SOCIOLOGY



(Revised: November 7, 2012)

Critical Thinking. Both in courses and beyond, the Sociology Department encourages students to formulate and pursue important, interesting, and relevant questions of interest, using various theoretical and methodological approaches. The sociology major is designed to help students critically examine the reciprocal link between daily experiences and larger social structures. We specialize in social patters and processes in the United States, and connect these issues to larger phenomena. Our courses focus on topics germane to our current global society: the effects of globalization on social relations, institutions, and communities; the increase in the unequal distribution of resources within and across nations; the causes and consequences of protest movements; the feminization and racialization of poverty; the interactive and reciprocal influences of culture, polity, social institutions and the economy; and the changes in meanings and performances of identities.

Engaged Citizenship. At its best, sociology engages students in the world around them, encouraging them to examine the relationships between self and society. In what ways do socioeconomic, historical, and cultural conditions influence one's thoughts, values, and behavior? How do one's thoughts, values, and actions help shape the world in which one lives? Sociology offers answers to these questions by studying social organization from macro to micro levels. We are interested in the interactions among cultural, political, social, and economic systems and individuals. The fundamental questions that we raise as a discipline concern the nature of human beings, the nature of society, and the relations between the individual and society. To the extent that the discipline of Sociology equips students with the tools to critique the world in which they live, it makes them both better scholars and more informed and valuable citizens.

Connecting the Global and the Local. Sociology is dynamic field that is concerned with historical and contemporary issues of local, national, and global significance. It is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. Few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.

Problems, Programs, & Policy. Sociology provides many distinct perspectives on the world, generating new ideas, and critiquing the old. The field also offers a range of research techniques that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life: street crime and delinquency, corporate downsizing, how people express emotions, welfare or education reform, how families differ and flourish, or problems of peace and war. Because sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time, it is a rapidly expanding field whose potential is increasingly tapped by those who craft and create programs and policy.

STRUCTURE OF SOCIOLOGY MAJOR AT DICKINSON

Level	Prerequisites	Required Spine	"Elective Ribs"
4	Level 1-3	CAPSTONE Senior Seminar 400 Fall Senior Year	<i>Senior Thesis Soc 405</i> Spring Senior Year
		Independent Research	
3	Level 1-2 In some cases (*)	Theory *Classical Soc 330 or *Contemporary Soc 331	Advanced Electives Including Advanced Methods Courses in *Quant (341)
2	Level 1 <i>in some cases (*)</i>	Methods Soc *240 & *244	Electives Majors & Non-Majors
1		Intro Course Social Analysis 110	

*Note: Some of the electives at the 200 level may have prerequisites, although most of them are open to all students. In some cases, non-majors may be allowed to enroll by permission of the instructor in 300 electives (and possibly in a senior seminar) if there is space available and they have had comparable courses in other departments that prepare them for this level of work.

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

Name: ______ Advisor: _____ Semester/Year of Graduation: _____

Required Courses

Semester Completed:

Social Analysis (110)______Qualitative (240)(W)Quantitative (244)(QR)Theory (330 or 331)(W)Seminar (400)______Note: Senior Seminars are offered in the fall only

Sociology Electives (5)

 Semester Complet	

<u>Thematic (3 course minimum—1 of these courses may be taken outside of the department).</u>

Thematic: _____

Course: Semester Completed:

Academic Planning Worksheet

Minor in Sociology: Six courses, including 110, 240 or 244, and 330 or 331.

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
	First-Year Seminar	1	
	2	2	
First Year	3	3	
	4	4	
	PE	PE	
	1	1	
	2	2	
Sophomore Year	3	3	
	4	4	
	PE	PE	
	1	1	
	2	2	
Junior Year	3	3	
	4	4	
	1	1	
	2	2	
Senior Year	3	3	
	4	4	

	DIV 1a(2 from 2 different are		_ DIV 1c
	DIV 2 (2 courses from 2 diffe	erent departments)	
Distribution	DIV 3	((2 lab sciences)
Requirements	QR	W (Writing Intensive_	
	CC (Comp. Civ)	US Diversit	ty
	Foreign Language (through intermediate level)		
	First-Year Seminar		

Note: A number of the required courses for the major fulfill distribution requirements as well.

