

# SOCY - SOCIOLOGY

---

## **SOCY100 Introduction to Sociology (3 Credits)**

Introduces fundamental concepts and theories of sociology. Guided by C. Wright Mills' "sociological imagination," the course promotes critical thinking; challenges conventional assumptions about culture politics, history, and psychology; and equips students with theoretical approaches and research methods to analyze various sociological topics, including family, work, education, religion, social movements, and issues related to class, gender, race, and ethnic inequalities.

## **SOCY105 Understanding Contemporary Social Problems - Frameworks for Critical Thinking and Strategies for Solutions (3 Credits)**

Embark on an exploration of contemporary social issues and unravel the intricate ways in which these challenges are woven into the fabric of society. Develop a comprehensive understanding of societal organization and partake in a detailed study of selected social problems, with a specific emphasis on issues like social conflict and inequality. This course provides an insightful journey into the nuanced interplay between societal structure and prevalent challenges, fostering a heightened awareness of the dynamics shaping our social landscape.

## **SOCY120 Veterans in American Society: What Does America Owe Its Veterans? (3 Credits)**

An examination of current and past policies toward compensation for military veterans, data and evidence on current and past adjustments to life after military service, historical variations in the mechanisms for staffing the military, and trends in the contours of the lives of those who do not serve.

## **SOCY158 Special Topics in Study Abroad I (1-6 Credits)**

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

## **SOCY200 Innovation, Exploration and the Evolution of Human Societies (3 Credits)**

We will explore the nature of human societies through comparative, historical, and interdisciplinary perspectives. Students will delve into the core of social structures, unravel the defining components of society, and examine their organization, evolution, and impact on collective existence. Students will also explore the socio-historical forces and geopolitical dynamics that drive social change to analyze the complex connections that illuminate our shared social experience across time.

## **SOCY201 Introductory Statistics for Sociology (4 Credits)**

Students will explore descriptive and inferential statistics. You will hone your quantitative analytical skills to construct impactful bivariate tables, craft frequency distributions, and decipher measures of central tendency and dispersion. Additionally, you will master the techniques of hypothesis testing, chi-square, ANOVA, and ordinary least squares regression, equipping you to seamlessly translate data into meaningful research insights.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY100; and (MATH107 or MATH111).

**Restriction:** Must not have completed STAT400, BMGT231, or ENEE324.

## **SOCY202 Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology (4 Credits)**

We will examine why social research is needed, explore some of the main quantitative and qualitative techniques to conduct sociological research, and discover how to understand and critically evaluate sociological research on pressing social problems. Students will also learn to use specialized software to analyze and interpret quantitative data in the computer lab.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY100.

## **SOCY203 Sociological Theory (3 Credits)**

Examines major trends in the history and development of sociological thought, including theories of inequality, the self, institutions, and more. With each theorist students will learn what sociologists assume and focus on when studying societies.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY100.

## **SOCY211 The Sociology Major: Mapping the Road to Academic Success (1 Credit)**

Designed to assist students in making a successful transition to the major and orient them to departmental, college, and university resources. Students will collaboratively explore avenues and best practices that build self-confidence and lead to academic achievement.

**Restriction:** Must be in the Sociology major or Sociology minor.

## **SOCY212 Hate Crimes in the U.S.: What Lt. Richard Collins III Can Teach Us About History, Hope and Healing (3 Credits)**

Rooted in the tragic murder of Lt. Richard W. Collins III, a Bowie State student, on the campus of the University of Maryland by a white supremacist student, this course will provide an overview and discussion of the history of bias-motivated violence in the United States, the development of modern hate crime laws, theories and impacts of victimization, domestic terrorism, legal and social responses, and prevention strategies. Students from both Bowie State University and the University of Maryland will engage with experts from multiple disciplines and work together in a collaborative community to generate actionable strategies.

## **SOCY216 Social Aspects of Artificial Intelligence (3 Credits)**

In two generations computers insinuated themselves into the way societies create wealth, wage war, work, and govern their citizens. While scientists across disciplines debate the feasibility of engineering artificial general intelligence, the race is on to create computers (classic and quantum) that match or surpass human intelligence in as many domains as possible. Students in this course will weigh some social consequences of living with smart machines that are everywhere and never sleep, and confront the question of whether AI has gone too far, or not far enough.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY216 or SOCY416.

