COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIOLOGY

GRADUATE PROGRAM

FALL 2013
Last Updated: March 19, 2013
FALL 2013 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For the Fall 2013 semester, the following courses will fulfill the departmental requirements listed below:

Required Theory
SOC 63911 “Classical Social Theory” (3 credit hours)
SOC 63922 “Contemporary Theory” (3 credit hours)

Foundational
SOC 63820 “Sociology of Organizations” (3 credit hours)

Advanced Statistics and Methods
SOC 73994: “Categorical Data Analysis” (3 credit hours)
SOC 63995: “Ethnographic Methods of Qualitative Research I” (3 credit hours)

Graduate Level Seminars:
SOC 63820: “Sociology of Organizations” (3 credit hours)
SOC 63900: “Critical Realism and Sociology” (3 credit hours)
SOC 63911: “Classical Social Theory” (3 credit hours)
SOC 63922: “Contemporary Theory” (3 credit hours)

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.
SOC 61990 – Social Statistics Boot Camp
MTWR: 8:45 - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. (8/19-8/22)
Instructor TBA
This course will provide all students with a strong foundation in the “basics” of social scientific statistics before taking “Graduate Statistics I” (Sociology 63992). The course is meant for students who either have NO prior coursework in statistics, or those who feel they need a “refresher” before enrolling in Stats I. The course will cover: basic descriptive statistics; basic probability theory; the fundamentals of statistical sampling and sampling error; and the fundamentals of statistical inference (including confidence intervals and hypothesis testing). Sociology Graduate Students Only. Prerequisite for Statistics I.

SOC 61992 – Graduate Statistics I (Lab)
Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Jonathan Schwarz
This is the lab for Statistics I.
Sociology Graduate Students Only. Co-requisite -SOC 63993.

SOC 63091 – Proseminar I
Friday: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Jessica Collett
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 63119 – Culture Workshop
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**
**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 63578 – Social Movements & Politics**
**Wednesday: 10:00 – 10:45 a.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. Course is one credit.

**SOC 63691 – Research and Analysis in Sociology of Religion**
**Wednesday: 7:30 – 9:00 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 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. **Course is one credit.**
SOC 63820 – Sociology of Organizations
Tuesday: 12:30p – 3:15p
Mary Ellen Konieczny
Organizations are complex and multi-faceted entities. Organizations are more than just collections of people behaving and interacting in certain ways. Organizational behavior and interactions are structured by rules and procedures, jobs and occupations, authority relations, goals and strategies, technologies, and distributions of power. Within organizations not only are orders given and tasks accomplished, but also decisions are made, conflicts occur and are sometimes resolved, and control is exercised. Finally, organizations interact with other organizations in their environment. These interactions can lead to changes in organizational go’s, strategies and structures or changes in the environment in which the organization operates. This seminar is designed to help participants increase their understanding of all these organizational dynamics by exploring theories of organizations and examining data on organizations.

SOC 63900 – Critical Realism and Sociology
Tuesday: 5:05 – 6:20 p.m.
Chris Smith
This advanced theory seminar will explore the philosophy of social science known as critical realism and consider how it might influence sociological research and scholarship. The first part of the course will read and discuss key works in critical realism as an alternative approach to both positivist empiricism and hermeneutical interpretivism. The second part of the course will then consider the implications of a critical realist sociology for conceiving and designing research projects, conducting data analysis, and writing publications. Along the way we will engage a variety of sociological theories and basic theoretical issues from a critical realist perspective.

SOC 63911 – Classical Social Theory
Thursday: 3:30p – 6:15 p.m.
Gene 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 63922 – Contemporary Theory**
Tuesday and 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**
Monday and Wednesday: 11:00p – 12:15p
Bill Carbonaro
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. Co-requisite- SOC 61992.
**SOC 63995 - Ethnographic Methods of Qualitative Research I**  
**Thursday: 12:30 – 3:15 p.m.**  
**Erika Summers-Effler**  
This is a two-semester course in ethnographic methods. We will focus on conducting independent research. You will design your own project based on your empirical and theoretical interests. Qualitative researchers must distill large amounts of data into useful empirical findings and theoretical arguments. This process of distilling begins with: learning to think systematically about research, specifying a clear and doable research project, taking systematic field notes, and writing memos as you go. You must also familiarize yourself with a wide range of social theories in order to be able to frame your emerging argument. Careful and conscientious data collection paves the way for systematic analysis. While analysis runs throughout both semesters, we will focus on data collection and review of contemporary and classical theories in this first semester. Next semester we will focus on qualitative analysis and writing. Your field notes, analytic memos, and theoretical memos from this semester will serve as data for next semester’s final paper. You will need to spend a significant amount of time in the field to have sufficient data for the final paper (due at the end of the second semester) and to participate in the ongoing analysis throughout the course. You must spend at least three hours in the field a week and be ready to talk about your experiences in the field when you come to class, particularly how your experiences relate to the readings for that week. “Hot seat” sessions will be devoted entirely to discussing students’ experiences in the field; everyone will be expected to speak at length during these sessions.

**SOC 73994 - Categorical Data Analysis**  
**Monday & Wednesday: 12:30 – 1:45 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 by 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 63992 and 63993 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 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.