QR	Soc 244 (Quantitative Data Analysis)
W	Soc 330 or 331 (Classical and Contemporary Theory) Soc 240 (usually Qualitative Methods)

Some Sociology courses also fulfill the comp civ requirement but they are not necessarily offered on a yearly basis so a student would need to check offerings by semester. For example, Soc 224 Cross-Cultural Family and Gender counts as CC.

Sociology Courses

Required Courses for the Major – 10 including: 110, 240, 244 (or Anthro 241, or Psych 201-201), either 330 or 331, 400, and 5 electives. A thematic is also required.

- Soc 110 Social Analysis**
- Soc 240 Qualitative Methods**
- Soc 241 Quantitative Data Analysis**
- Soc 330 Classical Theory* or
- Soc 331 Contemporary Theory*
- Soc 400 Senior Seminar**

Full Course Offerings including Electives

Soc 110	Intro to Sociology (U.S. Diversity)
Soc 222	Family Phenomena
Soc 224	Cross-Cultural Family & Gender Systems (Comp Civ)
Soc 225	Race and Ethnicity (US Diversity)
Soc 226	Race, Class, and Gender (US Diversity)
Soc 228	Sociology of Sexualities
Soc 230	Special Topics (including Sustainability, Human Rights, and Social Justice; Work and Social Policy; Conflict-Resolution; Sociology of Disasters; Immigration and Ethnicity; Images of Blackness)
Soc 233	Asian American Communities
Soc 234	Middle Eastern American Communities
Soc 236	Stratification
Soc 240	Qualitative Methods **
Soc 244	Quantitative Data Analysis** (Anthro 241 can substitute or both Psych 210-202)
Soc 260	Ethnography of Jewish Experience
Soc 270	Social Movements, Protest, and Conflict
Soc 271	Comparative Social Policy
Soc 272	Islam and the West
Soc 310	Gender and Media
Soc 313	Special Topics
Soc 325	Race, Family, and the Politics of Multiraciality
Soc 327	Sex, Gender and Religion
Soc 330	Classical Theory* or
Soc 331	Contemporary Theory*
Soc 333	Sociology of Health and Illness
Soc 344	Advanced Quantitative Methods

Soc 400 Seniors Seminars (offered only in the fall) Globalization Life Course Studies Poverty and Policy (Quantitative element) Sociology of Violence Youth, Inequality, and Education Women, Culture, and Development Language and Power: Foucault and Bourdieu Women, Culture & Development in the Third World Race and Ethnic Theory

Soc 405Advanced Research Seminar: Senior Thesis (offered in the spring)Proposals Due by Friday the week after Thanksgiving

See Sociology Website for current course offerings by semester: http://alpha.dickinson.edu/departments/socio/ and stay tuned for our new look

Thematic

Each student is required to develop a thematic or focus within the field of sociology. **By spring break of the final semester,** the student should submit a thematic statement to their advisor that articulates how their (minimum of) three courses relate to one another in ways that fulfill the thematic.

- Thematic Statement (1-2 paragraphs) Identifies and describes the thematic you are completing
- Identifies and describes the three courses that you are using to fulfill the thematic requirement.
- Provides a rationale for how these courses fulfill the thematic requirement and how they relate to one another?
- You will want to consult with your academic advisor along the way as you begin to plan out your thematic.

Sociology Course Descriptions

110: Social Analysis Selected topics in the empirical study of the ways in which people's character and life choices are affected by variations in the organization of their society and of the activities by which social arrangements varying in their adequacy to human needs are perpetuated or changed.

This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences and US Diversity requirements.

222: Family Phenomena In both the ideal and the real worlds, the family is credited with producing social leaders and blamed for creating social misfits. Social scientists, policy makers, and writers have focused on the family as a central and powerful social institution. This course explores the nature and role of families, and how families vary across cultures and over time. The course will address such topics as socialization, gender, work-family issues, and domestic violence.

