Winter 2016

**SOCI 20001. Sociological Methods.** This course provides an introduction to the philosophy and practice of social research. Working from the idea that the research process is fundamentally a critical dialogue, we begin by exploring questions of causality and the epistemology of social research. Then we turn to examine the basic practices that are a component of all methods of social research through an in-depth examination of interviews, ethnography, surveys, and archival research. Students spend the quarter working on a series of assignments that culminate in a research proposal for the B.A. thesis. 

*C. Lee. Winter*

**SOCI 20002. Social Structure and Change.** This course is meant to serve as an introduction to the discipline of sociology. You will be made familiar with a variety of objects, methods, and styles of sociological inquiry. We will begin by clarifying the traditional focus of sociology: social regularities in the form of “social facts,” modes of interaction, and social processes. We will examine exemplars of sociology conducted at micro, meso, and macro levels of analysis. We will conduct a partial survey of the field, covering the following topics: social class, culture and cognition, race, political sociology, and postcolonial sociology. Finally, we will consider the prospect of sociology as a vocation. What might we do with it moving forward? The requirements for this course are designed to exercise your sociological imagination. You will be asked to identify sociological phenomena, develop a viable research proposal, and implement a small-scale research project. The hope is that, through practice, you will come to a better understanding of the discipline and what it might offer you.

*M. Garrido. Winter*

**SOCI 20004. Statistical Methods of Research 1.** This course provides a comprehensive introduction to widely used quantitative methods in sociology and related social sciences. Topics covered include analysis of variance and multiple regression, considered as they are used by practicing social scientists.

*S. Raudenbush. Winter*

**SOCI 20103. Social Stratification.** Social stratification is the unequal distribution of the goods that members of a society value -- earnings, income, authority, political power, status, prestige, etc. This course introduces various sociological perspectives about stratification. We will look at major patterns of inequality throughout human history, how they vary across countries, how they are formed and maintained, how they come to be seen as legitimate and desirable, and how they affect the lives of individuals within a society. The readings incorporate classical theoretical statements, contemporary debates, and recent empirical evidence. The information and ideas discussed in this course are critical for students who will go on in sociology and extremely useful for students who want to be informed about current social, economic, and political issues.

*R. Stolzenberg. Winter*


**SOCI 20108. The Institution of Education.** This course is a general survey of the properties of education considered as an institution of historical and contemporary societies. Particular attention is given to institutional formation and change in education and to education’s role in processes of social control and social stratification.

*C. Bidwell and S. Stoelinga. Not Offered 2015/16*

**SOCI 20116. Global-Local Politics.** Globalizing and local forces are generating a new politics in the United States and around the world. This course explores this new politics by mapping its emerging elements: the rise of social issues, ethno-religious and regional attachments, environmentalism, gender
and life-style identity issues, new social movements, transformed political parties and organized groups, and new efforts to mobilize individual citizens. T. Clark. Winter

**SOCI 20118. Survey Research Overview.** This course is designed to walk students through the many phases of interview-based research projects, with an emphasis on overall research design and linking each design decision to the student’s research question within the limits of budget and time constraints. The course should give students a basic understanding about how sampling, questionnaire or interview guide construction, and actual data collection fit together in practical terms. The final product for the course is a research proposal that provides a clear research question and a plan of action for collecting original data by interview (including open-ended, qualitative, interviews, focus groups, or fixed-choice, standardized surveys or some combination of interview/survey with other data). Proposals to collect data by observational checklist or rating scale or a content analysis are also acceptable for this course, but proposals for secondary analysis of existing data are not. Students in the course turn in 8 weekly assignments that are pieces of the final proposal and get back comments and suggestions to help revise these for the final, integrated proposal. M. van Haitsma. Winter (Tentatively)

**SOCI 20126. Japanese Soc: Functional/Cultural Explanations.** The objective of this course is to provide an overview of social structural characteristics, and the functioning of contemporary Japanese society by a juxtaposition of universalistic functional (or rational) explanations and particularistic cultural (and historical) explanations. As will become clear as complementary to each other. Substantively, the course primarily focuses on 1) the forms of social interaction and structure, 2) work organization and family, and 3) education, social inequality and opportunity. The course also presents discussions of the extent to which Japan is “unique” among industrial societies. In covering a broad range of English-language literature on Japanese Society, the course not only presents reviews and discussions of various alternative theoretical explanations of the characteristics of Japanese society, but also a profound opportunity to critically review and study selected sociological theories. K. Yamaguchi, Winter

