
Department of
Sociology

Courses of Study:
Major (B.A.)
Master of Arts
Doctor of Philosophy

Objectives

Undergraduate Major

The undergraduate curriculum provides students with the tools for understanding and critical analysis of a broad array of institutions and cultures, from the everyday level of interpersonal and community interaction to large-scale political and social systems and public policies. Students are engaged as active learners and encouraged to develop knowledge that can make a difference in the world, including the potential for leadership development and action for social justice.

Undergraduate study in sociology prepares students for a wide array of careers in human services, education, law, health, public service, communications, business, and social change organizations.

Graduate Program in Sociology

The general objective of the graduate program is to educate students in the major areas of sociology while promoting specialization in several. The program presents students with five options. The first option is a doctoral program designed for students who intend to devote themselves to teaching and research in sociology. Students pursuing the Ph.D. may, by satisfying certain requirements, also receive the M.A. degree, or may earn a joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. The second option is a terminal M.A. degree in sociology; the third option is a terminal joint M.A. degree in women's studies and sociology; the fourth option is a joint Ph.D. degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and sociology; the fifth option is a joint Ph.D. degree in social policy (The Heller School for Social Policy and Management) and sociology.

How to Become an Undergraduate Major

Students can declare their major at any time. A sociology major is especially appealing to students interested in understanding the workings of society and human interaction. Students are encouraged to take SOC 1a or 3b early in their major.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, as specified in an earlier section of this *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to the sociology program.

In addition, all prospective students are required to submit written material (papers, etc.) representative of their best work, which need not, however, be of a sociological nature.

Faculty

Carmen Sirianni, Chair

Civic engagement and innovation. Public policy for democracy. Political sociology. Work. Organizations. Theory.

Peter Conrad

Sociology of health and illness. Deviance. Field methods.

David Cunningham, Undergraduate Advising Head

Social movements. Organizations. Community structure. Quantitative inquiry.

Gordon Fellman

Marx and Freud. Social class. Peace and conflict studies. Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Empowerment. Psychoanalytic sociology.

Karen V. Hansen, Graduate Chair

Feminist theory. Sociology of the family. Historical sociology. Sociology of gender.

Gila Hayim

Classical and contemporary social theory. Critical theory. Social movements. Existential sociology. Legal studies. Sociology of religion.

Suzanne Joseph, Mellon Fellow in Microdemography

Anthropological demography. Ecological anthropology. Biocultural anthropology. Social change in pastoral and peasant societies. Middle East.

Nadia Kim

Gender, race, class. International migration. Race, ethnicity, nationhood. Cultural globalization. Asian, Asian-American studies.

Marty Wyngaarden Krauss (The Heller School)

Disability policy. Family caregiving. Mental retardation. Human services.

Laura J. Miller

Sociology of culture. Mass communication. Urban sociology. Consumption and marketing.

Shulamit Reinhartz

History of women in sociology. Qualitative and feminist methodology. Group dynamics. Jewish women's studies.

George Ross

Political sociology. Social theory. Economy and society. Comparative social structures. European politics and sociology. Globalization.

Thomas Shapiro (The Heller School)

Stratification. Race.

Stefan Timmermans

Sociology of health and illness. Science and technology. Interpretative theories. Qualitative research methods. Death and dying.

Deborah Weinstein

Mellon Fellow in the History of Medicine.

Dessima Williams

Political sociology. Women, gender, and development. The Caribbean.

Requirements for the Undergraduate Major

Students entering Brandeis in the fall of 2002 or after must fulfill the following requirements: 10 semester courses, a minimum of eight from sociology, which must include:

A. SOC 1a or SOC 3b. This course should be taken early in the curriculum.

B. At least one course in *three* of the following five sub-areas:

Theory and Methods

SOC 10b, 114a, 127a, 136b, 141a, 146a, 164a, 181a, 183a.

Health, Illness, and Life Course

ANTH 152b, HSSP 192b, SOC 169b, 176a, 177b, 187a, 188a, 189a, 190b, 191a, 192a, 196a

Political and Social Change

SOC 107a, 108a, 111a, 112b, 113b, 119a, 121a, 123b, 125b, 139b, 147a, 153a, 155b, 157a, 161a, 175b, HIST 115a, HS 110a, POL 156a, POL 159a

Gender and Family

SOC+105a, 112a, 117b, 126a, 130a, 131a, 131b, 132b, 134a, 135a, 138a, 138b, 171a, 194b

Institutions, Communities, and Culture

SOC 104a, 106a, 109b, 110b, 117a, 117b, 120b, 122a, 128a, 146a, 105b, 150b, 152a, 154a, 156a, 173a, 178a, NEJS 161a, NEJS 164b

C. Four additional sociology electives, for a total of eight sociology courses.

D. In addition, students must take two semester courses above the introductory level in other departments in the School of Social Science. This requires that either a prerequisite course be taken, or that the course is at the 100 level or above. Students enrolled in the Education Program may meet this requirement by taking HIST 51a and 51b.

