

SOCIOLOGY

Welcome to the Department of Sociology at Loyola University Chicago! (<https://www.luc.edu/sociology/index.shtml/>)

Here, our vibrant community—spanning faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors and minors—fosters intellectual growth, collaboration, and a deep commitment to addressing the pressing challenges of our society. Rooted in the rich traditions of sociology and the Jesuit mission of social justice, our department combines rigorous research, impactful publications, dynamic classroom instruction, and immersive experiences beyond the classroom. Together, we strive to make a meaningful difference both within and beyond our university.

What Is Sociology?

Sociology explores the many ways people interact and organize themselves—within families and nations, cities and suburbs, factories, schools, churches, and even gangs. Its subject matter is the world around us. Sociologists at Loyola explore questions such as how play in public parks can build community life, effective activism to protect the environment, and the integration of immigrants into American society. Sociologists tackle complex issues such as the causes of high infant mortality rates among Black women, the impact of real estate speculation on the creation of ghettos, the realities of gig economy work, or the spread of rumors in social networks. This perspective challenges us to see the world in new ways, uncovering the deeper patterns and forces shaping everyday life. By introducing sociology as a social science, our department fosters a critical understanding of how individuals connect through societal structures and how those structures profoundly influence our lives.

Department History & Overview

Founded in 1914, Loyola University Chicago's Department of Sociology has a proud legacy of excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. Undergraduate students joining our program become part of a vibrant academic community supported by fifteen full-time sociologists who are dedicated to both advancing knowledge and providing personalized mentorship. With small class sizes and meaningful faculty-student collaborations, our department offers an enriching learning environment tailored to our students' success.

Our faculty conduct cutting-edge research and teach across a wide range of sociological subfields, including:

- Urban, Environment, and Community
- Health and Medicine
- Politics, Power, and Social Justice
- Global and Transnational Sociology
- Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality
- Religion, Science, and Knowledge

We take pride not only in our research contributions but also in the high-quality academic and personal experiences we offer to our majors and minors, preparing them for success in both their studies and their future endeavors. Students can gain "real world" experience in survey design with the Cook County Community Survey (<https://cccs.sites.luc.edu/>), engage in community-partnered research with our City STAR Lab, or earn course credit through an internship with an agency here in Chicago or in their hometown.

Careers in Sociology

A sociology major offers valuable insights into the world while equipping students with data analysis, communication, and critical thinking skills that are highly adaptable and sought after in today's workplace. Through a Loyola Sociology education, majors and minors develop key competencies, including:

- Engaging with diverse ideas and perspectives while interacting thoughtfully and respectfully, even in disagreement.
- Assessing data and evaluating claims with a critical eye.
- Conducting research and forming valid, data-driven conclusions about the social world.

Our graduates pursue a variety of paths, including advanced degrees in fields such as law and medicine. They also secure impactful roles in government, nonprofits, business, marketing, technology, and more. A sociology degree opens the door to meaningful careers that make a difference in society.

Undergraduate Programs

- Honors in Sociology or Sociology/Anthropology (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/honors-sociology-sociology-anthropology/>)
- Sociology (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-ba/>)
- Sociology (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/sociology-bama/>)
- Sociology/International Affairs (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/sociology-international-affairs-bama/>)
- Sociology Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-minor/>)
- Sociology-Anthropology (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-anthropology-ba/>)

Undergraduate Policies and Procedures

Please see Undergraduate Policies and Procedures (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/undergraduate/>) for academic policies that supersede those of academic units within the University.

Sociology (SOCL)

SOCL 100 Urban Field Studies: Changing Chicago (3 Credit Hours)

Fieldwork-based course exploring how communities are shaped by social, economic, and political forces. Particular emphasis is placed on how grass-roots activism and community-based organizations affect social change. Taught in cooperation with Loyola's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL), students visit with community leaders, politicians, advocates religious leaders and others working for positive change in the city and suburbs.

SOCL 101 Society in a Global Age (3 Credit Hours)

This is a foundational course in the social sciences which explores the effect of globalization on everyday life in the United States and elsewhere, using the basic perspectives and methodologies of sociology.