**Formerly:** SOCY416.

## **SOCY222 Immigration and Ethnicity in America (3 Credits)**

The history of immigration and the development of diverse populations in the United States are examined. Topics include related political controversies, the social experiences of immigrants, ethnicity, generations, migration, inter-group relations, race and diversity in American culture.

**Cross-listed with:** AAST222.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AAST222, HIST222, or SOCY222.

## **SOCY223 Down the Rabbit Hole: Conspiracy Theories, Paranormal Beliefs, and How to Know What's Real (3 Credits)**

It is becoming increasingly difficult to know what's real. We live in a world replete with deception, biases, fake images that seem indecipherable from real ones, and widespread and coordinated efforts to misinform us. Not unrelated to this, belief in conspiracy theories and the paranormal are flourishing. This course will explore the reasons why we so often believe claims that scientists reject and accept contentions that powerful and sinister conspirators are secretly controlling major events. We will investigate who believes, why we believe, and how normal human thinking processes contribute to the holding of questionable beliefs. The course will equip students with tools to evaluate claims and to understand why people believe what they do.

**SOCY224 Why are We Still Talking About Race? (3 Credits)**

Explore and discuss the major debates and assumptions that construct perceptions of race and how they matter. Sociological and social science theories will give students a historical and present day frame with which to view race and ethnic relations in the twenty-first century.

**SOCY225 Women's Jobs, Men's Jobs: How and Why Do They Differ? (3 Credits)**

An exploration of critical issues pertaining to gender differences in the workplace. Overview of theories explaining why some people do better than others in the world of work, and discussions of more specific questions relating to women's and men's job opportunities and experiences.

**SOCY227 Introduction to the Study of Deviance (3 Credits)**

An introduction to the sociological study of deviant behavior, covering such topics as mental illness, sexual deviance, and the use of drugs.

**SOCY230 Sociological Social Psychology (3 Credits)**

Why do people do that? Sitting at the nexus of sociology and psychology, this course surveys the various ways in which sociologists have answered this question. We investigate individuals-for example, how they develop and understand themselves in relation to others, how they choose to present themselves to the world, and how they form thoughts and opinions. And we study larger units of analyses, from small groups to the broader society. Topics covered include socialization, identity formation, social influence, group processes, how social processes shape individual behavior, and how human behavior shapes society.

**SOCY237 Surveillant Society, Surveillant Selves (3 Credits)**

Do the social and individual benefits of surveillance outweigh its risks? Surveillance is a ubiquitous practice in contemporary society. Governments surveil populations; corporations surveil customers and users; and individuals surveil themselves and others. From red light cameras and doorbell security cameras to geo-tracking apps and smart appliances, surveillant practices shape 21st-century lifestyles. Many take these practices for granted as acceptable trade-offs for individual and collective benefits. Others sound the alarm on the dangers of being tracked and monitored, with concerns over individual liberty, social inequalities, and more. In this course we will debate how surveillance shapes social practices and selves. Students will draw their own conclusions about the role of surveillance in society, and what, if anything, should be done to change it.

**Credit Only Granted for:** HNUH238C or SOCY237.

**Formerly:** HNUH238C.

**SOCY241 Inequality in American Society (3 Credits)**

A broad-based overview of inequality in contemporary U.S. society, focusing on measuring patterns and trends over time. A series of learning modules familiarizes students with how inequality unfolds in relation to social stratification processes along the lines of race, gender, education and social class, income and wealth, and health.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY241 or SOCY441.

**SOCY242 Sociology of Homelessness (3 Credits)**

Examines the causes of and solutions for homelessness in society. How social scientists analyze social issues using ethnographic observation, surveys, official statistics, and other research methods. Discusses how policies have responded to the problem of homelessness, and how to evaluate their effectiveness.

**SOCY243 The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change (3 Credits)**

An exploration of diversity and inequality in family life, focusing on empirical patterns and trends, political and cultural debates, and policy issues, including the major theories and research methods used in the sociological study of the family in a plural society.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY243 or SOCY443.

**Formerly:** SOCY443.

**SOCY244 Bridging Perspectives: Critical Conversations Between Students and Police (3 Credits)**

This course is a university curriculum created by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to enhance community-police engagement. This course brings university students and police together to engage in facilitated dialogue to learn from one another and build trust. Through this transformative educational course, both groups will enhance their knowledge of the structural and cultural frameworks that influence historical and current events and relationships between communities and police.

