Graduate Course Descriptions

**Prerequisite for all graduate courses: graduate standing or consent of the instructor.**

R515 Sociology of Health and Illness (3 cr.) Surveys important areas of medical sociology, focusing on social factors influencing the distribution of disease, help-seeking, and health care. Topics covered include social epidemiology, the health-care professions, socialization of providers, and issues of cost and cost containment.

R517 Sociology of Work (3 cr.) Topics include the changing meaning of work, the quest for dignity in the workplace, the plight of the working poor, and the transformation of the culture of work and its impact on occupations and professions. The prospects for a revival of the labor movement will also be examined.

R525 Gender and Work (3 cr.) This course critically analyzes contemporary theory and research on gender and work. It examines how women’s and men’s roles in paid and unpaid work are socially constructed, through socialization, social interaction and the actions of social institutions. The interaction gender, race, ethnicity and social class will be explored.

R530 Families and Social Policy (3 cr.) This seminar will explore how the government and labor market affect family structure and the quality of family life. Students will study the implications of family research for social policy and learn to develop theoretical frameworks for evaluating social policies affecting families. Additional prerequisite: R220 or R314 or consent of the instructor.

R537 Gender in Society (3 cr.) Examines some of the central approaches to gender, emphasizing social interactionist and feminist theory/methods. In addition, we will relate these approaches to the study of contemporary gender approaches in selected social spheres.

R551 Quantitative Research Methods (3 cr.) Surveys the major quantitative techniques for investigating current sociological problems. It emphasizes the relationship between theory and practice in understanding and conducting research.

R556 Advanced Sociological Theory I (3 cr.) In depth study of classical sociological theorists particularly Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Examines their roles in defining the discipline.

R557 Advanced Sociological Theory II (3 cr.) Reading and exercises will involve the student in close analysis and criticism of sociologists belonging to the idealist tradition of sociology. In this second part of a two-semester course in theory and theory construction in sociology, students will be required to demonstrate their mastery of the theorists studied, as well as to demonstrate their own abilities in theory design and construction.

R559 Intermediate Sociological Statistics (3 cr.) Basic techniques for summarizing distributions, measuring interrelationships, controlling extraneous influences, and testing hypotheses are reviewed, as students become familiar with the computer system. Complex analytical techniques commonly applied in professional literature are examined in detail, including analysis of variance, path diagrams, factor analysis, and log-linear models. Additional prerequisite: R359, equivalent or consent of the instructor.

R585 Social Aspects of Mental Health and Mental Illness (3 cr.) This focuses on the sociology of mental illness and mental health and provides a thorough grounding in the research issues and traditions that have characterized scholarly inquiry into mental illness in the past. Students will become familiar with public policy as it has had an impact on the treatment of mental illness and on the mentally ill themselves.
R594 Graduate Internship in Sociology (3-6 cr.) This course involves master’s degree students working in organizations where they apply or gain practical insight into sociological concepts, theories, knowledge, and methodology. Students analyze their experiences through work logs, a lengthy written report and regular meetings with a faculty committee.

*Additional prerequisite: 18 hours of graduate credit in sociology.*

(Students on the thesis track may also take this course as an elective.)

R610 Sociology of Health and Illness Behavior (3 cr.) This seminar explores sociological and social scientific research on health and illness behavior. Special emphasis is placed on examining how social factors and conditions shape people’s responses to disease, illness, and disability.

*Additional prerequisite: R515 or consent of the instructor.*

R697 Individual Readings in Sociology (3 cr.) Investigation of a topic not covered in the regular curriculum that is of special interest to the student and that the student wishes to pursue in greater detail. Normally available only to majors through arrangement with a faculty member.

*Additional prerequisite: Consent of instructor.*

S500 Pro-Seminar in Sociology (1 cr.) Introduction to current sociological research interests and concerns through the work of departmental members.

S526 The Sociology of Human Sexuality (3 cr.) This course will provide (a) a detailed examination of the development of sex research, (b) a sociological perspective on and critique of this corpus and, (c) an opportunity for students to develop research of their own.

S530 Introduction to Social Psychology (3 cr.) Examines the broad range of work in social psychology. Emphasis is placed on the relation between the classic and contemporary literature in the field.

S560 Graduate Topics (3 cr.) Exploration of a topic in sociology not covered by the regular curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Topics to be announced. Variable with topic.

S569 M.A. Thesis (3 cr.) All students on the thesis track must register for 3 credit hours (up to 6 credit hours total) of thesis credits as part of the requirements for the degree.

*Additional prerequisite: Consent of the Graduate Director.*

S610 Urban Sociology (3 cr.) Historical and contemporary causes, trends, and patterns of urbanization throughout the world. Various approaches to studying the process of urbanization, including ecological, social organizational, and political perspectives. Current developments and problems in urban planning.

S612 Political Sociology (3 cr.) An analysis of the nature and operation of power in a political system. Topics may include classical theories of power, political behavior and campaigns, the role of mass media in sustaining power, the state as a social institution, and political movements.

S613 Complex Organizations (3 cr.) Theory and research in formal organizations: industry, school, church, hospital, government, military, and university. Problems of bureaucracy and decision-making in large-scale organizations. For students in the social sciences and professional schools interested in the comparative approach to problems of organization and their management.

S616 Sociology of Family Systems (3 cr.) Focus on the nature, structure, functions, and changes of family systems in modern and emerging societies, in comparative and historical perspective. Attention is given to relationships with other societal subsystems, and to interaction between role occupants within and between subsystems.
S632 Socialization (3 cr.) The processes of development of the individual as a social being and societal member, focusing on childhood or socialization into adult roles.

S659 Qualitative Methods in Sociology (3 cr.) Methods in obtaining, evaluating, and analyzing qualitative data in social research. Methods covered include field research procedures, participant observation, interviewing, and audio-video recording of social behavior in natural settings.