E. The average grade of a student's major requirement courses should be C-. No course taken pass/fail may count toward the major requirement.

Honors candidates are required to take SOC 99d (Senior Research) **in addition to** the eight sociology courses and two upper-level courses in the School of Social Science. Enrollment in SOC 99d requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.20, or a 3.50 in sociology.

Special Notes Relating to Undergraduates

Joint Graduate/Undergraduate Senior Seminars are courses on advanced topics in sociology limited to 12 students. These courses are an opportunity for more in-depth study and are especially valuable for anyone considering graduate school. In ordinary circumstances they will be accessible only to advanced undergraduates with adequate preparatory work (SOC 1a or SOC 2a and other sociology courses). Permission of instructor is necessary for undergraduates.

Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

Program of Study

The M.A. degree in sociology is designed for completion in one calendar year, with the degree awarded at the next official University degree conferral after completion of residence and requirements. Each Master of Arts degree candidate will devise a specialized program with a faculty advisor who will be assigned upon the student's acceptance to the department. The student's program must be approved by the graduate committee at the beginning of each semester of residence. Master of Arts degrees are usually offered in social theory and cultural studies; the sociology of health and health care; comparative social structures; sociology of gender; and social psychology. Each specialized program will include the completion of six semester courses, ordinarily in sociology at Brandeis—one in theory, one in methods, three in the substantive M.A. area—plus satisfaction of a final research requirement. For the final requirement the student, with permission of the advisor, may choose from three options—an M.A. thesis, two major seminar papers, or a qualifying examination.

Residence Requirement

The minimum residence requirement is one year.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the master's degree.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology and Women's Studies

Program of Study

The joint Master of Arts degree in sociology and women's studies is a one-year (12-month) program. Requirements include the completion of seven courses to be distributed as follows: a designated foundational course in women's studies; one graduate course outside sociology listed as an elective in women's studies; one graduate sociology course listed as an elective in women's studies; plus three other regular graduate sociology courses (one methods, one theory, and one outside the area of gender). Also required are a directed study focused on student research, year-long attendance in the eight-part Women's Studies Colloquium Series (noncredit), and submission of two substantial M.A. papers or a thesis. The sociology department offers advanced undergraduate/graduate seminars that can be taken to fulfill the graduate course requirements.

Residence Requirement

One year.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the joint master's degree.

Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Program of Study

Students entering the Ph.D. program in sociology are expected to undertake a three-year program of course work, as a part of which they are obliged to take the program's Proseminar (SOC 290c) and, within the Brandeis sociology department, at least six formal graduate seminars and four additional courses as either independent readings, advanced undergraduate/graduate seminars, or upper division courses. The eight remaining courses can be taken as the student chooses, including graduate courses at other Boston-area universities, in consultation with her or his advisor. The initial program of studies is arranged in consultation with the graduate student's advisor. Consideration will be given to graduate work done elsewhere but formal transfer credit is assigned only after the successful completion of the first year of study.

Teaching Requirement

It is required that all Ph.D. students participate in undergraduate teaching. This typically means leading discussion sections in one course per term, over the course of eight semesters, and using this as an opportunity to develop the craft of teaching in collaboration with individual professors and through other teaching workshops within the department and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Residence Requirement

The minimum residence for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is three years.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the Ph.D. degree.

Qualifying Examinations

During a student's time in residence, the specific planning, evaluation, and accreditation of his or her entire course of study will be in the hands of each student's guidance accreditation committee, comprised of three Brandeis sociology faculty members. Along with the student, this committee will lay out a general course of study designed to meet the interests and needs of the student. Upon completion of this course of study, the student will take an oral qualifying examination covering general sociology and the areas of the student's special interests. The committee will report at least once a year to the graduate committee on the progress of the student, who is urged to fulfill accreditation in the semester immediately following coursework completion.

Dissertation and the Final Oral Examination

The Ph.D. dissertation may be accepted by the program upon the recommendation of the dissertation committee. To be granted the degree, the student is required to defend the dissertation in a public final oral examination.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Sociology

Program of Study

Students must complete a total of 21 courses. Nine of these courses should be offered by the sociology department (comprising five graduate seminars and four other sociology courses). Among the sociology courses at least one must be a theory course and at least one must be on quantitative methods. At least nine courses must be taken within the NEJS department. The remaining three courses are open to student choice with the approval of the student's advisors. In addition, students in their first year are required to participate in a year-long, noncredit Proseminar in the Sociology department that introduces program faculty and their research interests.

