



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

SPRING 2015

Last Updated: January 6, 2015

SPRING 2015 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Required Courses (for First Years):

- SOC 63091 "Proseminar II" (1 credit hour)
- SOC 63913 "Research Methods" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63993 "Statistics II" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 61993 "Statistics II Lab" (1 credit hour)

Advanced Statistics and Methods

- SOC 63915: "Designing Qualitative Research" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 73997: "Establishing Causal Inference" (3 credit hours)

Graduate Level Seminars¹

- SOC 63138: "Culture and Consumption" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63199: "Cultural Objects & Materiality" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63569: "Religion and Social Movements" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63590: "Analyzing Conflict" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63917: "Cognitive Sociology" (3 credit hours)

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: SPRING 2015

SOC 61993 – Graduate Statistics II (Lab)

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Linda Kawentel

This is the lab for Statistics II.

Sociology Graduate Students Only. Co-requisite -SOC 63993.

SOC 63092 – Proseminar II (1 credit)

Monday: 9:30- 10:25 a.m.

David Hachen

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 63198 –Culture and Consumption (3 credits)

Tuesday: 12:30-3:15 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 63199 –Cultural Objects & Materiality (3 credits)

Monday & Wednesday: 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Terry McDonnell

Daniel Miller argues there is a humility of things, suggesting that objects have substantially more power over our lives than we give them credit for. If this is true, it raises the question of whether sociology has sufficiently theorized the power of objects. While sub-disciplines in sociology have analyzed objects with varying degrees of theoretical sophistication, we almost always treat objects as by-products of social relationships. This class asks instead, what can objects do? How do they shape behavior? What if we take objects seriously as an analytical subject in sociology? I hope as a class we can move this conversation forward and develop a more robust and uniquely sociological theory of objects and materiality. In the service of this goal we'll read widely across disciplines to take from the best of what is written on objects and materiality while avoiding the pitfalls of previous approaches. We'll grapple with major theories and methods of object-based social analysis from classic sociological theory, cultural sociology, science and technology studies, actor-network theory, symbolic interaction, material culture studies, anthropology, psychology, embodiment, materiality, and more. Throughout the class we'll address how to incorporate object-based methods into your research agenda.

SOC 63279 – CREO Seminar (2 credits)

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 63569 –Religion and Social Movements (3 credits)

Thursday: 3:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Kraig Beyerlein

This course focuses on the major topics, theories, and debates in the literature on religion and social movements. In the first part of the course, students will learn about the role of religion in promoting or hindering collective action for such theoretically important cases as the struggle for racial justice in the American South in the 1960s, the U.S. Central America peace movement, the East German Revolution, and anti-abortion activism. Although most of the material in this section addresses the effect of religion on social activism, we will also discuss work that reverses the causal arrow and considers how social movement participation influences religion. Attention then shifts to social movements within religious organizations. Here we engage studies on the success or failure of organizing efforts for secularization, women's ordination, gay and lesbian rights, and doctrinal change during the Second Vatican Council. From the Unification Church to American evangelicalism, the final part of the course tackles religious movements and what drives their growth and decline. In studying these different dimensions of religion and social movements, particular emphasis will be given to explicating the processes involved in mobilization.

SOC 63578 –Social Movements & Politics (1 credit)

Tuesday: 9:45 – 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.

SOC 63590 –Analyzing Conflict (3 credits)

Tuesday: 3:30-6:15 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 63691 – Research and Analysis in Sociology of Religion (1 credit)

Wednesday: 3:30 – 6:15 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.

SOC 63903 –Doing Dissertation Research (1 credit)

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

Jessica Collett

This one-credit course is designed to touch upon major areas of concern and interest for graduate students as they are entering the dissertating stage of their studies (3rd or 4th year students). Over the course of the semester, we will address specific concerns related to choosing a topic, forming a committee, and securing funding, but also discuss the importance of the dissertation in culminating your graduate career and its role on the job market and for fellowship opportunities.

SOC 63913 – Research Methods (3 credits)

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

Robert Fishman

Sociology 63913 is designed to provide an in-depth view of quantitative and qualitative research methods in the social sciences. Topics covered include (1) hypothesis formulation and theory construction (2) the measurement of sociological variables (3) data collection techniques - experimental, survey, and observational. At the end of the course, students should appreciate both the strengths and the limitations of sociological research techniques, and will hopefully have a solid foundation for beginning to conduct research on their own.

SOC 63915 –Designing Qualitative Research

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

Lynette 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 63917 –Cognitive Sociology

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

Omar Lizardo

The hunch that cognitive process is shaped by social context was shared (sometimes explicitly) by all of the classical theorists. After a long period of neglect and anti-psychological boundary-drawing, questions of the relationship of cognition to culture and society are once again at the forefront of the disciplinary concerns. However, this renewal of interest in cognition (and culture) is occurring as pernicious (and largely outdated) assumptions about the relationship between language, culture, cognition and action continue to be hegemonic in sociology. The basic premise of this course is that a sociological concern with cognition can be healthy and productive but that that marriage cannot occur under the (largely parochial) contemporary parameters under which (American) sociology defines itself as a discipline and without exorcising the ghosts left behind by the post-classical mangling of the "cognitive question." This course is meant as a review, critique and (partial reclamation of valuable threads) across different sociological approaches to cognition from the classics to twentieth century movements in cultural analysis and theory of action, and onwards beyond sociology and towards contemporary research in the cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience. The basic goal of the course is to offer a reconstructive

characterization of what a cognitive sociology that did not respect the boundary lines drawn by our disciplinary forefathers would look like, one that returns to the basic classical questions armed with the conceptual tools offered by contemporary understandings of the nature of cognitive process.

SOC 63993 – Graduate Statistics II

Monday and Wednesday: 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Rich Williams

This second course in the graduate sequence focuses on the general linear model in all its forms: special topics in multiple regression (multi-collinearity, missing data, panel data, heteroscedasticity), nonlinear models, causal modeling (recursive and non-recursive systems), structural equations, logit and probit models. **Sociology Graduate Students Only. Co-requisite- SOC 61993.**

SOC 73997 – Establishing Causal Inference

Monday & Wednesday: 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

William 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? This course is both statistical and methodological. In terms of methodology, we will learn about *research designs* that can help us make strong causal inferences. In terms of statistics, we will learn analytical techniques 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: random/mixed effects models, fixed effect models, propensity score matching, and selection/instrumental variable models. (Note: students will learn multilevel modeling [aka “HLM”] in this course, in the context of analyzing panel data.) Students will learn how to perform all of these statistical techniques in Stata. **Pre-requisite: SOC 63933 (Grad Stats II) and Soc 63913 (Research Methods).**

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.