

# Department of Sociology

## General Interest Courses

Students with a general interest in sociology are invited to enroll in one or more of the courses offered. Students should plan to take SOCI 1006 first, since this is normally a pre-requisite for other sociology courses.

## Minor in Sociology

SOCI 1006: Introduction to Sociology AND SOCI 2013: Research Design & Method OR SOCI 2023: Understanding Statistics and 9 credit hours in any sociology courses.

## Major in Sociology

Students majoring in sociology require a total of 36 credit hours in Sociology, including the following required courses:

- SOCI 1006 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 2013 Research Design & Method
- SOCI 2023 Understanding Statistics
- SOCI 2033 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3023 Contemporary Sociological Theory
- SOCI 4013 Senior Seminar

## Honours in Sociology

The Honours program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in independent sociological research under supervision. Completion of the Honours program is the normal preparation for graduate school. Normally, students must have a grade point average of B+ in sociology courses to enter the Honours program. Application for admission to the Honours program in sociology should be directed to the Chair of Sociology. Students honouring in Sociology require a total of 48 credit hours in sociology, including the following required courses:

- SOCI 1006 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 2013 Research Design & Method
- SOCI 2023 Understanding Statistics
- SOCI 2033 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3023 Contemporary Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3033 Seminar in Research Strategies (recommended)
- SOCI 4006 Honours Thesis
- SOCI 4023 Honours Workshop
- SOCI 4033 Advanced Sociological Theory

To earn an Honours degree, a student must obtain a minimum 3.0 grade point average on 48 credit hours of sociology courses including the required courses, and a minimum B



societies to under-developed regions within the centralized Canadian economy. The second term focuses on the contemporary structure, problems, and issues of Atlantic Canadian society.

### **SOCI-2123. Introduction to Sociology of Globalization**

Introduction to Sociology of Globalization explores social conditions characterized by global economic, political, cultural, and environmental interconnections and flows that cross existing political borders. Therefore, it challenges our existing conceptualization of an international world of borders and nation states. The course explores the concept of globalization and its relevance to our lives. Types of empirical topics covered include contemporary global inequalities; environmental problems; transnational communities and families; transnational migration; the effect of globalization on gender, race, ethnicity, and religion; transnational social movements; and the women's movement. Prerequisites: SOCI-1006. Introduction to Sociology or instructor's permission.

### **SOCI-2213. Society and Ecology (ENVS)**

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of environmental problems and the issues they raise, using C. Wright Mills' notion of the 'sociological imagination.'

### **SOCI-2313. Deviance (GEND) (CRIM)**

This course reviews theory and research with a focus on the social basis of deviance, deviance construction, and the consequences of social reactions to selected forms of deviance.

### **SOCI-2323. Sociology for Cyborgs: The Social Organization of the Internet**

This course is a critical introduction to the social, political, economic, and cultural organization of the Internet. The purpose is to provide media literacy tools to penetrate beneath its commonly experienced surfaces. The focus is on "who organizes the Web": its commercialization and the potential for democratization of its "users." An important goal is discovering "the academic Web" as a resource for both Liberal Arts education and lifetime learning.

### **SOCI-2333. The Sociology of Chinese Women in Literature and Film**

This course explores the sociology of women and China in recent literature and film, particularly in recent work by women in China and of those Chinese origins in Western countries. Topics include 20th century migration, settlement and early family experiences. The novels focus on three generations of families and illustrate the traditional expect

**SOCI-2433. Social Problems II - Canadian Social Problems (GEND)**

Several current Canadian social problems will be examined from the perspectives used in SOCI 2423. These problems include: poverty, minorities, Canadian identity, the effects of urbanization, and technology, etc. Prerequisite: SOCI 2423.

**SOCI-2443. Racialization, Racism & Colonialism**

This course explores the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological understandings most relevant to the sociological study of “race,” racialization, racism, and colonialism. We give particular attention to critical decolonial thinking on race. We examine the process of racialization, through which “being white” becomes the normative standard of “just being human.” We contextualize how the creation of whiteness as an identity-based entitlement has led to social division and oppression. We draw on the experiences of diverse groups of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour (BIPOC) in Canadian and global contexts. We begin with the premise that BIPOC share a common history in terms of dispossession, discrimination, and oppression, but also pursue a range of different struggles and dreams in relation to their lands and nation-states. We explore racialization of bodies in contemporary culture to probe a series of assumptions and theories about race, racism, and colonialism in both academic and popular thought.

