



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SOCIOLOGY
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

SPRING 2016

Last Updated: October 2, 2015

SPRING 2016 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For the SPRING 2016 semester, the following courses will fulfill the departmental requirements listed below:

Required Courses (for First Years):

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

Foundational Courses ¹

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

Advanced Statistics and Methods ¹

- SOC 63957: "Historical and Comparative Sociology" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63995: "Ethnographic Methods of Qualitative Research" (3 credit hours)

Electives

- SOC 63080: "Interdisciplinary Reproduction" (3 credit hours)
- SOC 63729: "Micro-Sociology" (3 credit hours)

¹ Courses listed under the "Foundational" and "Advanced Statistics and Methods" sections can also count as graduate level electives. However, these courses may only be counted towards ONE requirement.

COURSE OFFERINGS: SPRING 2016

SOC 63080 – Interdisciplinary Reproduction (3 credits)

Wednesday: 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Gail Bederman

This class introduces students to a broad range of interdisciplinary investigations into the study of reproduction. We will consider both the dominant feminist framework of “reproductive rights,” and the official Roman Catholic position; historical and demographic scholarship on reproduction, both in the United States and internationally; and conclude with an interdisciplinary and international selection of recent or classic books on the subject. **Sociology Graduate Students Only.**

SOC 63092 – Proseminar II (1 credit)

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

Jessica Collett

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 (3 credits)

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

Lynette 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 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 63578 –Social Movements & Politics (1 credit)

Thursday: 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 63691 – Research and Analysis in Sociology of Religion (1 credit)

Monday: 3:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Mary Ellen Konieczny

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 63729 –Micro-Sociology (3 credits)

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

David Gibson

This seminar is an exploration of the micro end of the micro-macro continuum within sociology. Topics include: social psychology, the self, motivation, cognition, culture, interaction, emotion, and micro dynamics of power and status.

SOC 63820 –Sociology of Organizations (3 credits)

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

Erin McDonnell

This course will take you on a systematic overview of the major movements and developments of the field of Sociology of Organizations from the mid-20th Century onwards. The course is structured to facilitate chronological investigation of the major developments in the field. This approach is designed to help students understand how significant movements in organizational studies emerged in relation to the relevant theories of the time, and thereby to cultivate an explicit appreciation for how professional organizational sociologists frame their work, and in turn help students understand how to frame their own research interests in relation to today's significant organizational theories. In addition to covering "great works" that all familiar with organizational sociology should know, the end of the semester will take a "choose your own adventure" approach, allowing students an opportunity to specialize with deeper reading in one of several areas.

SOC 63903 –Doing Dissertation Research (1 credit)

Monday: 2:00-2:50 p.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.

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 63957 –Historical and Comparative Sociology (3 credits)

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

Samuel Valenzuela

Reviews some of the basic techniques in historical research, discusses comparative research designs in the social sciences, and examines critically major works using comparative analysis. Students are encouraged to write proposals using comparative analysis.

SOC 63995 –Ethnographic Methods of Qualitative Research (3 credits)

Monday & Wednesday: 11:00-12:15 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 68900 – Publishable to Published (1 credit)

Wednesday: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Omar Lizardo

This course is a hands-on workshop in which students will work on revising an **existing manuscript at an advanced stage of completion** that is deemed to be of publishable quality. This could be your M.A. thesis, a dissertation chapter, or a finished course paper that contains original research. The course is not meant for students who only have a partial draft or a project still in the works. Papers should have **empirical content** (not purely conceptual or theoretical papers). The workshop will cover all stages of the journal article writing process, with an emphasis of decomposing the task of writing a journal article

into distinct stages focused on different parts of the work (front-end, results section, discussion, and concluding remarks). To that end we will begin by “reverse-engineering” existing examples of published work to generate a “best-practices” framework. We will then apply the results of this process to revising your existing paper. We will cover effective strategies for “framing” the front-end of your paper, typical ways of structuring results sections for papers using a wide variety of types of evidence (quantitative or qualitative), and most effective ways of structuring the discussions/implications/conclusions parts of a journal article. The workshop will primarily focus on the best strategies for writing journal articles for a general sociological audience; therefore a paper with such a potential will work best although more specialist work is also welcome. Throughout the workshop students will submit multiple drafts of these different components, with the goal of having a fully-revised and ready-to-submit draft by the end of the semester. Students should be ready to both peer review each other’s work and to have their work discussed publicly in a friendly workshop context (this will not be personal advice session for your work). We will close by examining often unremarked details of the submission and revision process, including best strategies for choosing a journal, responding to reviews, and dealing with predictably pitfalls in the submission and revision process.

SOC 71994 – Categorical Data Analysis Lab (0 credits)

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

Mike Wood

Lab that accompanies SOC 73994, Categorical Data Analysis.

SOC 73994 – Categorical Data Analysis (3 credits)

Monday & Wednesday: 12:30-1:45 p.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.

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.