



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM

SPRING 2018

Last Updated 10/4/2017

SPRING 2018 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For the SPRING 2018 semester, the following courses will fulfill the departmental requirements listed below:

Required Courses

- SOC 63092: "Proseminar II" (1 credit)
- SOC 63913: "Research Methods" (3 credits)
- SOC 71994: "Categorical Data Analysis Lab" (0 credit)
- SOC 73994: "Categorical Data Analysis" (3 credits)

Foundational Courses¹

- SOC 63125: "Cultural Sociology" (3 credits)
- SOC 63820: "Sociology of Organizations" (3 credits)

Advanced Methods

- SOC 63919: "Qualitative Cultural Methods" (3 credits)

Graduate Level Seminars¹

- SOC 63500: "Transnational Political Sociology" (3 credits)
- SOC 63590: "Analyzing Conflict" (3 credits)
- SOC 63653: "Religion and Public Life" (3 credits)
- SOC 63729: "Micro-Sociology" (3 credits)

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

COURSE OFFERINGS: SPRING 2018

SOC 63092 – Proseminar II (1 credit)

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

Lyn Spillman

The main goal of Proseminar II 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: 1:30-3:00 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 63125 – Cultural Sociology

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

Lyn Spillman

Do cultures reflect societies? Do social institutions reflect culture? Or are social institutions themselves texts? What part does culture play in consensus formation, in domination, and in resistance? How has the relation between culture and social institutions changed? We will survey some of the central issues in the sociology of culture, and their implications for sociological analysis and understanding more generally. We will review classic statements of the relation between culture and institutions, and exemplars in the renaissance of sociological work on culture. Case studies will illustrate different approaches. According to student interest, these may be selected from work on specialized cultural institution like art and the mass media, or from more broadly based studies of meaning and value.

SOC 63270 – ND Pier Colloquium

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

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 63500 – Transnational Political Sociology

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

Tamara Kay

The course is designed to get you to think analytically about how power is produced and reinforced in a global system, and how social actors and movements try to undermine it, work with it or transform it in order to create social change. The course will prepare you to engage in comparative scholarship and international research, and will provide an overview of the core issues and theoretical concerns in sociology and political science as they pertain to global and transnational dynamics, from comparative politics and human rights to transnational social movement building.

SOC 63578 –Social Movements & Politics

Tuesday: 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 63590 –Analyzing Conflict

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

Rory McVeigh

The course investigates conflict in a wide variety of settings and over different types of issues. These include racial/ethnic conflict, political conflict, conflict over education, conflict pertaining to gender roles, etc. We will examine different ways in which sociologists have studied and explained conflict. Emphasis will be placed on student development of original research questions that could, with further development, result in published articles.

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 63729 –Micro Sociology

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

David Gibson

Social interaction, particularly when conducted face-to-face, is highly complex, lending itself to multiple methodological approaches depending on the type of encounter (e.g., focused vs. unfocused), the facet(s) being studied, and the way in which the resulting data are analyzed. This course is mostly structured around such methodological choices and the related question of data type/source. We will consider the merits of quantitative versus qualitative approaches; the use of video recordings, audio recordings, photographs, and written records of interaction as potential data sources; the distinct challenges of studying verbal communication versus nonverbal behavior; and possible approaches to the study of co-presence and coordination when the normal rules of conversational turn-taking are irrelevant. Against the backdrop of the various forms of “technical” micro-sociology we will also consider the promise, techniques, and limitations of ethnography, and the way in which they might be improved through the use of recordings and more structured observation. Other topics include the consequences of interaction, and, reflecting the instructor’s interests, the relationship between interaction and social networks, the keeping and discovery of secrets, and violent encounters. A wide range of audio and visual materials will be analyzed in class, including from criminal jury deliberations, National Security Council meetings, radio call-in shows, police interrogations, police shootings, and a mass suicide. Requirements include attendance, participation, several short written assignments, in-class presentations, and a final research paper.

SOC 63820 –Sociology of Organizations

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

Mary Ellen Konieczny

This seminar explores theories and empirical studies in the Sociology of Organizations--an extensive body of research that intersects with Business and Management, and with other Sociology subfields including Culture, Economic Sociology, and Social Movements. The course is structured so that, by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- identify, articulate, criticize and evaluate the major theories and debates in the Sociology of Organizations from the mid-20th century to the present
- use the perspectives and theoretical tools of this subfield to generate new questions about organization theory and empirical instances of organizations that pique their interest
- analyze organizational structures and processes
- analyze change and inequality in organizations, and evaluate the empirical effects of globalization on organizations

Although the mode of enquiry in this course is primarily scholarly, the theories and empirical cases we will study have eminent practical relevance for understanding encounters with organizations in one's everyday life and work.

SOC 63913 – Research Methods

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

Elizabeth McClintock

Provides an introduction to measurement theory, research design, and a review of various methods of data-gathering, including experimental, observational, and survey data collection techniques. Students will gain experience with a variety of techniques of measurement and will be guided through the process of developing a research proposal.

SOC 63919 – Qualitative Cultural Methods

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

Terry McDonnell

This class offers students an opportunity to learn, practice, and develop their skills in a variety of qualitative methods, with an emphasis on analyzing meaning and measuring culture. We primarily focus on varieties of interview techniques ("in depth," focus groups, life histories) and content analysis, leaving some room to investigate additional methods according to student interest (i.e. case-studies, visual methods, etc.). For each method, students follow the entire process from design, to data collection and analysis, to writing up results. As students practice these methods inside and outside of class, we'll 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 different techniques 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 71994 – Categorical Data Analysis Lab

Friday: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Chris Quiroz

Lab that accompanies SOC 73994, Categorical Data Analysis

SOC 73994 –Categorical Data Analysis

Monday & Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Rich Williams

This course discusses methods and models for the analysis of categorical dependent variables and their applications in social science research. Researchers are often interested in the determinants of categorical outcomes. For example, such outcomes might be binary (lives/dies), ordinal (very likely/somewhat likely/not likely), nominal (taking the bus, car, or train to work) or count (the number of times something has happened, such as the number of articles written). When dependent variables are categorical rather than continuous, conventional OLS regression techniques are not appropriate. This course therefore discusses the wide array of methods that are available for examining categorical outcomes. Heavy use will be made of Stata and possibly other programs. Course requirements will include writing a quantitative paper using one or more of the methods discussed.

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. **Departmental permission required.**

SOC 78599 – Thesis Direction

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

SOC 78600 – Nonresident Thesis Research

For master's degree students.

SOC 98699 – Research and Dissertation

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

SOC 98700 – Nonresident Dissertation Research

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