Advising

Students are assigned advisors from the sociology department and from the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies department. Both advisors will work with the student to assure appropriate course coherency. An interdepartmental meeting between both advisors and the student should take place at least once a year.

Residence Requirement

Three years of full-time residence are required at the normal rate of at least seven term courses each academic year. Students who enter with graduate credit from other recognized institutions may apply for transfer credit. By rule of the Graduate School, a maximum of one year of credit may be accepted toward the residence requirement on the recommendation of the chair of the program.

Language Requirements

Candidates are required to establish competence in Hebrew and one modern language (normally French or German, but depending on the area of research another language may be substituted). Language examinations will be administered by the student's advisors.

Research Methods Requirement

Candidates are required to establish competence in statistics by successful completion of an appropriate Brandeis course in statistics.

Consortium

Students should also discuss with their advisors the desirability of taking courses at member institutions of the Boston Consortium.

Comprehensive Examinations and Graduate Accreditation

Before proposing and writing a doctoral dissertation, students must show competence in two areas of sociology through the graduate accreditation committee (GAC) process, pass a two-part written comprehensive examination in Jewish cultural literacy in the NEJS department, and pass an oral major field examination.

Candidates demonstrate Jewish cultural literacy in a two-part written examination, which has English and Hebrew components, and a follow-up oral examination. The Hebrew examination in primary sources is part of the cultural literacy examination. This examination gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their broad general knowledge of Jewish literature and cultures of the biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and early modern periods. The oral examination provides opportunity for further exploration following the written examination. Following the successful completion of the Jewish cultural literacy examinations candidates demonstrate their particular field of expertise in contemporary Jewish societies through the oral major field examination.

The GAC is the sociology department equivalent to comprehensive examinations. Students elect two sociological areas of interest and with the appropriate faculty member create a contract of requirements for the completion of a portfolio in the specific area. The portfolio can include such items as completed courses, papers, independent readings, or bibliographies. Faculty advisors suggest readings, written work, or independent studies. When the GAC requirement is completed there will be a comprehensive meeting to discuss the candidate's interests and direction in the field and the upcoming dissertation.

Dissertation and Final Oral Examination

A dissertation proposal should be submitted to the dissertation committee soon after the comprehensive examinations and GACs are completed. The dissertation committee should consist of five members: two each from the sociology and the NEJS departments and a fifth member from outside those departments. After approval of the proposal by the dissertation committee it is submitted to the department faculties for approval. Two copies of the dissertation are to be deposited in the offices of the program chairs no later than March 1 of the year in which the candidate expects to earn the degree. The dissertation committee must approve the dissertation and the student must successfully defend the dissertation at a Final Oral Examination.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Policy and Sociology

Program of Study

Students entering the joint Ph.D. program in social policy and sociology are expected to complete a total of 18 courses. At least nine of these courses must be offered by the Brandeis sociology department—six of these courses must be graduate seminars and the remaining three may be advanced undergraduate/graduate seminars or directed readings; at least one of these must be a sociology theory course. A minimum of nine courses must be taken within The Heller School for Social Policy and Management and at least one of these courses must be on research methodology (e.g., HS 401b [Research Methods]). In addition, in their first year students are required to participate in a year-long, noncredit Proseminar in the sociology department, which introduces the program's faculty and their research interests. Students are also required to take a noncredit dissertation seminar at The Heller School for two semesters.

Students are assigned advisors from the sociology department and from The Heller School. Advisors in both departments work together with students to assure appropriate coherency in their program of courses. An interdepartmental meeting between advisors and students should take place at least once a year.

Residence Requirement

The minimum residence for the joint degree of Doctor of Philosophy in social policy and sociology is three years.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

SOC 1a Order and Change in Society

[ss]

An introduction to the sociological perspective, with an emphasis on an analysis of problems of social order and change. Topics include gender, work and family, poverty and inequality, race and ethnicity, democracy, social movements, community, and education. Usually offered every year.

Messrs. Conrad, Cunningham, or Sirianni

SOC 10b Introduction to Sociological Theory

[ss]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken SOC 2a in previous years.

Introduces the student to the foundations of sociological and social psychological explanatory systems. Analyzes the major ideas of classical and modern authors and their competing approaches and methodologies—Durkheim, Weber, Mead, DuBois, Goffman, Marcuse, Haraway, Barrett, Foucault, and others. Usually offered every other year.

Ms. Hayim

SOC 90a Independent Field Work

Equivalent to four, one-semester courses. Students taking it are expected to work out a plan of study for one semester with the help of two faculty members. This plan is to be submitted to the undergraduate committee of the department for approval. Usually offered every year.

Staff

SOC 90b Independent Field Work

Equivalent to four, one-semester courses. Students taking it are expected to work out a plan of study for one semester with the help of two faculty members. This plan is to be submitted to the undergraduate committee of the department for approval. Usually offered every year.

