

***SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS***

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND CRIMINOLOGY

REQUIRED COURSES

SOC 1101-Introduction to Sociology

3 semester hours

This introduction to sociology gives students an overview over social institutions, and processes, and the theories and methods used in the discipline of Sociology. At the completion of the course, students will be able to understand and explain what sociology is and what the discipline entails. The course covers topics such as the relationship of sociology to the other social sciences, the sociological imagination and skills required in sociology, and the obstacles to "thinking sociological." The four major sociological perspectives (interactionist, functionalist, feminist and conflict) are introduced to students and applied to contemporary issues and examples. Students are also introduced to basic sociological concepts related to culture, groups and organization, socialization, families, gender and sexuality, deviance and crime, religion, politics, race and ethnicity, and social class. Learning outcomes are typically assessed using exams, quizzes, short papers and assignments. **F, S, Su**

SOC 3301-Classical Social Theory

3 semester hours

Prerequisite: SOC 1101

This course is an introduction to classical sociological thought. It focuses on the works of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Georg Simmel. Students will learn about the personal and historical background, influences on thought, major concepts and theories, and critique and legacies of each of the theorists. The objective is to give students a general understanding of the development of some of the major theoretical traditions in sociology and an appreciation of the role of theory in the social sciences. By the end of this course you should be able to answer the following questions: What are the uses of theory? What accounts for the emergence of the academic discipline of sociology? How did each of the theorists conceive of the field of sociology? What are the central concepts that each of the theorists developed for their social analysis? How did they conceive of social change? How can each of the major classical theories be applied? **F**

SOC 3308-Sociological Methods

3 semester hours

In this course students will learn the rationale, the rules, and the methods that expand our understanding, provide reliable descriptions, and predict people's behaviors, values, attitudes, and beliefs. In other words, students will learn the skills and understandings to equip you to do social research in any setting. Topics that will be covered in depth and will be tested are knowledge and research theory, research ethics, developing research topics, sampling, conceptualization and operationalization, study design and temporal issues, cross sectional and longitudinal designs, experimental design survey and interview instruments, qualitative interviewing, observational techniques, secondary data content analysis, applied research, and quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Knowledge is typically assessed based on exams and assignments. **F**

SOC 3309-Social Statistics**3 semester hours*****Prerequisite: MATH 1153***

A survey of statistical techniques focusing on descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and correlations. Students work in computer labs and use SPSS to produce descriptive and summary statistics for large data set. One goal of this course is to increase students' appreciation of statistics; this involves learning to interpret statistics in an appropriate way. The second goal of the course is to learn how to use various statistical techniques. Students will be required to learn the computations using a hand held calculator, and will then learn to apply them using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Finally, students will increase their skills as a consumer of statistics which means being able to read and interpret statistics in articles in professional journals as well as in the media. Concepts taught and tested on in this course include variables, data, base frequency, distributions, graphs and charts, means, medians, modes, standard deviation, normal curve, Z scores, regressions, confidence intervals, hypothesis tests, measures of association, and inferential statistics. **S**

SOC 4403-Contemporary Sociological Theory**3 semester hours*****Prerequisite: SOC 3301***

Contemporary sociological theory is an upper division course that surveys contemporary sociological theory including such topics as modernism, postmodernism, functionalism, materialism, critical theory, symbolic interactionism and phenomenology. **S**

SOC 4462-Power, Class &Prestige**3 semester hours*****Prerequisite: SOC 1101 or permission of instructor***

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with the basic concepts, facts, and processes of social stratification. Students will examine the nature of economic inequality today in the United States, and also direct attention to the ways in which stratification differs by race and gender. The essential query is 'who gets what, and why?' The focus will be on the United States. Concepts and topics covered in this course include social class, American ideology, learning and maintaining social class, theories of social inequality, distribution of wealth and income, the elite, the vanishing middle class, poverty, social mobility, race/ethnicity and inequality, gender and inequality, global stratification, and public policy and social change. **S**