224: Families and Gender in a Cross-Cultural Perspective In this comparative course in family systems, we will study the impact of production and politics on family life in various cultures, including Africa, Latin America, the Far East and the United States. The course uses ethnographic studies and documentaries to illuminate the impact of the political economy on family life, the life course, and gender roles and relationships. Various theories of development will place the ethnographies into socio-political and historical context. *This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and Comparative Civilizations graduation requirement.*

225: Race and Ethnicity This course explores the historical and contemporary significance of race and ethnicity in the United States. Students will examine how racial inequality has become a pervasive aspect of U.S. society and why it continues to impact our life chances. We will address race and ethnicity as socio-historical concepts and consider how these "social fictions" (in collusion with gender, class, and sexuality) produce very real material conditions in everyday life. We will develop a theoretical vocabulary for discussing racial stratification by examining concepts such as prejudice, discrimination, systemic/institutional racism, racial formations, and racial hegemony. We will then look closely at colorblind racism, and examine how this dominant ideology naturalizes social inequality. With this framework in place, students will investigate racial stratification in relation to schools, the labor market, the criminal justice system, neighborhood segregation, immigration, etc. Finally, we will discuss strategies of anti-racism that seek to eliminate enduring racial hierarchies.

This course fulfills the DIV II distribution requirement. Offered every two years.

226: Race, Class, and Gender Explores the personal, inter-group, and institutional dimensions of race, class and gender as simultaneous and interactive systems of meaning and experience. Examines theories of the economic, social and psychological dynamics of oppression; the social construction and reconstruction of identity; and the nature of racism, classism, and sexism. Social change strategies for eliminating oppression are also explored.

228: Sociology of Sexualities This course explores the social origins of sexual behaviors, identities, and desires. We will investigate how sexuality intersects with other social hierarchies including race, gender, and class. Our current frameworks for understanding

sexuality and sexual identity are the product of social, political, and economic forces, and reflect the common sense of a particular historical moment. We will consider a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of sexuality and explore more closely how these perspectives inform the analysis of contemporary sexual issues. *This course fulfills the DIV II distribution requirement. Offered every two years.*

230: Selected Topics in Sociology Courses which examine special topics in sociology. Recent offerings: Racism in America; Sustainability, Human Rights, and Social Justice; Cuban Society and Economy; Conflict Resolution,

Lesbian and Gay Communities; Jewish Experience Ethnography; Social Justice: Sustainability and Human Rights; Transnational Identities; Cuba: Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability and Resiliency

233: Asian American Communities This class is designed to move from theoretical understandings of "race," and racial identity as it operates in our everyday lives to larger, structural determinants of race with special attention to the unique position of Asian Americans in U.S. race relations. This course focuses on social relations, political identities and activism, immigration and labor experiences to explore the ways Asian Americans have contributed to our larger histories as Americans. Broken down into three sections, this class analyzes the position of Asian Americans in the following interconnected contexts: (a) Asian Americans in relation to dominant society, (b) Asian Americans in relation to other communities of color, and (c) pan-Asian relations.

This course fulfills the DIV II distribution requirement and the U.S. Diversity graduation requirement. Offered every year.

234: Middle Eastern American Communities This interdisciplinary course considers the history of Middle Eastern American communities, and the related development of "Islamophobia." We survey the history of the diverse immigrant communities that trace their heritage to a vast region of the world, the variously defined "Middle East." In the 1990s, Islamophobia emerged as a controversial concept after decades of discussion around Orientalism and anti-Arab racism. Today, some see Islamophobia as a catch-all concept for discrediting necessary anti-terrorism measures like profiling, surveillance, and wiretaps. Others see Islamophobia as fitting into a pattern of racialized scapegoating, where people experience violence and discrimination. Topics for discussion include ethnic group and identity formation, the "war on terror," connections between domestic and international US policy, and civil rights advocacy.