Staff

SOC 92b Internship and Analysis in Sociology

Combines unpaid off-campus experience and social scientific inquiry. Under the supervision of a faculty sponsor, students apply sociological methods of analysis to an internship experience. Students develop a specific plan of study with a faculty member in the relevant field prior to undertaking the internship. Open to sociology majors with adequate related prior coursework and with permission of the instructor. Counts only once toward fulfillment of the major requirements. Usually offered every year.

Staff

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the joint Ph.D. degree.

Qualifying Examinations

Each student must complete a "comprehensive paper" as required in The Heller School curriculum. Students must also show competence in two areas of sociology, as certified through the guidance accreditation committee (GAC) process (the sociology department equivalent of comprehensive exams). Students elect two areas of interest and develop a contractual set of requirements with a faculty member of each area. When both GACs are completed there is a meeting (typically one to two hours) to discuss the student's interests, directions in the field, and the upcoming dissertation.

Dissertation and the Final Oral Examination

A dissertation proposal should be submitted soon after the comprehensive examination and GACs are completed. The dissertation committee should consist of five members—two faculty members each from the sociology department and The Heller School and one outside member. The joint Ph.D. dissertation may be accepted by the sociology department and The Heller School upon the recommendation of the dissertation committee. To be granted the degree, the student is required to defend the dissertation in a public final oral examination.

SOC 98a Individual Readings and Research in Sociology

Individual readings and reports under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

SOC 98b Individual Readings and Research in Sociology

Individual readings and reports under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

SOC 99d Senior Research

Seniors who are candidates for degrees with honors in sociology register for this course and, under the direction of a member of the faculty, prepare an honors thesis on a suitable topic. Usually offered every year.

Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

SOC 104a Sociology of Education

[ss]

Examines the role of the institution of education as a force for social change versus the idea that education's function is to reinforce prevailing social conditions. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

SOC 105a Feminist Critiques of American Society

[ss]

Critically evaluates the predominant theoretical approaches to understanding the oppression of women and the dynamics of sexism, racism, and classism within the sex/gender system. Uses these perspectives to explore issues in women's lives that often result in their subordination. This intermediate-level course counts toward the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. Usually offered every year; will not be offered academic year 2004-05.

Ms. Hansen

SOC 106a Issues in Law and Society

[qr ss]

An interdisciplinary approach to the study of crime and punishment. Analyzes theories and empirical research and methodology around a number of problem areas in the criminal justice system, with special attention paid to street violence, domestic violence, the courts, the prison, the different therapeutic systems, and the dilemmas of social and legal justice. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hayim

SOC 107a Global Apartheid and Global Social Movements

[nw ss wi]

Using the skewed distribution of power and wealth as an organizing and conceptual framework, the course explores modern inequalities, the sociology that explains them, and the social movements worldwide that seek to redress these imbalances. Multimedia use of materials, documentaries, journal articles, newspapers, and popular literature. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Williams

SOC 108a Youth and Democracy

[ss]

Examines the roles that youth play in public problem solving and social action in schools, communities, universities, politics, NGOs, and a range of other institutional settings. Can be combined with internships and action research. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Sirianni

SOC 109b Sociology of Culture

[ss]

How is our taste for works of art affected by our social class location? Are artistic geniuses born or made? How do institutional structures affect the kinds of art that get produced? This seminar explores sociological answers to these questions, and the theoretical background necessary to effectively frame them. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

SOC 111a Political Sociology and Democratic Empowerment

[ss]

Examines the relationship between society and politics, social processes, and political change. Theories of democracy and empowerment. Case studies on environmental movements and public interest regulation, urban and health policy, media, community organizing and development, civic journalism, and community service. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Sirianni

SOC 112a Topics on Women and Development

[ss]

Examines the evolution of the field and its usefulness for understanding the gender disparities in development. Paradigms in major international agencies are contrasted with ways in which women are actively structuring their lives. Case material from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Central America. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Williams

SOC 112b Social Class and Social Change

[ss]

Presents the role of social class in determining life chances, lifestyles, income, occupation, and power; theories of class, inequality, and globalization; selected social psychological aspects of social class and inequality; and connections of class, race, and gender. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Fellman

SOC 113b Race and Power in Intergroup Relations

[ss]

Introduces a set of general ideas about intergroup relations as well as focuses on specific issues surrounding racial inequality. Uses a variety of media to examine topics such as colonial domination, white supremacy, racial segregation, and gang structure in inner cities. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cunningham

SOC 114a Psychoanalytic Sociology

[ss]

Prerequisites: SOC 1a or SOC 2a. Seniors and juniors have priority for undergraduate admission.

