



SOCIOLOGY

GRADUATE PROGRAM

FALL 2009

COURSE

DESCRIPTIONS

The University of Notre Dame offers a graduate program leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology. The program is a broadly based one designed to provide the student with intensive training in theory, research methods, and statistics. Close collaboration with other departments provides a distinctive cross-cultural and interdisciplinary emphasis. The department has a strong commitment to the preparation of researchers and college teachers.

REQUIRED COURSES

SOC 63911 – Classical Social Theory
SOC 63913 – Graduate Research Methods
SOC 63091 – Proseminar
SOC 63993 – Statistics II
SOC 63975 – Research Practicum I

AREAS OF CONCENTRATIONS

Cultural Sociology
Education
Family
Historical/ Comparative Sociology
Quantitative Methodology
Political Sociology/Social Movements
Religion
Social Psychology
Stratification/Race/Ethnicity
Theory

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COURSES OFFERED FALL 2009

SOC 61992 – Graduate Statistics I (Lab)

Friday: 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Sean Kelly

This is the lab for Statistics I - For Social Research

Sociology Graduate Students Only. Co-requisite SOC 63992

SOC 63091 – Proseminar

Friday: 9:35 – 10:25 a.m.

Daniel Myers

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.

Sociology Graduate Students Only.

SOC 63138 – Culture and Consumption

Thursday: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Eugene Halton

In the past century the twin problems of meaning and materialism have come to the forefront of modern civilization, forming the basis of a variety of philosophies and social theories, animating revolutionary movements in art, looming as the silent specter behind mass society and its dramas of consumption. Today's consumer societies offer the promises of affluence, of convenience, of "the good life."

Consumption touches on themes that reach from the sources of identity and small-scale processes to the problems of the global economy, environment, and culture. Yet it is by no means clear that the massive technological advances and material gains in advanced industrial societies have contributed to a better way of life--many would say increased meaninglessness is the actual result: a "goods life" instead of the good life.

By exploring the rise of materialism and its contemporary presence through a variety of historic sources, key expressions in social theory, works of art, and consumption culture, we will attempt to achieve a new understanding of contemporary materialism and the prospects for the good life.

Key topics to be taken up in the course include: Invention of poverty and wealth; civilized consciousness and the animate mind; the rise of modern ghost in the machine; making the matrix of modern life; contemporary consumption culture and its effects on domestic; civic and global life; from materialism to signs of life.

SOC 63278 – CREO Seminar

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

Maureen Hallinan

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 63417 – International Migration and Human Rights

Tuesday: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Jorge Bustamante

This seminar focuses on research reports on US immigration from Mexico for a critique of research methods and basic differences in the interpretation of data. A review of the literature is discussed with an emphasis on policy making on immigration in the United States and Mexico. A comparison is made between the debate on migrants' human rights on various parts of the world. A critique on scientific theories focusing on the relationship between international migrations and human rights is also included.

Suggested for first year graduate students of Sociology, Government, International Relations and Peace Studies.

SOC 63510 – Sociology of Development

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

Samuel Valenzuela

Why do some countries have higher levels of social, economic and political development than others? While focusing on the record of specific cases, this course focuses on a critical examination of the sociological theories that try to answer the various ramifications of this question.

SOC 63524 – Employment in a Changing Economy

Thursday: 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

David Hachen

How is employment changing? What distinguishes the new economy from the old economy? How do people find better jobs? What are employers looking for when they attempt to meet their labor needs? This course will attempt to answer these and other questions by contrasting the new and the old economy. In the old economy some people worked for the same employer their entire lives. Why did workers stay with the same firm? Why did employers want to retain their employees? In the new economy employers seem to want flexibility. Why do they want flexibility and how do they attempt to achieve it? What consequences does the quest for flexibility have for how people become employed?

