

SPRING 2023

SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCI 5001 PROSEMINAR ARRANGED

[Andrew Deener](#)

Required of all M.A. candidates in the first year of study. Covers issues of successful graduate education and professionalization, including transitioning from the role of student to scholar; mentoring; networking; choosing thesis topics; presenting papers at conferences; getting papers published; getting grants; and developing vitae.

SOCI 5203-001 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH I TUESDAY 12:30-3:30PM

[Jeremy Pais](#)

This is an introductory social statistics course for graduate students. The primary goal of the course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of statistical reasoning and to the role of statistical methods in social research. The main topic is linear regression analysis. Specific topics will include functional form (e.g., modeling non-linear effects), mediation (e.g., path analysis), and interaction effects. We will also cover data reduction techniques (e.g., factor analysis), and learn about different regression diagnostics methods and solutions to various violations of assumptions (e.g., instrumental variables). Students should have exposure to linear algebra and a basic understanding of probability prior to enrollment.

SOCI 5231-001 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH I THURSDAY 12:30-3:30PM

[Bhoomi Thakore](#)

This first course will emphasize the relationship between epistemology, methodology and method begun in the fall semester. We will also discuss contemporary debates in qualitative methodology and critical perspectives on qualitative methodology. In this first course we will concentrate on developing understanding of the different epistemologies of qualitative research and gain specific understanding of techniques utilized in interviewing, institutional ethnography, narrative analysis, discourse analysis,

internet analysis, content analysis, policy analysis, and mixed methods. The readings for the course are designed to assist you in locating your own work within the larger sociological tradition.

SOCI 5315-001 TOPICS IN DEVIANCE AND CRIME: CRIMINOLOGY MONDAY 3:35-6:35PM

[Ryan Talbert](#)

This course is a graduate level seminar on sociological criminology. This course focuses on major theories, concepts, and research pertaining to the study of crime, criminal law, and the criminal legal system. Edwin Sutherland defined criminology as the study of the making of laws, the breaking of laws, and society's reaction to the breaking of laws. Thus, criminology is the scientific study of the creation of criminal law, the causes and dynamics of criminal behavior, and society's attempt through the criminal legal system and other efforts to prevent, control, and punish crime. The first half of the course will examine perspectives and theories that explain criminal law and criminal behavior. The second half of the course will examine reactions to the breaking of laws and the implications of various social control methods. Mainstream and critical theories of crime and punishment will serve as a foundation to understanding trends in police stops, arrests, and incarceration, as well as the collateral effects of current policies and practices on individuals, families, and communities. Throughout the course, we will learn theories, concepts, and terminology in sociological criminology through student-led presentations, critical engagement of the research literature, and interactive discussions.

SOCI 5895-001 INVESTIGATION OF SPECIAL TOPICS: SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY FRIDAY 12:30-3:30PM

[Jane Pryma](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified sociopolitical struggles over what counts as scientific

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evidence, who holds expert authority, and how technologies reshape our lives. Some social scientists have proclaimed that we are living in a post-science world, decrying an erosion of public trust in scientific expertise. Others observe that an accelerating stream of technoscientific innovation mediates our social interactions and identities like never before. This course introduces students to sociological tools and frameworks for analyzing the relationship between science, technology, and society. The course engages five major themes across science, knowledge, and technology studies (STS): 1) the social organization of formal spaces of scientific knowledge production (e.g. laboratories, universities, public research institutions, and private industries); 2) conflicts over the legitimacy and authority of different knowledge claims and forms of expertise; 3) the use of science and technology by social movements; 4) the co-production, translation, and application of scientific knowledge in policy and practice across different institutional contexts; and 5) the role of science and technology in upholding and unsettling systems of social power and control (e.g. racism, (neo)colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, heteronormativity, etc.). Through in-class discussion, guided by foundational and innovative scholarship, students will develop fluency in core concepts and debates in STS. Assignments will invite students to explore the applicability of course material to their independent research interests and relevant empirical case studies. Finally, we will consider how we can apply tools from STS to reflexively analyze the social systems, institutional factors, and organizational dynamics that shape the knowledge we produce in the social sciences.

SOCI 5895-002 INVESTIGATION OF SPECIAL TOPICS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT **THURSDAY 3:45-6:15PM**

[Phoebe Godfrey](#)

This course invites students to identify and build upon their personal and professional strengths and interests, while exploring the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) competencies and job data, preparing for interviews and creating a professional

portfolio. Additionally, the course is designed in an innovative way so that the focus is not on making you be what the ‘world wants’ but rather to give you the tools to help make the world you / we want, as in being more equitable, empowering and just. At the same time the course seeks to offer students the theoretical and practical skills to navigate, advocate and address the structural inequities of the professional world.

SOCI 6251-001 CURRENT THEORY & RESEARCH

MONDAY 12:30-3:30PM

[Elizabeth Holzer](#)

An examination of current theories. Topics include: consideration of their continuities with classical theories, conceptual and measurement problems in testing and constructing current theories, and the interplay between theory and research.