**SOCI-2513. Sociology of Communication**

This course considers the mass media (principally print and electronic), its place in, and impact upon Canadian society. Various perspectives and related research are considered with respect to the control and ownership of the media, the social organization of the production of news, facts, statistics, and other messages; and the themes expressed in popular culture as conveyed by the media. Underlying concerns are the social construction of what-is-taken-to-be reality and the language that is used in the conveying of messages.

**SOCI-2523. Sociology of Aging (GEND) (GERO 2113)**

This course will explore the comparative situation of older women and men in different cultures and different historical periods within Western societies. The cultural and social-structural determinants of their changing status will be examined through alternative theoretical perspectives within sociology. The social construction of ‘elderly’ as a status will be explored through how older people are perceived, described, talked about, and interacted with, in everyday behaviour and how these relations may be ‘negotiated’ by the elderly themselves. The political economy of aging focuses upon disparities of income, and the determinants and effects of poverty on the lives of older people.

**SOCI-2543. Sociology of Religion**

This course focuses on the relations between the beliefs and institutionalized practices that people hold sacred, and contemporary community life. Students explore the contradictory trends of mass secularism and the rise of religious fundamentalism, and the practices through which people collectively mobilize to sustain, challenge, and change religious identities. The question raised by Durkheim is explored: If religion expresses and reinforces community solidarity, how can modern societies accommodate religious diversity? A further question is: How are religions implicated in political struggles, the women’s movement, nationalism, and war?

**SOCI-2563. Sociology of Sport**

This course unpacks issues associated with sport in North America. Students are asked to critically engage with sport practices as they intersect various social phenomena including



academic, government, research, or policy setting.

### **SOCI-3043. Qualitative Research Methods**

This course is intended for 3rd-year Honours students who are considering using qualitative analysis in the research for their Honours thesis. It will address theoretical foundations of qualitative analysis, research ethics for qualitative researchers, and provide hands-on experience in developing a research question and collecting and analyzing data using basic qualitative techniques including observation, in-depth interviewing, and unobtrusive measures.

### **SOCI-3113. Political Sociology**

The focus of this course is on the type of political system known as liberal democracy. Particular emphasis is placed on the historical genesis of liberal democracy, on its structural dynamics, and on the role of the working class within the system. The examination includes an analysis of the sources of stability and cleavage governing the development of liberal democracies. Finally, the functioning of liberal democracies is contrasted with that of communist political systems.

### **SOCI-3123. Social Movements, Social Activism & Social Change**

This course explores conceptual, theoretical and methodological understandings of social movements and activism as an organized way of effecting social change. It also examines a series of historical and contemporary case studies within Canadian and global contexts. Students analyze social movements or activism for social change in their local and/or global communities.

### **SOCI-3133. Sociology of Work**

The sociology of work studies the changing nature of work from pre-industrial to contemporary times. It is concerned with how our work activities and occupations shape our everyday lives, how work is gendered and the implication of technological innovation on individual workers and societal processes. Different forms of work, occupational hierarchies and social relations of production are key themes explored within this course.

### **SOCI-3153. Sociology of War**

The sociology of war explores organized mass violence across societal boundaries. Topics include the rise of the military-industrial complex, cultures of militarism, the political economy of war in the context of global struggles to control resources, and the active practices that militarize religious and ethnic identities, moralize political and economic conflicts, and impose dominant justifications onto the conduct of war.

### **SOCI-3173. Women and Education**

With the rise of neo-conservative governments in Canada, we see changes in schooling and higher education due to the restructuring of government finances and privatization. By

symbolic interactionism, Alfred Schutz and phenomenological sociology, Erving Goffman, the school of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and Jean-Luc Nancy, Jacques Derrida and the school of deconstruction. A number of feature films illustrating the themes of the course will be viewed. Students are encouraged to discuss popular culture and their own experiences in light of the themes of the course.