The focus of this course will be on employment in the United States, though we will look at changes occurring in other countries, especially in Europe. A wide range of issues will be investigated from a sociological perspective such as how labor markets operate, why internal labor markets with promotion opportunities emerged, the role of social networks in finding jobs, the effects of globalization, increased competition and deregulation on employment, how people move between jobs, the growing importance of temporary employment, the role of intermediaries such as staffing agencies, gender differences in employment, and governmental regulatory policies.

SOC 63552 – Changes and Challenges in Family Life

Monday and Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Juli Sobolewski

Examines historical transitions in family organization and key challenges for today's families, including divorce, cohabitation, single parenthood, remarriage, work-family conflict, and economic hardship. Graduate standing in sociology or instructor permission required.

SOC 63572 – Social Movements and Collective Behavior

Thursday: 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Kraig Beyerlein

This course will introduce students to major theories, topics, debates, and cases in the field of social movements and collective action. In this course, we will answer, among other things, what defines a social movement? Under what conditions do social movements emerge, thrive, and decline? Why do people get involved in social movements? What effects do social movements have on the lives of people who participate in them? On governmental policies, elected officials, and broader cultural expressions? How do social movements spread? What is the relationship between mobilization and repression and mobilization and countermobilization? As these questions indicate, the primary goal of this course is to explain the various processes and dynamics involved in social movements and collective action. To achieve this goal, we will draw on both classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives and empirical analysis, covering such important cases of collective action as the U.S. civil rights movement, the U.S. Central America peace movement, the East German revolution, anti-nuclear movements, animal rights movements, gay and lesbian movements, abortion activism, and terrorism. This course will also help students prepare for the comprehensive examination in social movements and collective action.

SOC 63630 – Religion, Gender and Family

Tuesday: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Mary Ellen Konieczny

This course examines classical and current sociological theory and empirical research concerning the relation of religion to issues of gender and family. Themes to be examined include: religious participation and the construction of gendered identities; modern women's adherence to conservative, evangelical and fundamentalist religious groups articulating patriarchal gender ideologies; religion, family organization, and parenting; religion and the control/expression of sexuality; and the contribution (and limits) of feminist theory to understanding the relation of religion, gender, and family in contemporary societies. Empirical research studied in this course draws extensively from Western contexts, but also substantially includes cases from societies across the globe.

SOC 63691 – Research and Analysis in Sociology of Religion

Tuesdays: 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

David Sikkink

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 others' 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. This course will only meet on the following dates: Sept 1, Sept 22, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

SOC 63878 – Training Seminar: Stratification

Wednesday: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

William Carbonaro

Seminar for graduate students conducting research in the areas of stratification, education, and family.

The course will consist of seminar participants presenting their on-going research and getting feedback on their work. Students will also occasionally receive training in advanced statistical techniques. Finally, the group will also read and discuss recent research in the areas of stratification, education, and family.

SOC 63911 – Classical Social Theory

Thursday: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Erika Summers Effler

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 63915 – Designing Qualitative Research

Tuesday: 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Lyn Spillman

The goal of this course is provide an opportunity to examine in depth important issues in qualitative research design, including the formulation of research problems; classification, description, and measurement; types of explanation and inference; comparative design; and the logic of case study design. Our reading and discussion will focus on general methodological reflections and debates of qualitative researchers, especially but not exclusively the broadly applicable work of comparative historical sociologists. We will also analyze and critique research design in several illustrative empirical studies. The class will not treat basic skills involved in different types of qualitative research. However, students may develop and revise research proposals and research projects in the course of class work.

SOC 63975 – Research Practicum I (MA-2 credits)

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

David Hachen

The aim of this Research Practicum is to assist second-year graduate students in writing their master's theses.

Sociology Graduate Students Only.

SOC 63992 – Graduate Statistics I

Monday and Wednesday: 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sean Kelly

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).

Sociology Graduate Students Only. Co-requisite SOC 61992.

SOC 73994 – Categorical Data Analysis

Monday and Wednesday: 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Richard 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. Sociology 592 and 593 or their equivalents are prerequisites for the course.

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 Direction

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.