

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY  
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise indicated, the standard prerequisite for all courses is SOCI 1810 or permission of instructor. Some courses are offered irregularly.

**SOCI 1810 Understanding Social Life**

This course provides an overview of the study of social interaction, social order, and social change. Critical attention will be given to addressing various contemporary social issues related to social class, race, and gender and the role of the sociological perspective in the improvement of the human condition. No prerequisite. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2005 Sociological Imagination and Inquiry—Part A**

This course is the first of a 2-quarter sequence on sociological research methods and focuses on introducing students to the many qualitative methods used in sociological research. We explore what social research is, what the goals of such research are, and how research questions guide the selection of different methodologies. The remainder of the course focuses on qualitative data collection, including in-depth interviewing, ethnographic methods, historical comparative and content analysis methods, and other qualitative methods. Prerequisites: SOCS 1810 and sophomore standing. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2006 Sociological Imagination and Inquiry—Part B**

This is the second of a 2-quarter sequence on sociological research methods, and examines how sociological research questions can be answered using quantitative methods. Specifically, the course focuses on survey research design and statistics. Prerequisites: SOCI 2005 and sophomore standing. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2020 Sociological Classics**

Two or more classic works will be read and discussed in detail, with emphasis upon understanding the particular classical work and its place in the sociological tradition. Meets theory requirement for majors. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2040 Groups, Organizations, and Societies** Key concepts in social organization theory and methodological issues; case studies, simulation games and survey research are used to illustrate social processes and problems of analysis. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2050 Political Sociology**

General sociological perspective on the social bases of politics in their historical context, theoretical tradition, and empirical foci. Students will explore four major topics: 1) issues, perspectives, and variations in political thought; 2) social bases of politics: stratification, socialization and ideology; 3) power; and 4) political participation. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2060 Self and Society**

The impact of social groups and socialization processes on the formation of individual perceptions, thoughts, emotions and self-awareness; both normal and deviant formations are considered. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2120 Methods of Socio-Legal Inquiry**

This course provides a broad overview of socio-legal research methods. Specifically, the course examines how qualitative and quantitative research methods are used to answer socio-legal research questions. Students participate in research in order to understand the process of designing a project, collecting data, analyzing data, and reporting findings. (*Required for the Socio-Legal Studies major.*) *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2140 Urban Sociology**

The sociological study of the city focuses on the interrelationships between people, social institutions and space. The process of urban development is examined. Comparison of competing theoretical perspectives. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2190 American Communities**

Study of 'community' as a foundational concept in the discipline; consideration of the changing structural contexts of community, as well as the social-psychological aspects of community; emphasis on emerging forms of community in the contemporary U.S. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2210 The Family**

Emphasis on different kinds of families and on contemporary issues of changing gender roles, intimacy, childbearing, family breakup and reconstitution, and the family's relationships with other social institutions. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2220 Sociology of Childhood**

This course explores the social meanings of childhood; aspects of the symbolic meanings of childhood; the experiences of being a child; the commercialization of childhood through marketing to children; contradictory messages about children as innocent or problematic; the experience of gender socialization for children; expectations of creating perfect children. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2250 Criminology**

The social meaning of criminal behavior is explored. Students will critically examine the relationship between crime and society—in particular, how the production and distribution of economic, political, and cultural resources shape the construction of law, order, and crime. Students will also compare different types of crime, criminals, and victims, and contrast efforts to understand and control them. No prerequisite. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2255 Juvenile Delinquency**

Designed to provide students with an introduction into the sociological study of delinquency in American society. The history of juvenile delinquency, the creation of delinquent misconduct as a social and legal category, and the current state of delinquent behavior will be explored. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2260 Deviance and Society**

Groups create deviance by defining some behavior as unacceptable. This course examines some behaviors often called deviant, such as mental illness, substance abuse, governmental crime, and unconventional lifestyles, and asks who calls them deviant, why, and how the behavior affects the community. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2270 Sociology of Religion**

Sociological investigation of religion; how religion has influenced society, politics, gender equality; how society has influenced religion; why people participated in religion. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2320 Race and Ethnic Relations**

The relationship of racial and ethnic minority groups to systems of social stratification; emphasis on the United States. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2420 Social Inequality**

Dimensions of social class and its effect upon economic, political and social institutions and style of life. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2500 Schooling and Society**

The objective of this course is to examine the relationship between schooling and the larger social inequalities (e.g., racism, poverty, and gender) that profoundly shape education. The major focus in this seminar will be on U.S. K-12 public education. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2540 Current Social Problems**

We often think about social problems in our social worlds. However, rarely do we consider how certain situations come to be defined as problems and why some “problems” remain a focal point of public attention while others fade, even when the circumstances around that issue have not improved. In this course, we look at these very issues. Using current social problems, we explore how a social phenomenon comes to be seen as a social problem, what is at stake in this process, and how these dynamics matter in terms of thinking about inequality. No prerequisite. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2565 Men and Masculinities**