A study of Freud as a major social theorist. The role of motivation, body, sexuality, dreams, ambivalence, repression, transference, childhood, psychosexual development, and psychosocial development in understanding social organization and social dynamics and change. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Fellman

SOC 117a Sociology of Work

[ss]

Focuses on the transformation of contemporary workplaces in the United States. How gender shapes inequality in the labor force, as well as idioms of skill, worth, care, and service. How women and men combine care for families with paid work. Strategies for empowerment, equity, and flexibility (comparable worth, family leave, flexible working time options, affirmative action, employee participation, new union strategies, grassroots organizing). Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Reinharz

SOC 117b Sociology of Science and Technology

[ss]

Provides an in-depth exploration of sociological approaches to science and technology. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 119a War and Possibilities of Peace

[ss]

Ponders the possibility of a major "paradigm shift" under way from adversarialism and war to mutuality and peace. Examines war culture and peace culture and points in between, with emphases on the role of imagination in social change, growing global interdependence, and political, economic, gender, social class, and social psychological aspects of war and peace. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Fellman

SOC 120b Globalization and the Media

[ss]

Investigates the phenomenon of globalization as it relates to mass media. Topics addressed include the growth of transnational media organizations, the creation of audiences that transcend territorial groupings, the hybridization of cultural styles, and the consequences for local identities. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

SOC 121a New Approaches to Development: Globalization and Human Development

[ss]

Prerequisite: SOC 2a, SOC 10b, ECON 2a, or POL 15a. Examines and evaluates major new literature, practices, and expectations in development. Includes human development, gender equity, and human rights-based development. Familiarizes students with these paradigms and literature, and imparts appropriate analytic skills. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Williams

SOC 122a The Sociology of American Immigration

[ss]

Examines American immigration with emphasis on the post-World War II period. Addresses the following questions: Why do people migrate? How does this affect immigrants' occupations, households, rights, identities, and loyalties, and also, the sending and receiving countries? Usually offered every year.

Ms. Kim

SOC 123b Crisis of the Welfare State

[ss]

The basic programs of the "welfare state" are being challenged everywhere. Can societies such as ours support extensive public pension programs, health care, and income support for the poor and unemployed? This fundamental question is discussed with reference to contemporary American society. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Ross

SOC 124b Human Service Organizations

[ss]

Explores human service organizations in the United States from their beginnings to the present day. Examines the interplay between constituents, clients, street-level bureaucrats, managers, and funders in determining agency, their missions and goals. Students will experience organizations through a fieldwork assignment. Special one-time offering, spring 2005.

Ms. Pfefferle

SOC 125b U.S.-Caribbean Relations

[nw ss]

Uses various frameworks of analysis to examine the asymmetrical relationship between the United States and several Caribbean countries, including Grenada and Haiti and themes in the relationship including trade, finance and debt, military relations, cultural and educational ties, and immigration. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Williams

SOC 126a Sociology of Deviance

[ss]

An investigation of the sociological perspectives of deviance, focusing particular attention on definitional, sociopolitical, and interactional aspects as well as society's response. Includes a review of theory and current research and discussions of various forms of noncriminological deviance and social control. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Conrad

SOC 127a Theories in Social Psychology

[ss]

Examines the major American theories of social psychology, using a historical perspective. Topics include classical understanding of the relation between the individual and the group, small group dynamics within the family and workplace, theories of human development, and feminist revisions of classical theories. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Reinharz

SOC 128a Religion and Globalization

[ss]

Examines the experience of religion as a social and individual identity. Looks into the social-psychology of new religious movements with special attention paid to the role and character of globalization and religious consciousness in the world today. Readings cover comparative classical and contemporary thought and research. Usually offered every second year.

Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Hayim

SOC 130a Families

[ss]

Investigates changes in the character of American families over the last two centuries. A central concern will be the dynamic interactions between economic, cultural, political, and social forces and how they shape and are reshaped by families over time. Particular attention is paid to how experiences of men and women vary by class, race, and ethnicity. This course counts towards the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Hansen

SOC 131b Women's Biography and Society

[ss]

This course counts towards the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies.

Through the biographies and autobiographies of women intellectuals, political leaders, artists, and "ordinary" women, this seminar investigates the relationship between women's everyday lives, history, and the sex/gender system. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hansen

SOC 132b Social Perspectives on Motherhood and Mothering

[ss]

Prerequisite: Previous course on families or gender is strongly recommended.

Explores motherhood as an identity and a social institution and mothering as socially and historically constructed activities. Reviews the theoretical approaches to motherhood and how they are understood in the context of race/ethnicity, class, and gender inequalities in the United States. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hansen

SOC 134a Great Women of Sociology

[ss]

This research-oriented course investigates the history of selected U.S. and British female social scientists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Examines why their work has been ignored or labeled as "not sociology" and how sociology has been defined on the basis of work done by men only. Studies women of color and white women, heterosexual and lesbian women, and the relation between their sociological work, their lives, and the times in which they lived. This course counts towards the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. Usually offered every fourth year.