**SOCI 20179. Labor Force and Employment.** This course introduces key concepts, methods and sources of information for understanding the structure of work and the organization of workers in the United States and other industrialized nations. The course surveys social science approaches to answering key questions about work and employment, including: What is the labor force? What determines the supply of workers? How is work organized into jobs, occupations careers and industries? What, if anything, happened to unions? How much money do workers earn and why? What is the effect of work on health? How do workers and employers find each other? Who is unemployed? What are the employment effects of race, gender, ethnicity, religion and other ascribed characteristics? R. Stolzenberg. Winter

**SOCI 20207. Social and Cultural Organization of Non-Human Animals.** In the past few decades, there has been an explosion of rigorous work in ethology regarding social organization, cultural patterns, and cognition in non-human animals. The results have fundamentally overturned previous assumptions about animals; they also challenge and inspire sociological theory to encompass formations observed in non-humans. This course builds on classic theoretical approaches (of Chicago sociology and philosophy, of evolutionary theorists) and the examines the current state of knowledge about animal social organization, communication, and culture. Although there is a fair amount on primates, we will be examining work on a number of social species from ants to whales. Students will write a paper
pursuing one theme of the course (e.g., social organization, learning) in one species (e.g., Ethiopian wolf, Octopus vulgaris). J. Levi. Winter

**SOCI 20233. Race in Contemporary American Society.** This survey course in the sociology of race offers a socio-historical investigation of race in American society. We will examine issues of race, ethnic and immigrant settlement in the United States. Also, we shall explore the classic and contemporary literature on race and inter-group dynamics. Our investigative tools will include an analysis of primary and secondary sources, multimedia materials, photographic images, and journaling. While our survey will be broad, we will treat Chicago and its environs as a case study to comprehend the racial, ethnic, and political challenges in the growth and development of a city. S. Hicks-Bartlett. Winter

**SOCI 20240. Entrepreneurial Mindset.** J. Evans and R. Rosenberg. Winter Cancelled
Subject to Course Description

**SOCI 20242. States, Markets and Bodies.** An introduction to the Political Economy this course will introduce students to theories, concepts and tools for studying relations between states and markets that affects the structure of power relationships. Taking a global approach we will examine the different forms of state repression, the consequences of a neoliberal and decentralized global market, and its affects on individual people/workers. This course is motivated by three interrelated questions: (1) What is the appropriate role of the government in the economy? (2) How should states govern its citizens? (3) What is the role of individuals who make up civil society? K. Hoang. Winter

**SOCI 20243. Political Theology I.** References to transcendent absolutes as a constitutive element of political communities have a long tradition the western world. This course surveys and analyzes classical readings both aiming to institute such a link as well as critiques and analysis of it. Readings include selections from Carl Schmitt, Emile Durkheim, the Bible, Jan Assmann, Michael Walzer, Plato, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Ernst Kantorowicz, Jean Bodin, Thomas Hobbes, Baruch Spinoza, Johann Gottlob Fichte, Robert Bellah, Victoria Kahn, Stanley Tambiah, and Clifford Geertz. This is a two-quarter sequence. A. Gleaser. Winter

**SOCI 20247. Sociology of Competitions.** Competitions are pervasive in social life: we encounter them not only in the economic and political life, or most prominently in sports, but also in the arts, sciences, education, or even religious institutions, to name but a few. Sociologically speaking, competitions have elicited some theoretical attention, but have not been investigated in a sustained fashion. This course systematically examines the setup and role of competitions in social life, building on the theoretical insights of Georg Simmel, Erving Goffman, and Clifford Geertz, among others. It addresses the following questions: what are the moral requirements which need to be attended to as a prerequisite for competitions? What types of social action do we encounter in competitions? Why and when are competitions adopted over other forms of social organization? What types of (e)valuation processes are at stake here, and what is actually valued (and evaluated) in competitions? What varieties of competitive formats can we distinguish, and what are the social institutions supporting these formats? Based mostly on secondary literature, we address these questions by cross-examining cases of competitions from distinct social domains including, but not limited to: politics (e.g., elections, and also competitions among states); markets (e.g., competitions among firms, competitions within firms); arts
and sciences (e.g., literary prizes, science competitions); sports (e.g., competitions involving human and non-human participants).  A. Preda.  Winter

SOCI 28068. Opposing the State. The state is a defining feature of modern society. This course examines the theory and history of the state, as well as notable contemporary movements to replace the state with markets, nonhierarchical collectives, or traditional forms of government.  B. Merriman. Winter

SOCI 29998. Sociology B.A. Thesis Seminar. This course is a forum for students to present their B.A. Papers. It is offered as a three-quarter sequence in the autumn, winter, and spring of the senior year. Each quarter counts as one-third course credit; however, students formally register for only one quarter, usually spring. Students graduating at a time other than June should participate in three quarters of the senior seminar in the twelve months prior to graduation. See the more general statement about the B.A. paper in the brochure Undergraduate Program in Sociology, available in the Department of Sociology office.  J. Evans. Winter