**SOCY245 The Family in Contemporary American Society (3 Credits)**

This is a course in the sociology of the family as an institutional arena in the United States. Students will become familiar with the empirical patterns and trends, political and cultural debates, and policy issues concerning families - and the major theories and research methods used in the sociological study of the family. The readings include a textbook and a research monograph. To succeed, students will attend lectures and participate in discussion; complete quizzes and in-class writing assignments; and take a midterm and final exam.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY243 or SOCY245.

**SOCY258 Special Topics in Study Abroad II (1-6 Credits)**

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

**SOCY265 War and Society, from the American Revolution to the Present (3 Credits)**

This course asks, why do nations make war the way they do? And how does the experience of waging war in this manner remake institutions, social and political relationships and even culture? To answer these questions, the course adopts a comparative and historical perspective, highlighting the ways nations organize and mobilize for armed conflict as well as how they define 'the enemy' against whom they direct armed force, and the ways these together shape the social consequences of warfare. Among the range of social consequences, we will focus on three: the experience of combat itself; the impact of war on class, race and gender relations; and the emergence of cultural values around armed conflict and the place of warfare and soldiers in society. The course concludes with almost a month devoted to making sense of the War in Ukraine and considering where to go from here.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY465 or SOCY265.

**Formerly:** SOCY465.

**SOCY277 Intersectionality and Illness: How do Overarching Social Inequalities Affect Health Outcomes? (3 Credits)**

Students will examine the social determinants of disease: the relationship between socioeconomic status and health care access, as well as investigate the links between social status and disease chronicity. Students will further explore how health disparities, health resource distribution, and susceptibility disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities with chronic diseases.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY277 or SOCY302.

**Formerly:** SOCY302.

**SOCY298 Selected Topics in Sociology (1-3 Credits)**

Special topics in Sociology.

**SOCY310 Sociology of Race, Class, Gender and Sports (3 Credits)**

Examines the institution of sport with an emphasis on race, gender, and class. The course will critically analyze assumptions, historical relationships, and contemporary issues in sports. The course will utilize sports as a platform to understand and explore sociological concepts, theories, and research.

**SOCY320 Poverty and African American Children (3 Credits)**

The United States has high levels of child poverty compared to other industrialized nations. Poverty rates are particularly high among African American children. This course focuses on how poverty and race intersect to influence the development of children and youth. Specific topics that we will consider include definitions of poverty, theories about the causes of poverty, racial disparities in child poverty, family functioning in the context of poverty, neighborhood influences, risk and protective processes, and social policies and programs designed to mitigate the impact of poverty.

**Cross-listed with:** AAAS320.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AASP320, AAAS320, AASP298P or SOCY320.

**Formerly:** AASP298P.

**SOCY322 Immigration and Ethnicity in the US (3 Credits)**

Explores historical and contemporary Asian immigration to the US in comparison to and in the context of other immigrant groups. From low-skilled laborers to highly-skilled professionals, Asian and other immigrants have been an integral part of the shifting US economy and society since its inception. The course includes theories on why immigration occurs, determinants of its continuation, the uses of migrant labor, and immigrant adaptation and settlement. The second part of the course focuses on theories of ethnicity and racial formation and how immigrants develop and challenge the definitions of race, ethnicity, the "other", and ultimately, who is American. Students will also have the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the immigrant experience through a life history interview project.

**Cross-listed with:** AAST322.

**Credit Only Granted for:** AAST322, SOCY222, HIST322 or SOCY322.

**Formerly:** AAST222, SOCY222.

**SOCY325 The Sociology of Gender (3 Credits)**

Focuses on gender as a system of social stratification. We will examine theories and research about the institutional and cultural scaffolding that differentiates gender groups in our society. We will learn about how gender permeates major institutions, such as education, employment, family, and the State. We will explore the social forces that shape our perceptions of sex, gender, and sexuality and examine how these affect interpersonal relationships. Throughout the course, we will examine the commonalities and variations of gendered experiences across racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomic status, and sexuality. By the end of the class, you should have an informed understanding of the ways in which gender shapes our lives, experiences, and outcomes.

**Cross-listed with:** WGSS325.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY325, WMST325 or WGSS325.

**Formerly:** WMST325.

**SOCY335 Sociology of Health and Illness (3 Credits)**

An exploration of the social model to studying health and illness: how meanings and experiences of health and illness are socially produced. How experiences are shaped by the interaction of external social environments (culture, community) and the internal environment (human body), and by socio-demographic variables (race, class, gender, etc.). Disparities in health and healthcare delivery, medicalization of society, determinants of health, social construction of illness, and the social organization of health care.