ELECTIVE COURSES

SOC 1102-Social Problems

3 semester hours

This course first explores how society defines and identifies social problems. The course then turns to the development of human society and how that development is related to the creation of social problems. Students will learn how social problems are interrelated with larger society; they will learn about patterns of cause and effect, and different levels of evaluation, e.g. micro, meso or macro level. Students will examine sociological research on social problems that is designed to help alleviate the negative consequences of social problems. In the latter part of the semester, the focus will move to the American socioeconomic elite, their history and the social problems that grow out of their practices in American society. The course focuses on the sociological theories of Conflict Theory, Functionalism, and Symbolic Interactionism. **F, S**

SOC 2231-Juvenile Delinquency

3 semester hours

Prerequisite: SOC 1101 or SOC 1102

This course introduces students to theories of delinquency, criminal behavior, and law enforcement. Students will learn about the relationship between delinquency and other social institutions in American society. Students will compare and analyze the theoretical explanations of the causes, dynamics, and consequences of juvenile delinquency. Students will also learn about the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Students will gain an increased understanding of law enforcement related to juvenile delinquency, the handling of cases in the juvenile court system, and other methods of treatment of children and adolescents. **F, S**

SOC 2248-Critical Analysis Social Diversity

3 semester hours

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the nature of race relations in the United States, and global issues of race and ethnicity. Students will learn about the life experiences of different ethnic groups. In this course, students will examine selected theories and research on the intersections of race, class, gender and ethnicity; and how race, class, gender and ethnicity affect the lives and cultures of people in the United States. Theories examined in this course include Social Control/Social Bonding, Social Justice, Sociology of Education, Critical Sociology, Differential Association, and Symbolic Interaction. By the end of the course students should understand the defining characteristics of social diversity, and historical and contemporary concerns and issues surrounding race, ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual orientation, and age. Students will be able to apply theoretical perspectives to current issues and concerns of social diversity, and develop problem-solving strategies as they pertain to social diversity. **F, S**

SOC 2250-Women, Crime & Corrections

3 semester hours

Prerequisite: SOC 1102

This course analyzes and examines the issues of women in crime and women in the criminal justice system, largely from a feminist perspective. Students will learn about theories and research about women's involvement in crime, correctional centers and in professional roles in the criminal justice system. **S**

SOC 3321-Families in American Society**3 semester hours*****Prerequisites: SOC 1101 or permission of instructor***

Students will be acquainted with basic concepts and theories, historical perspectives, facts, and processes of family formation and dissolution. We will focus on the family as a social institution shaped by larger social structures. The emphasis will be on contemporary US society. The course is organized into thematic sections covering the definitions of the family, past and current situation of families in the US, stages in the lifecycle of families, problems facing families, and social policy. The definition of "family" is examined through images, ideals, and myths about historical and contemporary families in the US. The lifecycle of families covers topics such as divorce and remarriage, aging, dating, love and intimacy, parenthood, and marriage and cohabitation. Students will also examine problems in families such as domestic violence, poverty, or teenage pregnancy. **D**

SOC 3330-Sociology of Health & Illness**3 semester hours**

In this course, students will explore physical ailments from the perspective of the patient (illness), the perspective of the medical profession (disease), and the perspective of society (sickness). Students will critically examine the experience of illness in modern societies and the assumptions and practices of modern biomedicine. Students will examine the relationship between culture and the experience of the body, and specific aspects of modern bodies and modern diseases. The topics of sickness and disease are explored by looking at deviance and normality, Parsons' Sick Role, medicalization, ladies conditions, the medical profession, and different disease models. Students will learn about illness by exploring such concepts such as stigma and shrinkage, pain, chronic disease and injury. Biomedicine is analyzed using a phenomenological approach and discussing issues such as death denial and enhancement medicine. **S**

SOC 3335-Population and Environment**3 semester hours**

This course is about the scientific study of populations and their environmental impacts. The first section of the course introduces students to the demographic perspective and to global population data. The second section of the course examines population processes such as the health and mortality transition, the fertility transition and the migration transition. The final section of the course details changes in the age structures of modern societies with an emphasis on the growth in the elderly, the growing urbanization of humanity and how all these transitions are impacting families and households. **D**

SOC 3366-The Community**3 semester hours*****Prerequisites: SOC 1101***

This course examines selected theories of community origins, characteristics, structures, boundaries, and change. Students will learn about different methods of studying various aspects of communities. Students will systematically work through the historical European and American conceptions of community; the emergence of Urban sociology; immigrant and ethnic communities; the effects of poverty and disasters on a "sense of community;" the social construction of boundaries between and within communities; the interaction between religious beliefs and community; the ties between community, social support, social networks and health; the emergence of cyber-communities; the social processes of disconnecting from communities and the development of Communitarianism as both a sociological set of theories and as a political ideology and movement. **F**