Ms. Reinharz

SOC 135a Group Process

[ss]

Open to seniors and juniors only.

Examination of group dynamics through experiential learning in a 12-person group, in conjunction with readings, weekly journal papers, and a final paper. Students learn to identify group processes from a sociological perspective. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Reinharz

SOC 136b Historical and Comparative Sociology

[ss]

Explores the relationship between sociology and history through examples of scholarship from both disciplines. The course pays close attention to each author's research strategy by looking at basic research questions, theoretical underpinnings and assumptions, and uses of evidence. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hansen

SOC 137b Public Uses of Sociology

[ss]

Introduces students to the way sociology is used in society. After an historic introduction, the class explores the public use of sociology in education, politics and health, among other domains. Weekly guest presenters discuss their careers and students present relevant research findings.

Ms. Reinhartz

SOC 138a Sociology of Gender and Race

[ss]

Examines gender and race as intersecting and interacting organizing principles that sort people into separate but unequal social groups. Analyzes how gender and race create and recreate forms of domination and subordination in organizations, labor markets, family structures, and other institutional forms. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Kim

SOC 138b Seminar: Gender and the Life Course

[ss]

Examines recent studies and theories on how gender influences the life course of women and men. Students learn the techniques of life course research and develop an independent research project. Usually offered every second year.
Staff

SOC 139b Race and Identity: A Study of Whiteness

[ss]

Locates American whiteness within the white diaspora and the history of white identity reformations. Examines salient aspects of white identity, including its relationships with class and gender, learning whiteness, white cultures, and contemporary white social movements.
Staff

SOC 141a Marx and Freud

[ss]

Examines Marxian and Freudian analyses of human nature, human potential, social stability, conflict, consciousness, social class, and change. Includes attempts to combine the two approaches. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Fellman

SOC 146a Mass Communication Theory

[ss]

An examination of key theories in mass communication, including mass culture, hegemony, the production of culture, and resistance. Themes discussed include the nature of media effects, the role of the audience, and the extent of diversity in the mass media. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Miller

SOC 147a Organizations and Social Change

[ss]

Innovation and change in school systems, social services, corporations, nonprofits, federal, police, dynamics of democratic, feminist, multicultural, and community organizations. May be combined with internships and action research. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Sirianni

SOC 150b The Culture of Consumption

[ss]

Examines the historical development and social significance of a culture of consumption. Considers the role of marketing in contemporary society and the expression of consumer culture in various realms of everyday life, including leisure, the family, and education. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Miller

SOC 152a Urban Life and Culture

[ss]

An analysis of the social and cultural dimensions of life in urban environments. Examines how various processes, including immigration, deindustrialization, and suburbanization, affect neighborhoods, public spaces, work, shopping, and leisure in the city. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Miller

SOC 153a The Sociology of Empowerment

[ss]

Attendance at first class meeting is mandatory for consideration. Students selected by essay, interview, and lottery. Focuses on social structural and inner dimensions of feelings of helplessness, futility, hope, vision, efficacy, hurt, fear, and anger. Course work includes reading, writing, journal keeping, discussion, and retreats. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Fellman

SOC 154a Community Structure and Youth Subcultures

[ss]

Examines how the patterning of relations within communities generates predictable outcomes at the individual and small-group level. Deals with cities, suburbs, and small rural communities. Special focus is given to youth subcultures typically found in each community type. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Cunningham

SOC 155b Protest, Politics, and Change: Social Movements

[ss]

Utilizes case studies of actual movements to examine a variety of approaches to contentious politics. Covers collective behavior, resource mobilization, rational choice, and newer interactive models. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Cunningham

SOC 156a Social Change in American Communities

[ss]

Prerequisite: Participation in summer "bus program." Integrates ideas related to community organization, collective action, and social change with field study of particular settings in which individuals and groups seek to effect change within their communities. Students complete semester-long projects based on data gathered at fieldwork settings. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Cunningham

SOC 157a Sociology of the Israeli-Palestinian Confrontation

[ss]

An introduction to Jewish and Palestinian nationalisms; relevant sociological, political, religious, resource, and population issues; social psychological dimensions; and the conflict in world politics. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Fellman

SOC 161a Society, State, and Power: The Problem of Democracy

[ss]

Examines the ways in which power is exercised in different political regimes and social systems and considers the problem of democracy. The major focus of the course will be present-day advanced industrial societies, with particular consideration of the United States. Usually offered every fourth year.
Mr. Ross

SOC 164a Existential Sociology

[ss]