#### **SOCI-3223. Globalization and Gender (GEND)**

Globalization and Gender will examine how definitions of gender and sexuality are reproduced, negotiated and deployed in the context of globalization and transnational flows. Through a critical inquiry into a variety of texts, i.e. theoretical texts, ethnographic case studies and analysis of media representation, students will examine the topics of citizenship, global labor flows, migration, militarization, neoliberalism and the construction of the gendered global subject. They will study both the opportunities and challenges that are inherent in postcolonial and transnational feminist scholarship and activism.

#### **SOCI-3243. Sociology of Men and Masculinities (GEND)**

In this course, students examine the social production of masculinities in North America and the impacts of these gender expressions on the lives of boys and men, and girls and women. Students are introduced to theoretical perspectives used to understand the lives of men and boys, while examining topics such as fathering, the social construction of men's bodies, the ways the media (re)produces notions of masculinity, and sports masculinities.

#### **SOCI-3263. Capitalism and Modern Culture**

The course explores how the emergence of new forms of commerce and production gave rise to new cultural ideas and social formations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis is placed on the historical emergence of taken for granted themes in modern culture. This will enable students to better appreciate current developments in culture and in our economic system.

#### **SOCI-3293. Animals & Society**

In Sociology we study human society. Humans, however, have always lived in relation to other non-human animals, and these relations and these animals have in fact been central to human society. In this course we will re-think what we mean by 'human society,' by showing how integral animals have always been to what we take to be 'human society.'

#### **SOCI-3313. Sociology of Law (CRIM)**

This course critically examines law from various sociological perspectives, with particular reference to Canada. The course is designed to cover sociological jurisprudence and selected theories of law, as they relate to family, administrative, labour, criminal and other types of law.

#### **SOCI-3323. Sociology of Women and Law (GEND)**

This course explores the relationship of women to the state and to law. The ways in which criminal and family law influence gender relations in society are analyzed, including the implications of legal intervention and non-intervention in family relations. Sex-specific and sex-related legislation concerning such issues as sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and affirmative action, are also examined. Theoretical concepts and issues, such as the position of women within capitalism, patriarchy, sexuality and reproduction, formal and informal control, are addressed.







reflects the inter-disciplinary nature of narrative.

### **SOCI-4006. Honours Thesis**

The Honours thesis is a scholarly essay or research paper on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty committee composed of a Thesis Supervisor and another advisor. When completed, the thesis is read and graded by this thesis committee. To pass the thesis a minimum grade of B is required

### **SOCI-4013. Senior Seminar**

The senior seminar is a one-semester course, required for a Major degree in sociology, which is to be taken in the final year of study. The course is organized around substantive issues, with different sections devoted to different topics. The issues are addressed as puzzles or lines of inquiry that explore current concerns. Students are expected to bring the knowledge they have acquired of the competing traditions of sociological inquiry to bear on the theme. This course will be conducted as a seminar, with students taking responsibility for researching, presenting, and discussing material. Regular attendance and active participation will be emphasized.

### **SOCI-4023. Honours Workshop**

This is a required course for Honours students in their final year. Enrolment is restricted to Honours students. The course is organized around two sets of activities: 1) workshops oriented to the development of knowledge and skills directly applicable to the process of thesis research, covering such topics as ethical decision-making in social research, practical problems in collecting and analyzing research material, writing in social research and 2) student presentations of thesis proposals, progress reports, and final results. Entry of non-Sociology students is with permission of instructor.

### **SOCI-4033. Advanced Sociological Theory**

A critical examination of selected orientations from contemporary sociological theory. The implications of these perspectives for both the nature of sociological inquiry and the prevailing models of society are considered. Prerequisite: SOCI 2033, 3023.

### **SOCI-4043. Independent Study**

A program on independent study under the direction of a member of the faculty selected by the student. It is designed for students who wish to pursue an area of special interest through reading, research, and writing.

### **SOCI-4053. Independent Study**

A program on independent study under the direction of a member of the faculty selected by the student. It is designed for students who wish to pursue an area of special interest through reading, research, and writing.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.*