SOC 3368-Sociology of Religion**3 semester hours*****Prerequisites: SOC 1101***

This course examines contemporary issues as they relate to religion, the relationship of religion to other social institutions, religious experiences, prophecy and its routinization, and cults and religious dissent. The first half of the course involves a review of the basis of social scientific knowledge, the four major sociological perspectives and an examination of the various methodologies that sociologists have historically used to analyze the relationships between different religious values, beliefs and practices and other major social institutions (primarily culture, politics and economic activity). The second half of the course involves a detailed examination of the sociological impact of the world's major belief systems - Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Chinese Universists, Shintoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. During the final weeks, students will examine the sociological impact of Mormonism on the communities in the Intermountain West. **F**

SOC 4402-Promseminar in Sociology**3 semester hours*****Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor***

The course explores what it means and what it takes to be a sociologist and a professional. In addition to studying aspects of the sociology of professions and the profession of sociology, we will look at the logistics of being a graduate student. The course is divided into five sections: studying sociology, professions, writing and research, teaching, and career development. The first section explores what sociologists do and what it takes to become one. Students will learn about the history of professions, theories of professionalization, professional organizations, and professional ethics. In the section on writing and research, students will learn how to better write, how to cite, and how to develop a research question. The course also introduces students to the process of publishing papers, the art of presenting papers, grant writing and how to find funding sources. In the section on teaching, students will examine different teaching philosophies, styles, and formats. The last section covers career development and teaches students about job interviews, and writing CVs and letters of introduction. **D**

SOC 4408-Advanced Sociological Methods**3 semester hours*****Prerequisites; SOC 3308 and SOC 3309***

This course starts with a review of undergraduate descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and measures of association. This course focuses on multiple regression analysis, factor analysis, and logistic regression. **F**

SOC 4413 Mind and Body and Society**3 semester hours*****Prerequisite: SOC 1101***

Symbolic interaction and its relation to selfhood, sympathy, illness, sexuality, and addiction; and to groupings like enemies, communities, and associations. **D**

SOC 4431-Criminology**3 semester hours*****Prerequisites: SOC 1101 or permission of instructor***

In this course, students will analyze criminal law, law enforcement, judicial roles and processes, correctional approaches, the criminal offender and societal reactions. Students will examine theories and research as applicable to behavior and institutional relations. **S**

SOC/SOWK 4436-Elite Deviance and Crime**3 semester hours**

This course examines the crimes and deviant behavior of the American corporate and social elite. The course identifies these elite and their philosophy and history. Numerous examples of elite crimes are examined during the course. **S**

SOC/SOWK 4438-Sexual Crimes**3 semester hours**

This is a senior-level course designed to address complex relationships of human sexuality to law and crime. A range of sexual attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles will be discussed in the context of artistic expression, cultural norms and legal parameters. Students will be introduced to cultural variations in defining and addressing sexual crimes. The course also focuses on current explanations of sexual offending, along with subsequent psychotherapeutic approaches to treatment. Throughout the course, issues discussed are presented with respect to clinical and therapeutic implications. **S**

The course objectives are:

1. Students will increase their awareness of the diversity of human sexual practices.
2. Students will improve their recognition of the influence of sexuality on personal identity.
3. Students will learn to critically examine personal and social effects of sexual practices, including how laws are formed regarding perceived effects of such practices.
4. Students will learn to identify myths and stereotypes surrounding specific forms of sexual deviance.
5. Students will become familiar with DSM criteria for sexual disorders and how these are used within sex offender treatment programs.
6. Students will learn theories of sexual offending and treatment, respectively, and correctional approaches to sexual crime.
7. Students will become aware of the difficult clinical issues surrounding human sexuality, crime and law.