**SOCY336 Gender and Health (3 Credits)**

The relationship between gender and health is the central focus of this course. We consider how health disparities between women and men vary by race and ethnicity, sexual and gender minority identity, and social class. We consider how institutional and cultural factors across social and spatial contexts influence gendered associations with physical and mental health. In addition, this is a course on how to do the disciplinary work of sociology. Social discourse and policies about health have been crucial to creating our current understanding of gender and health. This course will provide training in analyzing health disparities and preparing research and policy briefs about how to address these disparities. This will happen through group projects and a peer reviewed process that relies on critical feedback from sociologists engaged in the same project, in this case, the other students in this course.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY236 or SOCY336.

**Formerly:** SOCY236.

**SOCY340 Globalization's Winners and Losers (3 Credits)**

What is the relationship between globalization and inequality? This course examines the factors shaping both between-nation and within-nation household income inequality for the past century. It is divided into four parts, each considering a different factor. First we seek to understand global trade historically. Second, we examine the more recent phenomenon of outsourcing. Third, we examine welfare and taxation policy and its role in shaping domestic inequality. Finally, we analyze the mechanisms for the accumulation of capital within global finance. By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss globalization beyond the "is it good or bad" binary and understand the complex interaction between domestic politics and international trade.

**SOCY343 Rise of China (3 Credits)**

Today, few questions pose more significance to scholars and policymakers than the "rise of China." As scholars grapple with explaining China's rise, they also provide tantalizing previews of the future of Chinese growth, and by extension, the future of the global economy. This course explores the character, conditions, and consequences of the rapid Chinese economic growth that many have termed "capitalism with Chinese characteristics." It summarizes three paradigms for explaining this growth: a state-centered, a market-centered, and a society-centered explanation. The course is divided in three parts, each examining a separate paradigm of development, and providing case studies of how this paradigm explains growth in specific industries and sectors of the Chinese economy.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY343 or SOCY443.

**SOCY358 Special Topics in Study Abroad III (1-6 Credits)**

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

**SOCY370 Career Exploration and Professional Development for Sociology Majors (1 Credit)**

Prepares Sociology majors to make the transition from undergraduate to entering graduate school and/or the professional work world. Topics include career options in Sociology, skills for conducting a job search, resume writing and interview preparation, and the graduate application process.

**Restriction:** Must be in the Department of Sociology.

**SOCY378 Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (1-3 Credits)**

The Undergraduate Teaching Assistant position offers exceptional Sociology undergraduates the opportunity to actively contribute to the educational process. This hands-on role involves assisting faculty in classroom activities, mentoring fellow students, and supporting academic assignments and assessments. Throughout the course, students develop crucial teaching and communication skills, learn effective time management, and gain valuable teamwork experience. This position not only enhances students' resumes but also equips them with skills vital for future academic and professional roles. This is an individual instruction course; contact the department or instructor to obtain section number.

**Restriction:** Permission of the Sociology Department.

**Repeatable to:** 9 credits if content differs.

**SOCY380 Honors Independent Reading in Sociology (3 Credits)**

This course permits sociology honor students to undertake a program or reading on a particular problem in sociology or a subfield therein. The reading will be done under the supervision of a member of the sociology faculty. Required of sociology honor students.

**Restriction:** Permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY381 Honors Independent Research in Sociology (3 Credits)**

This course permits sociology students to define a particular problem in sociology or a subfield therein and to develop a research plan for use as a thesis topic. The work will be done under the supervision of a member of the sociology faculty.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY380.

**SOCY383 Honors Thesis Research (3 Credits)**

Student research under the direction of a member of the sociology faculty, culminating in the presentation and defense of a thesis reporting the research.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY381.

**SOCY386 Experiential Learning (3-6 Credits)**

**Restriction:** Permission of BSOS-Sociology department; and junior standing or higher.

**SOCY391 Surveillance and the Erosion of Privacy (3 Credits)**

Our world is under increasing amounts of surveillance, from states, corporations, and other individuals. These activities may affect our sense of privacy since surveilling others is done as a means to gather knowledge. This class examines surveillance and privacy together in order to answer the following questions: Are acts of surveillance in contemporary society eroding our sense of privacy? Are certain populations more or less privileged in terms of having privacy rights? How can we protect privacy rights in an age of surveillance?

