to acquaint first-year graduate students with the professional requirements of the field of sociology. The course will cover such topics as how to be a good graduate student, how to get research started, preparing for the job market during graduate school, and how to write for sociological outlets. Students will also attend department colloquia given by faculty and advanced graduate students.

SOC 63095 –Qualitative Research Methods

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

Gary Goertz

This course surveys some of the key issues in qualitative methods and research design. Major sections of the course deal with causal complexity, necessary and sufficient conditions, concepts, case study methodology, case selection, within-case causal inference, and philosophy of causation. Students will do 8-10 page projects on (1) causal complexity, (2) concepts, (3) case selection or case studies. These papers require the student to examine the issue in some particular area of application, and put together the three papers can form most of a research design or dissertation prospectus. **Cannot be taken for credit if the student has already taken SOC 63915, “Designing Qualitative Research”.**

SOC 63119 – Culture Workshop

Friday: 1:30-3:30 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 63270 – ND Pier Colloquium

TBA

Mark Berends

Interdisciplinary educational seminar sponsored by the Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI) and the Program for Interdisciplinary Educational Research (ND PIER). This seminar will feature presentations of educational research by an invited speaker from off campus, a Notre Dame faculty member, or graduate student. Discussions of talks, methods, and contributions to educational policies, practices, and programs will follow each presentation.

SOC 63278 – CREO Seminar

Monday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Bill Carbonaro

This course focuses on new and innovative research in the substantive area of sociology of education. Several different formats are used during the semester. First, prominent scholars from outside Notre Dame are invited to present their on-going research to seminar participants. Second, seminar participants (faculty and graduate students) are encouraged to present their on-going research in order to receive feedback to help improve the quality of their scholarship. Finally, some classes may focus on a recently published paper that is particularly influential and relevant for future research.

SOC 63515 – Political Sociology

Tuesday: 3:30 - 6:15 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

Thursday: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rory McVeigh

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 63653 –Religion and Public Life

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

David Sikkink

What is the relationship between religion and the public sphere, particularly politics, government, and the economy? How is religion related to exercises of power, the production and distribution of material goods, and the structuring of human life in seemingly non-sacred social institutions? When, how, and why does religion serve as a force for reproduction, maintaining existing practices and structures in public life? What is the place of religion in social transformation through political and economic change? This seminar examines key exemplars within the religion and public life literature to understand and develop theories of the relation between religion, politics, and economics.

SOC 63701 –Sociology of Emotions

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

Erika Summers-Effler

In the last twenty years the study of emotions in the field of Sociology has grown dramatically. The study of emotions has come in from the fringes of the discipline, and now, more than ever, important thinkers are claiming that emotions are central to social organization. In spite of this general move toward arguing for the primacy of emotions, scholars have taken many different approaches to studying and theorizing emotions. This course will cover the broad range of theories about emotion, from the historical to the current.

SOC 63806 –Race and Ethnicity

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

Jennifer Jones

This course will introduce students to major theories, topics, debates and cutting edge research in the field of race and ethnicity. During this semester we will engage with important issues in the field, such as the utility of race and ethnicity as concepts; how racial and ethnic 'groupness' is formed, classified and inhabited; and explaining persisting racial and ethnic inequality. While the course's main focus is to examine how the study of race and ethnicity has evolved in the United States, readings on other countries will also be drawn on to illuminate how different institutional environments give rise to specific understandings of race and ethnicity. This class will also bring a critical lens to the field of sociology, and the ways in which race has played a defining role in the discipline over time.

SOC 63826 Social Stratification

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

Megan Andrew

The purpose of this seminar is to provide participants with an in-depth introduction to theories of and research on social stratification and inequalities. During the semester we will explore issues related to social classes, social mobility and attainment, income inequality, labor markets, poverty, race, gender, globalization, and changes in stratification systems.

SOC 63901 – Social Networks

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

David Hachen/Omar Lizardo

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

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

Eugene Halton

This course aims to familiarize students with the traditions and concerns of social theory. We will concentrate on original works that will cover a broad groundwork of theorists, but we cannot encompass the whole range of any given theorist considered. The seminar is necessarily introductory and should be considered as an invitation to further reading of theorists considered. 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 will concentrate more on key figures in the European emergence of sociological thought, then move on in the second half to key thinkers primarily from the American tradition.

SOC 63922 – Contemporary Theory

Monday: 12:30–3:15 p.m.

Ann Mische

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 63997 – Linear Regression

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

Bill Carbonaro

In this course, students will learn the mathematics underlying "Ordinary Least Squares" (OLS) regression, as well as the practical applications and interpretation of the OLS model. The course will cover the following topics: interpreting regression parameters; generating predictions; properly specifying models; assessing model fit; finding the correct functional form; testing for statistical significance; interpreting interaction terms and non-additive models; and evaluating numerous modeling assumptions. Further, we will deal with extensions of this framework, some which address limitations of OLS. Examples include: multilevel modeling, and factor analysis. Throughout the semester, students will use the Stata software package to estimate, test and interpret linear models. Successful completion of the "Statistics Bootcamp" (or equivalent) or the approval by the instructor is necessary for enrollment in this course.

SOC 73997 –Causal Inference

Monday & Wednesday: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Bill Carbonaro

Social scientists are centrally concerned with making inferences regarding *causal relationships* in their research. Unfortunately, making valid causal inferences is one of the most challenging problems in the social sciences. In this course, we will examine the nature of the problem, and learn different strategies for making credible inferences about causality in our data. We will focus on "big picture" issues such as:

what do we mean by a "causal effect" in the social sciences, and what are the fundamental obstacles to estimating causal effects? This course is both statistical and methodological. In terms of methodology, we will learn about *research designs* and *analytical techniques* that can help us make strong causal inferences. In terms of statistics, we will learn specific tools that help us eliminate threats to internal validity in non-experimental data. We will focus heavily on the importance and use of panel (or "longitudinal") data to make causal inferences, and we will learn commonly used techniques in making causal inferences, such as: propensity score matching, random/mixed effects models, fixed effect models, and selection/instrumental variable models. (Note: students will learn multilevel modeling [aka "HLM"] and structural equation modeling (SEM) in this course, in the context of analyzing panel data.) Students will learn how to perform all of these statistical techniques in Stata.

SOC 76097 – 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.