****Note: This course includes material that is graphic and explicit. All students in the course are expected to approach issues in a respectful, open, and intellectually mature manner.***

SOC 4467-Community Networking**3 semester hours**

In this course, students will learn about the sociology of community through readings, class discussions, lectures, and a community networking internship. Students will learn about the Community-Based Learning Model and they will learn to apply the model to a community agency. This class will give students in-depth knowledge of at-risk populations, as well as life skills in critical and creative thinking, oral and written communication, individual and group problem solving, and use of information technologies. Students will also gain an appreciation of cultural diversity and democratic values. Exposure to the volunteer opportunities will help students understand how the skills and knowledge they are learning will apply in community settings. Also, this class will enhance student learning beyond the traditional classroom by offering experiential opportunities that will respond to the evolving learning needs of students in a diverse society. The course will teach students how to connect sociological concepts and theories to their educational and social experiences. **S**

SOC 4491-Topics in Sociology: The American Family & TV**3 semester hours**

This course will provide an opportunity to look at something familiar in a new way – the American family and television. Students will examine the complex relationship between TV and families from a sociological perspective. Students will look at the representation of families in television shows, and the impact TV has on attitudes, beliefs, and behavior, and family life in general. Students will identify the messages about families in different TV shows and discuss contemporary family issues by comparing “virtual” and “real” family life. The course includes an in-class research project: students will learn textual analysis and aspects of media analysis such as lightning, angles, etc. and apply these techniques to television shows about families. **D**

SOC 4491-Topics in Sociology: Sociology of Sport**3 semester hours**

This course critically examines the function, role, and meaning of sports in society and the lives of people. The course will look at sport the same way sociologists would examine religion, law or medicine - to highlight aspects of the general human condition. We will examine the complex relationship between sport and society. The course is organized into thematic sections: the relationship between sport and other social institutions, sport and socialization, social problems and sport, sport and social stratification, and sport and the body. In this course, students will not only learn about the sociology of sport, but will also learn about other fields in sociology such as the sociology of the body, sociology of health and illness, sociology of media, and social stratification. The course typically includes a class research project: students will develop a research question related to the topic of sports, design a study and collect, analyze and present data. **D**

SOC 4492 Topics in Criminal Justice**3 semester hours**

Readings, discussion, and preparation of reports on selected topics. May be repeated with different content. **D**

INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES

SOC 2295-Criminology Internship

1-4 semester hours

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

The Criminology internship gives the student major the opportunity to experience work in a criminal justice agency before graduation. This is a required course for the Criminology major and students must work 3 hours a week for 16 weeks for each credit hour taken. The student is required to keep a daily journal and obtain a letter from their internship supervisor which states that they have successfully completed their internship experience. **F, S, Su**

SOC 4482-Sociology Internship

1-3 semester hours

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor; Junior status; minimum of 12 hours and 3.0 GPA in sociology. All instructors

Apply sociological principles in such ways as assisting the supervising professor with a lower-level course, conducting study groups or small group instruction. Students are required to perform 2.5 hours per week of directed work for each hour credit. This course does not count towards required/elective courses for Sociology, but the credits count towards the 36 upper-division credits required by ISU for graduation. *May be repeated for up to 6 credits. D*

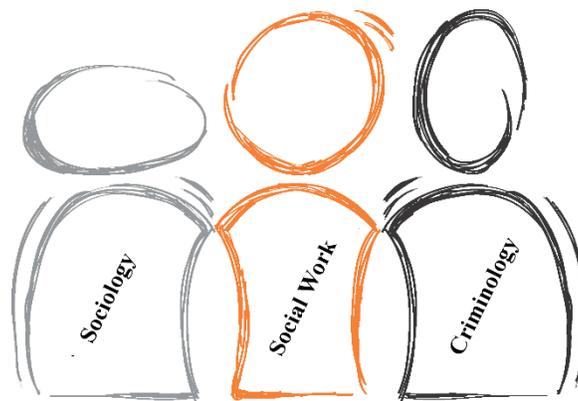
SOC 4483-Independent Problems

1-4 semester hours

Prerequisites: Sociology major; Permission of Instructor; G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher and at least 12 hours of sociology credits, advanced Junior Status. All instructors

Reading, observations, applied work, or data analysis in content area not offered in normal curriculum. Students need to design a contract with the instructor covering the course topic, the readings, and the standards for the final report or project. Students need to submit a midterm progress report. This course does not count towards required/elective courses for Sociology, but the credits count towards the 36 upper-division credits required by ISU for graduation.

May be repeated for up to 6 credits. D



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