**SOCY398 Special Topics in Sociology (1-3 Credits)**

Topics of special interest to both sociology majors and non-majors.

**Prerequisite:** 3 credits in SOCY courses.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**SOCY398G Global Migration and the Israeli Case Study (3 Credits)**

Over 70% of Israel's population is made of first, second or third generation immigrants, who came from over 70 countries, making Israel an ultimate immigrant society. This course will focus on the history of Israel as a case study for the understanding of the historical phenomena of modern immigration.

**Cross-listed with:** ISRL343.

**Credit Only Granted for:** ISRL349K, GVPT368G, SOCY398G, SOCY398I, or ISRL343.

**Formerly:** ISRL349K.

**SOCY399 Independent Study in Sociology (1-6 Credits)**

Integrated reading or research under the direction and supervision of a faculty member. A maximum of 6 credits may be earned by a student for the same field experience in SOCY386 and SOCY399 combined.

**Prerequisite:** 12 credits in SOCY courses.

**Restriction:** Permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**SOCY401 Intermediate Statistics for Sociologists (3 Credits)**

This is a course about multiple regression for undergraduate students and presumes that students taking this course will be both producers and consumers of multiple regression results. Students will work with the instructor to produce a research poster presentation based on secondary social science data. In addition to multivariable statistics, students will learn some statistical programming as well as how to organize a research presentation.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Restriction:** Must not have completed STAT400, BMGT231, or ENEE324.

**SOCY407 Explaining Social Change: Fact and Fiction in Understanding Why Our World Looks the Way it Does (3 Credits)**

Examines large-scale processes of social change that have produced durable and defining aspects of our contemporary world and asks, How did we get here? It focuses on four key issues: how markets and the pursuit of profit came to organize virtually all aspects of material life and restructured societies around social classes; how democratic forms of governance emerged to direct states and the persistent challenges presented by authoritarian rule; how social revolution erupts and what kinds of changes it yields; and how warfare between states can produce varieties of change not necessarily comprehended in the foregoing domains.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses or permission of Sociology Department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY498Y or SOCY407.

**Formerly:** SOCY498Y.

**SOCY410 Social Demography (3 Credits)**

Demography is the scientific study of human populations including their size, distribution, composition, and the processes that change these characteristics. Social demography examines how population processes interrelate with institutions in society, such as the family and the economy.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY411 Demographic Techniques (3 Credits)**

This is a survey course in techniques that are widely used in demographic analysis. These include techniques that describe population structure and change, that analyze fertility, mortality, and migration, and that evaluate demographic data. In addition, many of the analytic skills and techniques of the course have more general applicability in social science and population health research.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY410; or permission of the Sociology department.

**SOCY412 Family Demography (3 Credits)**

Family and population dynamics. Fertility issues, such as teenage pregnancy, the timing of parenthood, and family size, as they relate to family behavior, such as marital patterns, child care use, and work and the family. Policy issues that relate to demographic changes in the family.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**SOCY413 Sociology of Aging (3 Credits)**

The aging of the population is one of the major demographic changes affecting social institutions during the next century. Research demography, sociology, economics, epidemiology, psychology and public health are integrated to develop a broader understanding of the causes and consequences of population aging. A central focus is the diversity of experiences by age, gender, socioeconomic status and health.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**SOCY415 Environmental Sociology (3 Credits)**

Overview of the field and theoretical themes within the area of environmental sociology and technology. Current issues are explored including: environmental attitudes; environmental movements; environmental justice; globalization; global climate change; and garbage and food.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses.

**SOCY418 Research in Family & Demography (3 Credits)**

This is a special topics research course for Family and Demography.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**SOCY420 Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology (3 Credits)**

Using the sociological imagination to independently explore research questions as designed by students. Readings will explore dilemmas qualitative researchers confront such as, how to conduct research ethically and how their background influences their findings and analysis. Students will learn how to collect data, analyze it, and present it to others.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**SOCY424 Sociology of Race Relations (3 Credits)**

Encourages sociological thinking about US racial and ethnic minority populations, with a focus on African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. The central concern is to understand and explain racial/ethnic inequality. A wide array of topics are discussed, including prejudice and discrimination, slavery, residential segregation, cultural inequality, skin tone stratification, economic and educational disparities, and assimilation/generational processes.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Cross-listed with:** AAST424.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY424 or AAST424.