Many of us believe that anatomy is what determines our behavior and that our bodies dictate our social and psychological temperament. Looking specifically at men and masculinities, this course tests that general notion, investigates the various ways male behavior is gendered, and critically explores the meanings of masculinity in contemporary institutions. Throughout the course, we will look at the multidimensional and multicultural ways masculinity is produced, constructed, enacted, and resisted; how masculinities structure power and resources; and how masculinities benefit, regulate, and hurt men’s lives. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614 Research Practicum**

Experience the research process of hypothesis formation, data collection, data analysis and interpretation of results through collaboration with ongoing faculty research or through developing a guided individual research project. Prerequisites: SOCI 1810 and Junior or Senior standing; Instructor approval required. *1 to 4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2640 Community Response to Natural Disasters**

Introduction to social science literature of human response, including families, emergency organizations, and communities to natural disasters, e.g., hurricanes, floods, tornadoes. Emphasis placed on assessing the use of social science knowledge as a basis for public policy guidance. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2650 Sociology of Immigration**

This course applies a sociological approach to the study of international migration. Students will examine early and contemporary waves of migration to the U.S.; theories of migration; processes of settlement and incorporation; the construction of immigration and citizenship; and institutional responses to immigration across and within immigrant groups. This course also examines variation in immigrant experiences along the lines of race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual and age identities. The course culminates in an examination of the impact of migration on the U.S. and on immigrants’ sending communities. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2655 Latina/os in American Society**

Latinas and Latinos constitute one of the largest and fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States. This course will use a sociological lens to understand Latina/os’ experiences in the U.S. Specifically, we will address Latinas’ and Latinos’ historical experiences and migration trajectories; assimilation, incorporation and racial/ethnic identity formation; the family, schools and labor markets; and political participation. In so doing, we will discuss and challenge stereotypes about Latina/os, present alternative perspectives about Latina/o experiences in the U.S., and most importantly, understand their contributions to their families, their communities, and to the nation as a whole. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2701 Seminar on Current Issues in Sociology**

Topics vary. Recent topics have included urban poverty; ethics; women and crime; school and workplace violence; technology and society; state violence; American religious movements; and murder in America. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2710 Crime and Inequality**

This course will conduct a systematic investigation of the nature of inequality as it is related to crime and criminal justice in America. Racial, gender and class disparities will be explored at critical stages of the criminal justice process, including crime commission, law-making, policing, court actions, and sentencing. This course will consider the effects of inequality—particularly on system functioning, employment opportunities, family stability, and offenders' communities. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2719 Social Movements**

Traditionally, social movements have been conceptualized as one of three generic types of collective behavior, which refers to the action of groups that operate without a clear-cut direction from established social structure and culture. The aim of this course is to familiarize students with a range of perspectives and research issues pertinent to the understanding of social movements. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2730 Gender in Society**

The purpose of this course is to study how the biological fact of sex is transformed into socially created gender roles. How do individuals learn that they are male or female? How do they learn how males and females behave? What gender distinctions are built into language, education, mass media, religion, law, health systems, and the workplace? *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2741 Work and Occupations**

This course examines how individuals "fit into," are influenced by, and in turn influence business institutions. Students will look at changes in the structure and meaning of the work place; compare and contrast different types of business and work relationships, forms of work, business roles and organizational structures; and examine how business institutions affect society as a whole. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2750 Sociology of Law**

An overview of theory and research about the relationship between law and society. Legal rules, roles, organizations, and inter-institutional relations will be examined, as well as the activities of the legal profession, courts, juries, legislatures and regulatory agencies. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2755 Legal Actors and Institutions**

This course examines the legal system from the points of view of those who work within it. It considers the social characteristics of lawyers, judges, regulators, and even non-state actors and how they matter to the social construction of law. The emphasis is on the social organization of law and the everyday interactions that bring meaning to the legal system. It will consider both local and global perspectives and seek to understand how the changing locations of law influence its practice. Throughout the course, students will be required to think critically about how the social relationships of law influence law's outcomes. *(Required for the Socio-Legal Studies major.) 4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2760 Discipline and Punishment**

Institutional mechanisms for imposing discipline and for punishing "wayward" individuals and groups will be critically examined. Explanation of the contradictory social objectives of punishment and corrections; organizational settings for administering punishment and identifying the kinds of institutional routines that predominate in coercive environments. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2765 The Female Offender**

Female offenders are one of the fastest growing segments in both the juvenile and adult justice systems. This course introduces students to debates and issues surrounding girls, women, and crime, explores different theoretical perspectives of gender and crime, and examines the impact of gender on the construction and treatment of female offenders by the justice system. In addition, this course will specifically look at girls' and women's pathways to offending and incarceration; understand girls' violence in the inner city; explore the reality of prison life for women, with a particular focus on the gender-sensitive programming for incarcerated mothers; and end with an examination of how capital punishment has affected women offenders historically and contemporarily. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2770 Kids and Courts**

This course examines how American society has responded to the problem of at-risk and delinquent youth in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The primary focus will be on the juvenile court's, and the encompassing juvenile justice system's, efforts to address this problem. Differences in juvenile court policies and practices over time and across jurisdictions (both in the United States and in other countries) will be considered. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2775 Wrongful Conviction**