This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and the U.S. Diversity graduation requirement. This course is cross-listed as MEST 234. Offered every two years.

236: Stratification This course takes a critical look at the layers of American society that shape, construct, and inhibit the basic pursuit for equality of opportunity. Students will be asked to examine how the three most fundamental elements of social stratification – race, class, and gender – function both separately and in tandem to organize systems of inequality. The course enlists theoretical and practical applications of stratification to evaluate how social constructions of difference influence the institutions, such as education, work, family, government, and society policy that impact our daily lives. Additionally, class discussions

will also consider how the forces of racism, sexism, and classism impact the attainment of basic needs, such as wages, health care, and housing.

237: Global Inequality Exploring the relationship between globalization and inequality, this course examines the complex forces driving the integration of ideas, people, societies and economies worldwide. This inquiry into global disparities will consider the complexities of growth, poverty reduction, and the roles of international organizations. Among the global issues under scrutiny, will be environmental degradation; debt forgiveness; land distribution sweatshops, labor practices and standards; the new slavery in the global economy; and the vulnerability of the world's children. Under specific investigation will be the social construction and processes of marginalization, disenfranchisement and the effects of globalization that have reinforced the division between the worlds' rich and poor. *Offered every year*.

238: Consumer Culture The sociology of consumerism is a major specialty in European sociology, and is only recently receiving attention by American sociologists. In this class, we will examine the increasing importance of consumerism in daily life and the degree to which culture has become commercialized. We will discuss the sign value of commodities, as well as the shift from a stratification system based on the relationship of the means of production to one based on styles and patterns of consumption. We will also concern ourselves with the relationships between consumption and more traditional sociological concerns such as gender, race, and social class.

Offered every two years.

240: Qualitative Methods This course introduces students to the theory and methods of social science research, beginning with an examination of the philosophies underlying various research methodologies. The course then focuses on ethnographic field methods, introducing students to the techniques of participant observation, structured and informal interviewing, oral histories, socio-metrics, and content analysis. Students will design their own field projects or be involved in a class project.

Prerequisite: 110 or ANTH 101. This course is cross-listed as ANTH 240.

244: Quantitative Research Methods The quantitative research methods course introduces students to basic principles of social science research methodologies and statistical analysis. Students will use examples from scholarly research to understand concepts related to research design, sample selection, appropriate measurement, and survey construction. Additionally, students will apply these concepts to conduct introductory data analysis. Using elemental tools of descriptive and inferential statistics, students will learn to quantitatively assess social research questions in order to draw meaningful conclusions *Prerequisite: 110 or ANTH 100 or ANTH 101. This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and QR graduation requirement. This course is cross-listed as ANTH 241.*

260: Ethnography of Jewish Experience Drawing upon ethnographies of Jewish communities around the world, this course focuses on such questions as: What is Jewish culture? What is common to Jewish cultural experiences across time and place? How might

we understand the variability and local adaptations of Jewish life? These are the guiding questions and issues for this course, all to be considered within multiple contexts—from pastoral and agricultural roots to modern urban experience, from Middle Eastern origins to a Diaspora experience stretching across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. *This course fulfills the DIV 1.a. or DIV II distribution requirement. This course is cross-listed as JDST 220 and RELG 260.*

270: Social Movements, Protest, and Conflict The study of protest politics and social movements is the study of collective agency, as social movements arise when people act together to promote or resist social change. Movements represent not only grievances on a particular set of issues, but also frustration with more established political forms of making claims in societies. In this course, we will engage with some of the large theoretical debates in the study of social movements, reading both empirical treatments of particular movements and theoretical treatments of key issues. The featured case studies will include civil rights, feminism, ecology, the antinuclear movement, the New Right and the alternative globalization movement. We will be particularly concerned with the social and political context of protest, focusing on basic questions, such as: under what circumstances do social movements emerge? How do dissidents choose political tactics and strategies; and, how do movements affect social and political change?

This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and U.S. Diversity graduation requirement. Offered every year.