**SOCY428 Research in Inequality (3 Credits)**

This is the special topics research course for Stratification and Inequality.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**SOCY431 Principles of Organizations (3 Credits)**

Structural and processual characteristics of organizations that make them effective for different purposes and in different environments. Effects of different institutional environments, small group processes, organizational networks, and leadership. Types of organizations studied include formal bureaucracies, professional organizations, and voluntary associations.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY432 Social Movements (3 Credits)**

This course broadens students' understanding of social movements in the United States. Many topics are discussed, including the emergence of social movements, why people join social movements, collective identity, gender, culture, emotions, tactics, repression, and the decline of social movements. Various movements are reviewed, including the civil rights movement, the Chicano movement, the women's movement, the LGBTQ movement, the white power movement, the American Indian movement, and the animal rights movement.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY433 Social Movements and Race (3 Credits)**

This course aims to broaden our understanding of racial and ethnic minority social movements in the United States. We will often reference protests by African Americans and Latinos, such as by focusing on slave resistance, the modern civil rights movement, and Chicano movements.

We will discuss various topics, including movement emergence, why people join and pick their tactics, government repression, movement outcomes, and movement decline. We will interrogate ways that movement processes and theoretical tools may be racially variant and strive to uncover how approaches used by scholars who study race (e.g., intersectionality, critical race theory, racialization) can be applied, and perhaps challenge, traditional social movement scholarship.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY435 Society, Biology, and Health (3 Credits)**

It is not too far-fetched to speak of the pancreas under capitalism or the proletarian lung. Humans are social beings in physical bodies. In this course, we draw on research studies, podcasts, news articles, and best-selling non-fiction to inform conversation and writing on how various dimensions of human biology influence, and are influenced by, our social and cultural environment. We focus on conceptualizing human behavior as an interplay between both nature and nurture, and consider how this approach changes our understanding of modern social problems. This course is appropriate for students with a range of backgrounds in the social and natural sciences; introductory-level supplemental readings on all necessary biological concepts will be provided.

**Prerequisite:** Must have completed 6 credits in SOCY courses or permission of BSOS Sociology Department.

**SOCY436 Where You Live Matters: Race, Segregated Neighborhoods, and Health (3 Credits)**

Have you ever wondered how the neighborhoods we live in affect our health and the role that race plays in this dynamic? In this course, we will explore the historical foundations of race and racially segregated communities in the United States. We will examine how the racial composition of neighborhoods profoundly shapes the social, economic, and environmental conditions within communities, and how inequalities in these conditions contribute to health disparities. By the end of this course, students will have a deep understanding of how where we live shapes opportunities to lead healthful lives and the importance of addressing these challenges to create more equitable communities.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the Sociology Department.

**SOCY441 Social Stratification and Inequality (3 Credits)**

The sociological study of social class, status, and power. Topics include theories of stratification, correlates of social position, functions and dysfunctions of social inequality, status inconsistency, and social mobility.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Restriction:** Junior standing or higher.

**SOCY442 The Black Middle Class (3 Credits)**

Students will learn about the Black Middle Class. They will examine and explore the historical context that led to the rise of a Black Middle Class. Innovative avenues into the Black Middle Class will also be examined, including various household and family formations. Finally, the course will cover the consequences of being in the The Black Middle Class, with an emphasis on residential segregation and racial identity.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses.

**SOCY445 Sex and Love in Modern Society (3 Credits)**

Sociological theories of sex and gender are used to explore empirical research on women's and men's sexual behavior and attitudes; variation in gendered sexuality by key social characteristics and how gendered sexuality is constructed and controlled; changes in sexuality over time and across relationship types, focusing on changes in sexual desire and behaviors and on the changing meaning of sex and marriage in U.S. society and other countries. Contemporary debates about sexuality will also be examined.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201, SOCY202, SOCY203, and SOCY230.

**Restriction:** Must be in Sociology program; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY450 Investigating Women's Empowerment in Low and Middle Income Countries (3 Credits)**

Students in this course will learn how the study of women's empowerment in low and middle income countries (LMICs) has developed, its current state of measurement, and new avenues to pursue in the future. Examining the extensive research on gender-based inequalities in educational attainment, employment rates, and health status, students will investigate how power imbalances across individuals, households, and institutional factors result in persistent inequality. Bringing an intersectional perspective to the forefront of the course, we will study how to design effective intervention policies that seek to improve the daily lives of women, girls and their families.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY451 Sociology of Culture (3 Credits)**

Analyzes the relationship between society and culture. How do social forces affect cultural objects and products? How do values and meanings shape individual behavior? How can culture be both a source of domination and resistance? These and other topics will be analyzed to show the role of culture in our lives.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY498C or SOCY451.