Introduces existential themes in relation to the discipline of sociology and social psychology and evaluates selected theories on human nature, identity and interaction, individual freedom and social ethics, and the existential theory of agency and action. De Beauvoir, Mead, Sartre, Goffman, Kierkegaard, Elizabeth Beck, Taylor, and others will be considered. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Hayim

SOC 169b Issues in Sexuality

[ss]

Explores dimensions of human sexuality. This course will take as its central tenet that humans are sexual beings and their sexuality is shaped by gender, class, race, culture, and history. It will explore the contradictory ways of understanding sexual behavior and relationships. The course intends to teach students about the social nature of sexual expression. This course counts toward the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. Usually offered every fourth year.
Staff

SOC 171a Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries

[nw ss]

Brings together an analysis of the rise, tenure, and legacies of women as national leaders; socioeconomic poverty in developing countries; and national and international politics. Students select political leaders or a feminist organization (or both) for close scrutiny and engage in an interdisciplinary search to understand women's leadership in the South. This course counts toward the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Williams

SOC 173a Issues in the Sociology of Professions

[ss]

This course may not be taken for credit by students who have taken SOC 178a in previous years. What distinguishes a profession from other occupations? Address this question by examining the writings of theorists and by evaluating case studies of specific professions such as medicine, law, teaching, psychology, and the clergy. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

SOC 175b Civic Environmentalism

[ss]

Environmental movement organizations and strategies. Community-based and civic approaches to environmental problem solving. Case studies drawn from watersheds, forests, ecosystem restoration, environmental justice, campus ecology, the greening of industry. May be combined with internships and action research. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Sirianni

SOC 176a Nature, Nurture, and Public Policy

[ss]

Examines the impact of heredity or genetic theories of human problems on developing public policy, including the viability and validity of theories and evidence. Historical and contemporary cases such as gender, IQ, mental illness, and alcoholism are studied. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Conrad

SOC 177b Aging in Society

[ss]

Explores the social context of old age by using sociological theory, empirical research, and literature. Examines such topics as aging in residential settings, the aging experience of minority groups, health and illness, the economics of aging, gender, work, and retirement. Also examines the definition of old age in other societies in order to understand the contemporary Western response to aging. Contains a field research component. Usually offered every year.

Staff

SOC 178a Sociology of Professions

[ss]

Examines how modern societies institutionalize expertise by constructing professions. The main goal is to gain an understanding of how and why professions emerge, monopolize a field, and consolidate power. Topics include the relationship of higher education to professions, the effect of bureaucratic control on professional autonomy, and current changes in the status of professions. Characteristics and trajectories of specific professions such as law, medicine, and teaching will be examined. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

SOC 181a Quantitative Methods of Social Inquiry

[qr ss]

Introduces students to causal logic and quantitative reasoning and research. Emphasis is on conceptual understanding, not mathematical derivations, with hands-on applications using desktop computers. No statistical or mathematical background is necessary. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Cunningham

SOC 183a Evaluation of Evidence in Quantitative Research

[qr ss]

Focuses on gaining familiarity with basic tools for statistical analysis and the presentation of data, issues related to research design and construction, and the evaluation of evidence presented in quantitative models. No prior experience with statistics is assumed. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Cunningham

SOC 187a Sociological Perspectives on Suicide

[qr]

Suicide is a leading cause of death for young people. Examines the social explanations for this excess mortality. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 188a The Politics of Reproduction

[ss]

Examines the social and constructed nature of reproductive strategies and practices. In particular, explores the role of the state, medical institutions, and women themselves in shaping ideas and practices such as motherhood, sexuality, and reproductive freedom.

Ms. Joseph

SOC 189a Sociology of Body and Health

[ss]

Explores theoretical considerations of the body as a cultural phenomenon intersecting with health, healing, illness, disease, and medicine. The course weaves back and forth between experiencing the body and acting upon the body. The theories are mainly interpretive and critical. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 190b Caring in the Health Care System

[ss]

An analysis of the structural arrangements of medical practice and medical settings, focusing on societal and professional responses to illness. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 191a Health, Community, and Society

[ss]

An exploration into interrelationships among society, health, and disease, emphasizing the social causes and experience of illness. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Conrad

SOC 194b Technology and Society

[ss]

Explores the many ways in which technology enters into the structures of our lives. The course includes a historical overview of the industrial revolution in 19th- and 20th-century United States, an overview of the main theories in sociology of technology, and a discussion of some key topics in the area of technology. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 196a The Medicalization of Society

[ss]

Examines the origins and consequences of the medicalization of human problems in society. Includes investigations of medicalization of madness, childbirth, addictions, anorexia, menopause, ADHD, domestic violence, and other issues, as well as cases of demedicalization. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Conra

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students**SOC 200a Contemporary Social Theory**

Covers major paradigms in contemporary social analysis ranging from structuration and action theory, rational choice theory, symbolic interaction, globalization, and recent cultural sociology in Europe and the United States. Works by Mead, Bourdieu, Giddens, Castelles, Melucci, Haraway, Collins, Beck, and others are covered. Usually offered every fourth year.