Knowledge Area: Foundational Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora

SOCL 121 Social Problems (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course is an opportunity to examine major issues facing society. In addition to analyzing the roots of social problems, the course addresses social policy concerns and explores solutions.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies

Course equivalencies: SOCL121/PAX 121

Outcomes:

Students will be able to critically examine the impact of a social problem and its possible solutions, to integrate knowledge gleaned from a variety of disciplines, to find and utilize relevant data and research in defining issues and solutions, and to view social problems from macro and micro perspectives as a means of applying workable solutions for the issues facing society

SOCL 122 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course examines the development of cultural, society, and self-understanding by exploring the social construction of race in the United States. The course explores how social constructions of race affect interpersonal relations, laws, policies, and practices in various racial and ethnic communities.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora, Asian Studies, Human Services, Italian American Studies, Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies, Race and Ethnicity

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL122/ASIA122/BWS 122/PAX

Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the conditions which have worsened racial tensions as well as how social movements have been successful at eradicating racially oppressive laws and working towards a just society

SOCL 123 Mass Media and Popular Culture (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the connections between the media of mass communication and multiple forms of popular art and culture. Topics considered include the social, political and cultural organization of mass communication and its impact on values, expectations, and life styles of contemporary society.

Interdisciplinary Option: Film & Digital Media Studies, International Film & Media Studies, Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: SOCL123/WSGS123/IFMS123

Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the social relationships between mass media and the general population

SOCL 125 Chicago: Urban Metropolis (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course explores the development of Chicago metropolitan region from the 1830's to the present day. Students will explore the urban area not only through texts, but also through fieldwork.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora, Urban Studies

Course equivalencies: SOCL125/URB125

Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the geography, history and people of the Chicago metropolitan region

SOCL 127 Social Analysis and Social Action (3 Credit Hours)

This course helps students who are volunteering at local congregations and agencies better understand the communities and issues they will encounter in Chicago. It emphasizes the analysis of "social solutions" to social problems as well as personal reflection and action.

Interdisciplinary Option: Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL127/PAX127

Outcomes:

Analyzing and acting on social issues

SOCL 145 Religion & Society (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course examines how religion and society interact.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: Catholic Studies, Interreligious and Interfaith Studies

Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of how individual behavior, organizations, and society as a whole are affected by religious ideas and institutions, and how religion is itself changed by its encounter with changing social circumstances

SOCL 171 Sociology of Sex and Gender (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course explores the social organization of sex and gender.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL271/WOST271/WSGS271

Outcomes:

Students will be able to situate their pre-conceived experiences of the naturalness of gender in a particular historical and cultural context

SOCL 205 Sociological Thought (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines classical and contemporary sociological theories and uses them as frameworks for understanding modern society. Such social theories attempt to explain and understand the world, as well as inspire further research and theory.

Interdisciplinary Option: German Studies

Outcomes:

The class provides students with theoretical foundations for understanding social organizations as well as the social processes that transform societies

SOCL 206 Principles of Social Research (3 Credit Hours)

This course is an introduction to the basic research methodologies of sociology. A variety of methods used in sociological analysis and data generation will be considered. Students learn how to select and use methodologies appropriate for various research projects. They will be able to critically evaluate existing research and select appropriate techniques to undertake original research.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Urban Studies

Outcomes:

Students will learn how social science research is conducted

SOCL 210 Gender and Work (3 Credit Hours)

This course looks at the nature of work through the lens of gender. It considers how male and female labor force participation has changed over time. It examines the ways working families are transformed when women combine employment with domestic responsibilities and child care, or when men's jobs no longer provide a family wage.

Interdisciplinary Option: Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL210/WOST210/WSGS210

Outcomes:

Students learn how gender has been and remains a fundamental organizational principle in the workplace and the labor force

SOCL 212 Patterns of Criminal Activity (3 Credit Hours)

Students are taught to examine the relevance of criminological theories to patterns of criminal activity, to efforts to control criminals, and to prevent crime.

Outcomes:

Students learn how to analyze neighborhoods to identify environments of increased crime risk and relative safety

SOCL 215 Law & Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course trains students to examine the law as a sociological concept and to look at the relationship between the legal system and society. A critical concern is whether changes in the legal system reflect societal change or do changes in the legal system stimulate change in society.