**Formerly:** SOCY498C.

**SOCY452 Sociology of Mental Health (3 Credits)**

The class focuses upon the larger question: "What is the balance between people being mentally 'ill' and us having a 'sick' society?" To explore this question, students will utilize sociological approaches toward mental illness and health. This will manifest as a focus on how social organization is related to mental health and illness. Students will consider how sociologists understand the nature, distribution, and treatment of mental illness and health in society, and will develop a personal understanding of what it means to be mentally healthy.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY4980 or SOCY 452.

**Formerly:** SOCY4980.

**SOCY453 Racial Residential Segregation (3 Credits)**

Examines how race and ethnicity have historically shaped residential patterns in the U.S. and their continuing importance today. Students will investigate the causes of residential segregation, including residential preferences, discrimination, and socioeconomic differences between racial and ethnic groups. Significant attention will be paid to how immigration and ensuing ethnic and racial diversity are reshaping the residential landscape. The readings highlight the U.S. context, though residential patterns in different countries are also briefly discussed.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY498D or SOCY453.

**Formerly:** SOCY498D.

**SOCY455 Social Dimensions of Privacy and Surveillance (3 Credits)**

Today, it is quite common in many spheres of life that we divulge personal information in exchange for something else. This course examines practices of surveillance in contemporary society in relationship to collective understandings of privacy. By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze privacy norms and practices in the age of mass surveillance, how surveillance produces inequalities in relation to privacy, and how definitions and regulations of privacy and surveillance change over time.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of the department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY391 or SOCY455.

**SOCY456 Smart Machines and Human Prospects (3 Credits)**

Artificial intelligence is everywhere and never sleeps. It is transforming our social institutions in intended and unintended ways. While scientists debate the feasibility of engineering conscious machines with general intelligence, no one debates that the global race is on to create more potent computers. Through targeted research, discussion, and presentation of findings students will answer a specific question on how, where, and in what ways society is being changed by smart machines.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY416 or SOCY456.

**SOCY457 Sociology of Law (3 Credits)**

Students will be introduced to sociological theories and frameworks used to examine how the law shapes society and how society shapes the law. Students will explore various approaches to jurisprudence influenced by sociology and investigate: how different social theorists have interpreted the role of law in society, whose interests the law serves, and the law's role in societal transformation. The course will enable students to understand how the law influences and is influenced by power, social change, legitimacy, compliance, deterrence, social reproduction, and inequality (including race, class, gender, and sexuality).

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY458 Special Topics in Study Abroad IV (1-6 Credits)**

Special topics course taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

**Repeatable to:** 15 credits if content differs.

**SOCY460 Researching Race, Gender, Class, and Sport (3 Credits)**

Historically, sports have been exclusionary by race, class and gender. Black athletes, women, and poor populations were excluded. Current discussions centered on sports, athletes, and social justice, leads to important sociological questions to consider and problems to investigate. In this research course, students will critically analyze assumptions, historical relationships, and contemporary issues in sports using an Intersectional conceptual framework. Students will analyze and synthesize original and empirical data for research-based poster presentations; and articulate how interrogating sports allows for innovative and revolutionary thinking as global citizens in various communities.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY310 or SOCY460.

**SOCY461 Sociology in Action: Research and Community Engagement in Prince George's County (3 Credits)**

Sociology in Action is a research course that will use the science of sociology to inform real life issues and contribute to the development of social programs. In this course, students will gain hands-on experience in applying sociology by working with clients in Prince George's County on specific social problems and issues. Please assess your ability to commit to this course and fulfill all requirements. Given that students will be working with Prince George's County organizations, there will be some variation and unpredictability in the nature of the projects.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY202; or students who have taken courses with similar content may contact the department.

**SOCY462 Digital Technology and Society (3 Credits)**

Situates digital technology in our social environment and then examines how this relationship reflects, reinforces, or reorders social hierarchies. Students will learn the conceptual and methodological foundations for studying and evaluating how technologies such as health and social media apps, the personal computer, artificial intelligence, and weapons of war have evolved, diffused and impacted social life. Students will explore and then conduct independent research on the relationship between technology and social inequalities through the lens of health and medicine, the environment and climate change, jobs and the workplace, as well as government and criminal justice.