The criminal justice system was once considered infallible—innocent people did not end up in prison. But DNA evidence has revealed that innocents are incarcerated and perhaps even executed. This course focuses on the prevalence of wrongful conviction; the harms caused by wrongful conviction; the causes of wrongful conviction; strategies for reducing wrongful conviction; and the prospect of compensating the wrongfully convicted. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2780 Women and the Law**

The impact of law on women and the effect upon law of women's participation in the legal process. Law is seen as both a source of social change and social control. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2785 Family and the Law**

The government is actively involved in deciding who gets to be a family and what families should look like. The state and its laws are involved in shaping family life, making decisions for family members, and mediating familial conflict. This course looks at the appropriate role of the state in family life by examining state legislation and court decisions and social research on a variety of topics. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2790 Policing Society**

The emergence and development of police organizations and tactics; factors that influence policing styles and objectives; historical precedents; policing the street; policing the boardroom; policing the world; and policing everyday life. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2795 Capital Punishment**

This course examines three main topics: the history of capital punishment (facts and trends, public opinion, legislation, and landmark Supreme Court cases); arguments often made for abolition (arbitrariness, cost, and innocence); and arguments often made for retention (deterrence, incapacitation, and retribution). *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2800 Sociology of Sport**

Beginning with the earliest civilizations, through the dynasties of Greece and Rome, and the Industrial Revolution, this course will trace the history of work and leisure up until modern times. Focuses on how various sociological forces and trends have affected work and leisure today. Also concentrates on the institution of sport in society, as a specific dimension of work and leisure. *4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 2820 Drugs and Society**

An examination of the relationship between drug use, drug control, and social contexts. Various sociological themes as they relate to the use and control of drugs in American society will be explored. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 2830 White-Collar Crime**

Organization and control of white collar crime, including fraud, corruption, price fixing, embezzlement, regulatory violations, and other crimes committed by high-status individuals for and against organizations. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 2840 Contemporary Social Theory**

Contemporary social theories, including neofunctionalism, symbolic interaction, rational choice theory, feminism, ethnomethodology, neoMarxism, conflict theory, and postmodernism, are examined. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 2850 Sociology of Poverty**

Causes, incidence and consequences of poverty; the various pockets of poverty: aged, urban, ethnic minorities, women; exploration of poverty in the U.S. and cross-culturally. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 2855 Crime and the Media**

This course will explore the complex relationship between crime and the media. We will use sociological and cultural theories to examine how crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system are portrayed in print and visual media outlets. We will explore the media's role in shaping crime control and other public policies. We will investigate the influence of offender and victim characteristics (e.g., race, gender, class, celebrity status) on how crime is presented. We will also "turn the tables" to learn about how media itself may influence patterns of criminal offending (think violent video games). The overarching goal of this class is to teach students to watch/read crime media with an educated, critical eye. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 3250 Sociology of Health**

Analyzing social factors in relation to health; definitions of health, formal and informal organization of health professions and institutions; decisions about health and how they are challenged and enforced by law. 4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 3976 Capstone Seminar: The Sociological Imagination**

Intended as the culmination of the sociology major. Explores issues ranging from theoretical to practical. Goal is for students to see how sociology can work for them, personally, professionally, and intellectually. Prerequisites: Sociology or Criminology major or minor, senior standing, or permission of instructor. 2 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 3981, 3982 Internship**

Opportunity to gain valuable work experience, explore various career options, develop job competencies, and apply theoretical knowledge to the practical concerns of the world. Students must have junior or senior standing, be sociology or criminology majors or minors, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and have taken at least three sociology or criminology-related courses beyond SOCI 1810. 1-4 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 3985 Thesis Research Seminar**

This course is designed to provide support and structure for students working on their senior thesis. The course presumes that students have completed a methods sequence, have chosen a thesis topic, and have a plan for how they will develop their thesis. Prerequisites: SOCI 2005 and SOCI 2006; permission of instructor. 2 qtr. hrs.

**SOCI 3986 Thesis Writing Seminar**

This course is designed to provide continued support and structure for students working on their senior thesis. The class helps students with the structure of writing and defending their thesis. The course presumes that students have begun their projects, are significantly or nearly finished with data collection and organization, and are ready for analysis and writing. Prerequisites: SOCI 2005, SOCI 2006, and SOCI 3985; permission of instructor. *2 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 3991 Independent Study**

Prerequisite: Independent study form available from Registrar's Office. (See full description on next page.) *1-4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 3992 Directed Study**

Prerequisite: Independent study form available from Registrar's Office. (See full description below.) *1-4 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 3998 Criminology Assessment**

This course involves a required assessment of graduating Criminology majors' knowledge of the discipline based on courses taken. Prerequisites: The following courses must be completed prior to taking this class: SOCI 1810; SOCI 2005; SOCI 2006; SOCI 2020; and SOCI 2250; or permission of instructor. *0 qtr. hrs.*

**SOCI 3999 Sociology Assessment**

This course involves a required assessment of graduating Criminology majors' knowledge of the discipline based on courses taken. Prerequisites: The following courses must be completed prior to taking this class: SOCI 1810; SOCI 2005; SOCI 2006; SOCI 2020; and SOCI 2420; or permission of instructor. *0 qtr. hrs.*