Interdisciplinary Option: Sociolegal Studies

Outcomes:

Students learn to recognize the close linkage between the law and social structure; They also gain experience examining legal texts and decisions

SOCL 216 The Sociology of Violence (3 Credit Hours)

The threat of violence is a significant concern for individuals in many societies. In this course, violence will be studied as a social phenomenon. Topics of particular concern include: family violence, gang violence and terrorism.

Interdisciplinary Option: Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies, Urban Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL216/PAX 291

Outcomes:

Students learn to examine the causes of violence from a sociological perspective: They also learn methods to reduce violence and the harm it causes

SOCL 220 Topics in the Life Cycle (3 Credit Hours)

An examination of the stages of the life cycle (childhood, young adulthood, parenthood, later adulthood, etc) and how such stages are defined and interpreted by social and institutional forces.

Outcomes:

Students will gain understanding of the role that individual's societies and institutions play in the definition of the life cycle and the implications it has for society

SOCL 221 Sociology and Culture of the Life Course (3 Credit Hours)

Life course studies emerged in response to the sociological need to understand how social change intersects with the aging process. Social and cultural contexts, individual experience and agency, and historical time and place are elements in the construction of a life and the social relationships that make it up.

Interdisciplinary Option: Bioethics, Human Services

Course equivalencies: X-ANTH221/SOCL221

Outcomes:

Students learn sociological concepts and theories relevant to the life course and how they help us understand local and global changes; Learn about programs and policies pertinent to an aging society

SOCL 222 Poverty & Welfare in America (3 Credit Hours)

In this course, students learn to think critically about the character, causes and responses to poverty in American society, using both historical and contemporary evidence.

Outcomes:

Students will understand the strengths and limitations of American welfare policy in relation to poverty

SOCL 225 Sociology of Health Care (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the sociology of health care with particular attention to: social and psychological factors; health care professionals; inter-personal relations in health care; the organization and use of health services; and the relationship between aging and health.

Interdisciplinary Option: Bioethics

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL225/BIET225

Outcomes:

Students will understand the role that social forces play in the health and wellness of individuals, the community and society

SOCL 226 Science, Technology, & Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course serves as a broad introduction to the social study and analysis of science and technology in society. It examines how scientific knowledge and technologies are created and constructed and how they influence and are influenced by society.

Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand how scientific knowledge and technologies are developed in particular historical and cultural contexts and analyze their impact on our daily lives

SOCL 228 Sociology of the African-American Experience (3 Credit Hours)

A sociological inquiry into the historical and contemporary experience of African-Americans. Social movements and social change, urban and institutional processes, social values and collective behavior, and African-Americans and public policy are among the topics explored.

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora, Race and Ethnicity

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL228/BWS 228

Outcomes:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the experiences that African-Americans have in American society and of the social, political and institutional forces that have contributed to the historical and contemporary experience of African-Americans

SOCL 230 Self & Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the relationships between the self as a social product and the larger society in which that self is socialized, develops and expresses itself. Various theories of selfhood are explored.

Outcomes:

Students will come to appreciate how selfhood, their own and others, is a product of historical factors as well as social contexts such as class, gender, race and ethnicity

SOCL 231 Childhood and Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course looks at the social construction of childhood, the impact of parents, the media, peer groups, and educational institutions as well as changing social attitudes about the place of children in society.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services

Outcomes:

Students will gain a better understanding of the historical and social manner in which childhood is constructed and the impacts of various social institutions, family, religion, media, education on childhood development

SOCL 234 City, Suburbs & Beyond (3 Credit Hours)

This course studies the historical emergence of cities, focusing on the ecological, demographic, and organizational processes involved in the continuing growth and change of metropolitan areas and in the relationship of a metropolitan area to the surrounding region.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Race and Ethnicity, Urban Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL234/URB234

Outcomes:

Students will understand fundamental facts and theories about the character and development of cities and urban regions

SOCL 235 Communities in a Global Age (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines communities sociologically, both as a concept and as they exist in society. The course covers urban, racial/ethnic, religious, territorial, utopian, ideological and web-based communities, and their strengths and limitations in a rapidly changing global world.

