



UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIOLOGY  
GRADUATE PROGRAM

**SPRING 2020**  
Last Updated 10/28/19

## **SPRING 2020 COURSE OFFERING AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

For the SPRING 2020 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 63922: "Contemporary Theory" (3 credits)
- SOC 71994: "Categorical Data Analysis Lab" (0 credit)
- SOC 73994: "Categorical Data Analysis" (3 credits)

### **Foundational Courses<sup>1</sup>**

- SOC 63800: "Sociology of Gender" (3 credits)
- SOC 63806: "Race and Ethnicity" (3 credits)

### **Advanced Methods**

- SOC 63980: "Qualitative Methods" (3 credits)

<sup>1</sup>Courses 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 2020**

### **SOC 63092 – Proseminar II (1 credit)**

**Friday: 9:00 - 10:00am**

**Terry McDonnell**

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 - 3:00pm**

**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 63270 – ND Pier Colloquium (1 credit)**

**Friday: 12:30 - 3:15pm**

**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 63279 – CREO Seminar (2 credits)**

**Monday: 3:30 – 5:00pm**

**Amy Langenkamp**

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 63578 –Social Movements & Politics (1 credit)**

**Tuesday: 9:00 – 10:00am**

**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 63800 –Sociology of Gender**

**Wednesday: 12:30 - 3:15pm**

**Abigail Ocobock**

Gender is arguably the most fundamental social division and axis of inequality in human society. Although gender categories differ cross-culturally, all societies use gender as a key organizing and stratifying principle. But what exactly is gender and how does it relate to biological sex? What is the history of gender as a category of analysis in sociology and how have gender scholars influenced other sociological sub-fields? In this course we will read foundational tracts on theorizing gender and gendering theory, we will consider feminist methodological critiques, and we will examine empirical manifestations of gender and of gender inequality across varied arenas of social life and sociological research.

### **SOC 63806 – Race and Ethnicity**

**Tuesday: 3:30 - 6:15pm**

**Calvin Zimmerman**

This course will introduce students to major theories, topics, debates and cutting edge research in the field of race and ethnicity. During this semester we will engage with important issues in the field, such as the utility of race and ethnicity as concepts; how racial and ethnic ‘groupness’ is formed, classified and inhabited; and explaining persisting racial and ethnic inequality. While the course’s main focus is to examine how the study of race and ethnicity has evolved in the United States, readings on other countries will also be drawn on to illuminate how different institutional environments give rise to specific understandings of race and ethnicity. This class will also bring a critical lens to the field of sociology, and the ways in which race has played a defining role in the discipline over time.

## **SOC 63913 – Research Methods**

**Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00am -12:15pm**

**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 63922 – Contemporary Theory**

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

**David Gibson**

This is a graduate-level seminar structured around the main theoretical debates of contemporary sociology, including the interplay of rationality and emotion, the relationship between structure and agency, the nature of power, and the role of chance and contingency. In considering alternative positions on these debates, we will encounter the major theorists of the past fifty years, including Parsons, Merton, Goffman, Homans, Schutz, Coleman, Bourdieu, Luhmann, Habermas, Collins, Latour, and Giddens. Requirements include attendance and participation, weekly memos, occasional service as a discussant, and a final paper. The course is not meant to substitute for an undergraduate-level survey course but supplemental readings will be recommended for students lacking that background.

## **SOC 63980 – Qualitative Methods**

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

**Tamara Kay**

This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of and basic training in qualitative research, including research design, data collection, data analysis, writing, and the ethics/politics of fieldwork. It will be oriented to the practical “how tos” of qualitative research, and requires you to conduct your own throughout the semester. You will also examine exemplary qualitative research, which will allow you consider the various domains or topical areas in sociology where qualitative work has made, and continues to make, major contributions to the discipline. **Department Approval Required.**

## **SOC 68900 – Publishable to Published**

**Thursday: 12:30 - 3:15pm**

**Erin McDonnell**

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. 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. **Department Approval Required.**

### **SOC 71994 – Categorical Data Analysis Lab**

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

Lab that accompanies SOC 73994, Categorical Data Analysis

### **SOC 73994 –Categorical Data Analysis**

**Monday & Wednesday: 9:30 - 10:45am**

**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 78599 – Thesis Direction**

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

### **SOC 98200 –Dissertation Completion**

One credit requirement for students past their eighth year.

### **SOC 98699 – Research and Dissertation**

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