**Prerequisite:** Must have completed 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY463 Sociology of Masculinity: How Much Has Masculinity Really Changed? (3 Credits)**

An examination of the history both feminist social movements and feminist sociology in a specific way. It uses the sociological subfield of men and masculinities as a keyhole through which we will study 'the stalled revolution' for women's equality. Along the way, we will familiarize ourselves with academic and popular reports about changing and contested definitions, ideas, and behaviors of masculinity.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS Sociology department.

**SOCY465 The Sociology of War: State and Society since the American Revolution (3 Credits)**

Since the American and French Revolutions at the end of the eighteenth century, warfare has been marked by the way national states draw ordinary people into armed conflicts--as members of the military, producers and controllers of resources and supporters or resisters, and also as targets and victims. This course examines how the centering of ordinary people in war has transformed over time, continuing right up to the current conflict in Ukraine. Alongside explaining why states make war the way they do, the course explores the impacts of making war and living through conflict on the societies embroiled in it.

**Prerequisite:** Must have completed 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY465 or SOCY265.

**SOCY467 Sociology of Education (3 Credits)**

Students will examine educational institutions from a sociological perspective by analyzing the latent and manifest functions of schooling. Students will study schools as structured organizations; investigate the various roles and subcultures present among teachers and students; and explore educational disparities in access and achievement.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**SOCY470 Pregnancy and Parenthood in an Unequal Society (3 Credits)**

Analysis of patterns in sexual activity, contraceptive use, and unintended pregnancy, and how they reinforce or alleviate socioeconomic, gender, and racial inequalities. Emphasis on the role of healthcare providers and contraceptive access, attitudes about motherhood and contraception, policy interventions, and institutional designs. Social and economic consequences of increasing women's ability to control their fertility.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of Sociology Department.

**SOCY475 Sociology of Emotions (3 Credits)**

Emotions are often thought of as purely subjective experiences. How much more personal than one get than their emotions and feelings? In addition to their physiological and psychological aspects, however, emotions have a social side that often go unnoticed. This course will introduce you to the social aspects of emotions. In doing so, we will cover wide-ranging topics including the social causes of emotions, social norms about emotions, disparities in emotionalexperiences, and the ways in which emotions can maintain and reshape society.

**Prerequisite:** 6 credits in SOCY courses; or permission of BSOS-Sociology Department.

**Credit Only Granted for:** SOCY498W or SOCY475.

**Formerly:** SOCY498W.

**SOCY480 Researching the Middle East (3 Credits)**

Introduces religion, gender, and politics in the Middle East and North Africa. After an overview of the political and social history the focus will be on methods for carrying out research on fundamental issues facing Middle Eastern societies, including national identity, religion, gender relations and the status of women in the family, politics, education, and labor market.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**SOCY481 Ideology and Social Conditions in the Making of Terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa (3 Credits)**

The sociology of terrorism and political violence in the Middle East and North African will be explored in this course.

**Prerequisite:** Must have completed 6 credits in SOCY courses or permission of the Sociology department.

**Restriction:** Sophomore standing or higher.

**SOCY490 Experimental Research Practicum (3 Credits)**

Hands-on experience in designing, conducting, and analyzing experimental research. Introduces students to causal inference in social scientific research, focusing on experimental designs. Students will get hands-on research experience running experimental studies in the group processes lab. Students will also work with the professor and graduate students in the department to develop a research idea that can be executed in the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of the Sociology department.

**Additional Information:** This is the first course in the experimental research practicum 2-course sequence.

**SOCY491 Experimental Research Design (3 Credits)**

Students will finalize the design of their studies from the fall semester and carry out the research in this course. Introduces students to analyzing experimental data and presenting results from these data. Students will continue to get hands-on research experience running experimental studies in the group processes lab and working with the professor and graduate students in the department to further develop their projects.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201, SOCY202 and SOCY490; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Additional Information:** This is the second course in the experimental research practicum 2-course sequence.

**SOCY498 Selected Topics in Sociology (1-3 Credits)**

Topics of special interest to advanced undergraduates in sociology. Such courses will be offered in response to student request and faculty interest.

**Prerequisite:** SOCY201 and SOCY202; or permission of BSOS-Sociology department.

**Repeatable to:** 6 credits.