Interdisciplinary Option: Urban Studies

Outcomes:

Students will identify, describe and analyze communities using sociological concepts and be able to assess the mechanisms by which old and new communities are being formed as well as their consequences for social life

SOCL 236 Population Studies (3 Credit Hours)

This course introduces the study of demography by examining trends of fertility, work, marriage, migration and mortality.

Interdisciplinary Option: Bioethics, Human Services

Course equivalencies: SOCL236 / SOCL285

Outcomes:

Students will gain an understanding of how the size, composition and dynamics of a population influence the social, economic and political structure of individual nations and the world

SOCL 237 Professions and Society (3 Credit Hours)

Work involving high levels of expertise—medical, legal, technical, and much else— is a critical component of modern society. This course examines how professional work is structured, the way professionals are trained and organized, the privileges and responsibilities of professional work, and the role of conflicts over expertise in modern society.

Outcomes:

Students will gain an understanding of how work based on knowledge and expertise is organized and on the social and economic factors that contribute to the position of professionals in society

SOCL 239 Understanding Bias and Inclusivity (3 Credit Hours)

Using an intersectional lens, students learn about how privilege, power, and oppression shape ourselves, perceptions of others, and our social world. They consider how ourselves and others are shaped by and operate within the larger social system. Students explore their identities, values, and biases. Students engage in self-reflection to increase self-awareness.

Interdisciplinary Option: Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: X - PSYC 239/ SOCL 239

Outcomes:

Identify feelings about course topics; Demonstrate self-awareness of identities and values, including the value of difference; Engage in intergroup dialogue; Articulate how personal power can be used to create change

SOCL 240 Families (3 Credit Hours)

Contemporary family structures encompass a variety of living arrangements and social relationships. This course considers differences and similarities among the various family types and explores the social, cultural and economic forces structuring family life.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL240/WOST242/WSGS242

Outcomes:

Students will develop an expanded understanding of the varieties of family arrangements and the connections between family life and the wider social, political economic environment

SOCL 245 Sociology of Education (3 Credit Hours)

This course is a rigorous introduction into the scholarly traditions and contemporary research developments in the sociology of education. Topics include: educational stratification and inequality, how educational institutions function and with what policy implications, and social psychology/human development.

Interdisciplinary Option: Race and Ethnicity

Outcomes:

Identify areas of research interest; trace connections to studies in the field; analyze and evaluate policy effectiveness; evaluate the capacity and potential for institutions to support efforts at social justice

SOCL 247 Sociology of Culture (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the social production, consumption, and use of culture and cultural objects, especially in the fields of literature, art, music, mass media and religion.

Outcomes:

Students will learn sociological methods of analyzing culture and cultural objects, and will understand the social organization of cultural production and consumption

SOCL 250 Inequality in Society (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: ANTH 100, PLSC 102, PSYC 100, SOCL 101, WSGS 101, or equivalent; please check requirements for declared majors/minors for exceptions

This course examines the manner in which contemporary society is divided by race, ethnicity, class, sexuality and gender, and the impact of social institutions on these divisions. An emphasis will be placed on income/wealth differences, status differences, class conflict and social conflict over time.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora, Asian Studies, Human Services, Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies, Race and Ethnicity, Women & Gender Studies

Course equivalencies: ASIA/AFR/SOCL/WSGS 250

Outcomes:

Students will acquire a better understanding of social inequality and what can be done to make society more just

SOCL 251 Peoples of China: Their Cultures and Customs (3 Credit Hours)

This class introduces China's cultural diversity and unity as a whole. It provides a general overview of cultural mappings in China, and a detailed study of significant ethnic minorities.

Knowledge Area: Tier 2 Societal Knowledge

Interdisciplinary Option: Asian Studies, Chinese Language & Culture, Global Studies

Course equivalencies: SOCL251/ASIA252/INTS251

Outcomes:

Students will gain the ability to perceive cultural phenomena in a comparative framework and understand cultural differences more deeply

SOCL 252 Global Inequalities (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines inequality on a global scale, focusing on the impact of globalization processes on race, class and gender inequalities here and abroad.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies, Human Services, Race and Ethnicity

Outcomes:

Students will analyze how race, class and gender inequalities influence each other across national boundaries, and will recognize global causes and consequences of inequality

SOCL 254 Sociology of Migration (3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to provide a sociological understanding concerning various impacts of immigration in the United States. International migration patterns have significantly affected the development of U.S. society since its inception. In recent decades, the United States experienced a record number of new immigrants from a variety of countries. In this course, we examine fundamental concepts for studying migration, and theories that explain international migration. We also discuss how immigrants have redefined - and will keep redefining - local and foreign demographic dynamics in receiving and sending societies, transnational networks, and a more complex ethno-racial diversity with meaningful international roots., remedial policies, activism, educational objectives).