Ms. Hayim

SOC 201a Classical and Critical Theory

Examines major contributions in the history of sociological thought and identifies critical connections between the classical statements and the modern arguments, with a focus on contemporary social movements; from Weber to Habermas, and from Durkheim to Foucault, Frazer, and others. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hayim

SOC 203b Field Methods

The methodology of sociological field research in the Chicago School tradition. Readings include theoretical statements, completed studies, and experiential accounts of researchers in the field. Includes exercises in specific methods and procedures of data collection (participant observation, interviewing, collaborative research, systematic observation, oral history) and data analysis. Focuses on the student's completion of his/her own research project and functions as a support group to aid in its completion. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Timmermans

SOC 205b Qualitative Data Analysis

Employs a hands-on approach to learning how to analyze qualitative material in the inductive grounded theory tradition. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Timmermans

SOC 206b Advanced Topics in Family Studies

Studies the evolution of the Western European and American families and the historical processes that have shaped them, especially industrial capitalism, slavery, and immigration. Explores various controversies regarding the family: the family as an economic unit vs. a group of individuals with varying experiences; the effects of the shift of activity from primarily production to consumption; increased privatization vs. increased public intervention; recent changes in family structure and fertility patterns; and resolution of the double burden associated with the second shift for women. The course will take a different topical focus each time it is taught. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Hansen

SOC 207a Feminist Theory

This course counts towards the completion of the joint M.A. degree in sociology and women's studies.

Reviews the primary schools of feminist theory, exploring how well each perspective explains the subordination of women. Examines key contemporary controversies that challenge the various perspectives: how to best integrate the study of race, class, and gender; the issue of difference; and the compatibility of postmodernism and feminist theory. Assesses the direction of feminist theory in the new millennium. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Hansen

SOC 208a Social Problems Theory and Research

Explores the role of social problems theory, with a strong emphasis on social constructionism. Also examines the development and dilemmas of constructionism and aligned approaches. Students are required to undertake independent studies of particular social problems. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Conrad

SOC 209b Social Movements

Provides a detailed examination of the literatures related to social movements and collective action. The focus is on reviewing past and current attempts to explain various aspects of contentious political activity, as well as introducing newly emerging explanatory models. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Cunningham

SOC 211a Theory Workshop

Explores classical sociological theory from Hobbes to Simmel, with emphasis on Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Taught as a theory practicum, not intellectual history, with emphasis on elucidating the logical structure of an argument and applications to research. Usually offered every year.
Staff

SOC 214b Community Empowerment in the United States

Innovative forms of community empowerment. Social capital, deliberative democracy. Topics include community organizing and development, civic environmentalism, healthy communities, university/community partnerships, service learning, community youth development, and the civic renewal movement. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Sirianni

SOC 217a Problems and Issues in the Sociology of Health and Illness

Offers a sociocultural-historical-political perspective on the study of problems of health and illness. Accomplishes this by examining some of the basic assumptions underlying the way people conceive of and study issues in health care. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Conrad

SOC 220b Seminar on the Sociology of Politics

A survey of the contemporary movements in the sociology of politics of advanced societies. Topics include pluralist and group theories, elite theory, behavioralism and voting studies, the theory of the state debate (neo-Marxist and neo-liberal variants), the "new institutionalism," theories of social movements, and rational choice modeling. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Ross

SOC 221b Sociology of Culture

Surveys theoretical perspectives and substantive concerns in sociological studies of culture. Examines debates regarding how to define and study culture, and considers the ways in which culture is related to power, stratification, integration, identity, and social change. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Miller

SOC 230a Readings in Sociological Literature

Usually offered every year. Specific sections for individual faculty members as requested.
Staff

SOC 230b Readings in Sociological Literature

Usually offered every year. Specific sections for individual faculty members as requested.
Staff

SOC 290c Proseminar

A seminar meeting once a week for a full academic year in which faculty members introduce their interests and research. Required of all first-year graduate students. Other graduate students are welcome to attend. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Hansen

SOC 401d Dissertation Research

Independent research for the Ph.D. degree. Specific sections for individual faculty members as requested.
Staff

Cross-Listed Courses**ANTH 152b**

From Birth to Death: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Demography

HS 110a

Wealth and Poverty

HSSP 192b

Sociology of Disability

NEJS 161a

American Jewish Life

NEJS 164b

The Sociology of the American Jewish Community

POL 153a

The New Europe: European Economic and Political Integration

POL 159a

Seminar: The Politics of the Modern Welfare State: Women, Workers, and Social Citizenship

WMNS 92a

Internship in Women's Studies: Prevention of Violence against Women and Children