271: Comparative Social Policy This course will look at social policy in a comparative and global perspective. Gender, race, class and colonization will inform our comparison of policies and policy systems. This course also explores the increasing internationalization of social policy and the advent of a new "global social policy," whereby international organizations play a powerful role in shaping welfare state development in the developing world and in post-communist states. Topics covered will include comparative methodology; and international variation in formulation and response to issues, such as employment, housing, domestic violence, poverty, health, and child welfare. *Offered every two years*.

272: Islam and the West This course examines the contemporary relationship between the Islamic world and the Western world. In recent years, many interpretations of the relationship have developed, with some claiming a clash of civilizations is underway. The course critically engages the rapidly growing literature on this topic, while providing an introduction to the sociology of religion, an examination of so-called Western values and their Islamic counterparts, an analysis of key moments in recent history, and finally a survey of minority Muslim communities in the West.

This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and the Comparative Civilizations graduation requirement. This course is cross-listed as MEST 272. Offered every year.

310: Gender and the Media This course is concerned with a wide range of issues surrounding gender and the media. We will consider interpretations of gender both as essence and as construction, and we will examine the role of the media in contemporary culture.

Finally, we will examine the representation of genders in the media as well as representations of gender by the media. *Prerequisite: Either 110, 222 or 224; or work in Art History or Women's and Gender Studies. This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and U.S. Diversity graduation requirement.*

313: Selected Topics in Sociology Courses which examine special topics in sociology.

325: Race, Family, and the Politics of Multiraciality This course examines the family as a social institution through which norms of racial distance and segregation have been vigorously upheld. We consider the political and economic investment in separating White families from African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, and later groups of immigrants, and pay special attention to how gender and sexuality were constructed in the service of these interests. Students will then explore more contemporary patterns of interracial families (including transracial adoptions), examining the experiences of those who have transgressed intimate racial boundaries or grown up in "mixed" families. We will analyze how interracial families blur racial categories and critically examine the politics of multiraciality as an identity and a social movement.

Prerequisites: one course from the following: 110, 224, 225, 236 OR AFST 100 or 200. This course fulfills the DIV II distribution requirement. Offered every two years.

327: Sex, Gender, and Religion Exploring the interactions between religion and gender and sexuality, this course examines: how various religious traditions perceive sexuality and gender; the ways in which religion influences social policy both within the United States and globally; and the impact this has on individuals, families, and societies. The course focuses on contemporary concerns, while offering a comparative (historical and cross-cultural) introduction to these issues across several religious traditions. Particular emphasis is given to religious fundamentalisms across the three major monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

Prerequisites: 110, 222, 224, 228 or 310, or one course from WGST or RELG, or permission of the instructor. Offered every two years.

330: Classical Sociological Theory This course will examine alternative ways of understanding the human being, society, and culture as they have been presented in classical sociological theory (through 1925). It will focus on the theoretical logic of accounting for simple and complex forms of social life, interactions between social processes and individual and group identities, major and minor changes in society and culture, and the linkages between intimate and large-scale human experience.

Prerequisite: 110 and one additional course in sociology, or permission of instructor. Offered every fall.

331: Contemporary Sociological Theory This course will examine alternative ways of understanding the human being, society, and culture as they have been presented in contemporary sociological theory (1925-present). It will focus on the theoretical logic of accounting for simple and complex forms of social life, interactions between social processes and individual and group identities, major and minor changes in society and culture, and the linkages between intimate and large-scale human experience.

Prerequisite: 110 and one additional course in sociology, or permission of instructor. Offered every spring.

333: The Sociology of Health and Illness This course is an examination of the theories and practices that constitute a sociological understanding of medicine, health, and illness. Social epidemiology, health care systems, stigma, medicalization, suffering, and death, are some of the phenomena considered.

Prerequisite: 233, or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

341: Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis This course is intended for the social science major that is interested in a deeper exploration of the topics and techniques covered in an introductory course on social research methods. Students taking this course will have the opportunity to design their own research study, either by collecting original data or by using a secondary data source (such as the General Social Survey). The semester-long project will provide in-depth instruction on survey design, data collection, and data entry. Additionally, students will use the SPSS statistical package to comprehensively analyze data, from descriptive results to multiple regressions.

Prerequisite: 244, or the equivalent. This course fulfills the DIV II social sciences distribution requirement and QR graduation requirement. Offered every 2-3 years.

400: Senior Seminar A specialized seminar, intended to relate a broad area of theoretical concern to the problems and procedures of current research. Regularly offered topics: Sociology of Violence; Women, Culture and Development; the Power of Language; Measuring Race and Racism; Sociology of Religion. Sociology senior major *or permission of the instructor*.

Prerequisite: three of the five required courses for the major, one of which may be taken concurrently. *Offered every fall and fall only.*

405: Senior Thesis Independent study, in consultation with a specially constituted faculty committee, of a problem area chosen by the student. The student should, in addition to pursuing his/her own interests, also seek to demonstrate how various perspectives within sociology and, where relevant, other disciplines bear on the topic chosen. *Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. Students seeking honors must enroll in 405.*

Offered every spring.

Senior Thesis SOC 405: Senior Research Colloquium (Advanced Research Seminar)

The **Senior Thesis** in Sociology is a substantial paper written by a senior student majoring in the discipline, based on an original sociological research project undertaken by the student. The Senior Thesis in Sociology provides students an opportunity to study a sociological problem independently and in-depth, while engaging in a seminar where they present and peer review work. Majors are not required to write a thesis. Those choosing to write one have the necessary academic preparation for independent research (including a strong methodological and theoretical background), the motivation to devote the required time and energy, and the ability to work independently.

The Senior Thesis / Advanced Research Seminar (SOC 405) is designed to support students' individual research projects and to provide a forum within which to peer review students' work. It is offered every Spring Semester. Permission of the Thesis Advisor is a prerequisite for enrollment in SOC 405. Each student enrolled in SOC 405 formulates a specific research question, identifies and reviews relevant literature, collects or obtains appropriate empirical data, analyzes data, and develops theoretically meaningful conclusions from the results of the analysis. The Senior Thesis is written as the final product of this research process.

In consultation with the faculty, students planning to complete a Senior Thesis write a **Thesis Proposal** that describes their intended research topic, complete with a preliminary literature review and bibliography. They submit the proposal to their academic advisor and the faculty member teaching SOC 405 no later than the Friday following Thanksgiving break. A student employing methodologies potentially requiring Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval needs to begin the IRB process as early as possible.

Honors in Sociology

Honors in Sociology is a distinction given by the Sociology Department to Senior Theses with extraordinary merit. Such theses tend to be theoretically nuanced, analytically sophisticated, well researched, and finely crafted. The Sociology Department awards Honors upon recommendation of an **Honors Committee** that is tasked with reviewing nominated Senior Theses.

An Honors Committee is convened for each nominated project. Typically an Honors Committee consists of three members, selected from among the Dickinson College Faculty. One Honors Committee member is the instructor of SOC 405. Two additional members of the Honors Committee are selected by the student whose project is nominated.

During the Spring Semester, the instructor of SOC 405 nominates any Senior Thesis project that deserves consideration for Honors. Each member of the Honors Committee reviews the nominated Senior Thesis independently. During the final weeks of the Spring Semester, an **Oral Defense** is held. During this Oral Defense, the student who wrote the Thesis makes a brief presentation of their work and answers questions from the members of the Honors Committee. The Honors Committee then meets privately (without the student present) to deliberate the merits of the Thesis. The Honors Committee determines whether to recommend the Thesis for the

Honors distinction.

Finally, the instructor of SOC 405 communicates the recommendations of each Honors Committee to the Sociology Department Faculty. The Sociology Department Faculty then grants the Honors in Sociology distinction to those Senior Theses it deems as worthy, based upon the recommendations of the Honors Committees. A copy of each Senior Thesis granted Honors in Sociology is published by the Sociology Department and made available in the Dickinson College Library.