Interdisciplinary Option: African Studies and the African Diaspora, Asian Studies, Global Studies, Latin American Studies, Race and Ethnicity, Women & Gender Studies

Outcomes:

Be familiar with key theories, concepts, and analyses that explain migration issues in the United States; Understand the relevance of historical and contemporary associations among cultural, economic, political, and social forces, as well as their impact on immigration; Understand the relevance of sociological knowledge on migration issues for dealing with current social problems at different levels (e.g

SOCL 255 Deviance and Social Control (3 Credit Hours)

This course is a socio-historical look at definitions of deviant behavior and individuals, an examination of techniques of social control, and an analysis of specific forms of deviant behavior such as crime and mental illness.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services

Outcomes:

Students learn to analyze how history, science, and philosophy combine to define the nature of deviant behavior and to identify deviant individuals

SOCL 258 Confronting Homelessness: Local to Global (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: SOCL 101 or PSYC 100 or PLS 102 or ANTH 100

Who are homeless people in the United States and beyond? Why are they homeless? What is being done to address the issues of homelessness? This course addresses these questions from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. As an "engaged learning" course, students will also learn by assisting at various agencies. The student will be able to discuss framings of the causes of homelessness and evaluate different policy approaches for addressing it while contributing work to a local agency.

Interdisciplinary Option: Urban Studies

SOCL 260 Power in Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on sociological theories and case studies of power, authority, and social change. It explores the ways in which power relations perpetuate social inequality and the ways in which social conflicts and power struggles transforms society.

Outcomes:

Students learn about the structures of power in economic systems, political systems, and organizations; the cultural and ideological underpinnings of power relationships; and political struggles for social change

SOCL 261 Social Movements & Social Change (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the dynamics of collective behavior and movements promoting social change.

Interdisciplinary Option: Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies, Sociolegal Studies

Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate understanding of competing explanations of social movements and social change, and will be able to test various theories by analyzing historical movements for change

SOCL 262 Movements for Social Justice: 60s & Beyond (3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on movements for social justice and human rights from the 1960s to the present.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services, Women & Gender Studies

Outcomes:

Students gain an understanding of how and why such movements emerged and developed the effectiveness of various strategies, and the impact of movements on American society

SOCL 263 Political and Social Movements in China (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines historical and contemporary movements pursuing political, economic and social reforms in China. It studies both state-sponsored and voluntary movements.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies

Course equivalencies: SOCL263/INTS263

Outcomes:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of China's ongoing transformation, and will learn how to develop their own scholarly analysis of such social change

SOCL 265 Globalization & Society (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the nature of contemporary globalization and considers how it influences communities, nations and the world.

The course examines the positive and negative consequences of globalization and the global justice movements that have emerged seeking more equality, tolerance and environmental stewardship.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies, Urban Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

Outcomes:

Students learn how economic, political and cultural aspect of globalization impact society in an increasingly interconnected world

SOCL 266 Development and Social Change in Modern China (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines change and development in modern China from the late Qing period to the present, focusing on the movement from a planned economy to a market-based economy.

Interdisciplinary Option: Asian Studies, Global Studies, Women & Gender Studies

Outcomes:

Students will gain knowledge of China's economic development path, and will apply gender and/or class-based analysis to patterns of social change

SOCL 267 Italy Today (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: One Tier I Foundational Social and Cultural Knowledge Core course: SOCL 101, ANTH 100, PLSC 102, or PSYC 100

Italy Today traces the nation's extraordinary transformation from the ashes of World War II to the leading economic and cultural power it is today and analyses a broad range of issues in contemporary Italy, such as Catholicism, gender, family, emigration and immigration, regional identities, media and material culture.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies, Italian American Studies, Italian Studies

Outcomes:

Understand the transformation of Italy since WWII Think critically about issues such as stereotypes, regional identities, and diversity

SOCL 270 Sociology of Science (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines science as a distinctive form of knowledge and social organization.

Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand science as a human, social enterprise and its relationship to society

SOCL 272 Environmental Sociology (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the distinctively social aspect of the relationship of people to their environments, both built and natural.

Interdisciplinary Option: Bioethics, Human Services, Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies, Urban Studies

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL272/ESP272PAX 272BIET272

Outcomes:

Students will recognize the role that both social and physical factors play in the environmental problems facing the world; Students will also develop critical thinking skills needed to evaluate statements and policy proposal to improve environmental quality

SOCL 275 The Sociology of Consumption (3 Credit Hours)

This course examines the profound ways society and individuals have been transformed by the abundance of consumer goods and mass media that encourage buying these good.

Interdisciplinary Option: Urban Studies

Outcomes:

Student will gain a deeper understanding of the nature and origins of contemporary consumer society and the ways in which consumerism impacts society and individuals

SOCL 276 The Sociology and Politics of Food (3 Credit Hours)

Explores the impact of globalized economic, political, and social relationships through the prism of food. Considers the cultural and ideological dimensions of food, the structure of food production and consumption, and responses to the global food system.

Interdisciplinary Option: Urban Studies

Outcomes:

Students will gain awareness of themselves as consumers of food and food products

SOCL 278 Global Health (3 Credit Hours)

This course addresses the underlying social, economic, political, and cultural mechanisms driving some of the leading issues in global health today; including the rise of non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries, neglected infectious diseases, human resources for health, and access to global pharmaceuticals.

Interdisciplinary Option: Bioethics

Outcomes:

Students will become familiar with evaluating the global health policy process, and debating possible routes to achieving health equity

SOCL 280 Topics in Contemporary Sociology (3 Credit Hours)

The course examines selected contemporary sociological issues. Topics addressed represent specialized or newly developing areas of sociological inquiry. Topics will vary from semester to semester.

Outcomes:

Students gain insights into contemporary social issues and learn how to use the concepts, theory and methods of sociology to examine them

SOCL 281 Current Issues in Medical Education (1 Credit Hour)

Pre-requisites: Sophomore Standing or Above; Instructor Permission
This class is an opportunity to examine selected reform and innovation movements facing health professional education and training. Sophomore standing or above is required.

Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate critical analysis of selected reforms and innovations in health professional education and training

SOCL 301 Statistics for Social Research (4 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: SOCL 206

The course is a comprehensive introduction to statistical analysis in social research. Topics include: univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis, computer statistical applications and interpretation of results.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services

Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate understanding of statistical thinking and data analysis techniques and be able to use them to evaluate existing research and conduct original research

SOCL 302 Qualitative Research (3 Credit Hours)

An introduction to the major qualitative methods of social inquiry. Participant observation, interviewing, historical analysis, and content analysis, as well as ethical issues of field research are studied.

Outcomes:

Students will gain understanding of important methods of data collection and analysis common in social science research; Students will gain experience using these techniques to conduct research and evaluate the research of others

SOCL 304 Global Civil Society and Social Movements (3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on global civil society groups (both advocacy groups or apolitical) and on social movements that seek to fight injustices.

We discuss a variety of examples of civil society projects ranging from monitoring government corruption and promoting micro-credit to organizing transnational protest campaigns.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies

Course equivalencies: X-GLST 304/SOCL 304

Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate a comprehension of the dynamics of global civil society and social movements, both for cases discussed in class and to material from outside class

SOCL 306 International Development (3 Credit Hours)

This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the international development system and issues related to development in those countries variously referred to as third world, developing, underdeveloped, or peripheral countries.

Interdisciplinary Option: Global Studies

Course equivalencies: X-GLST 306/SOCL 306

Outcomes:

Students will develop a fundamental knowledge of the various factors that are considered to help or hinder development

SOCL 311 Social Science Research Practicum: Cook County Community Survey (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: SOCL 301 or equivalent

Familiarity with R, Stata, SAS, or SPSS necessary. Students will analyze this year's iteration of the annual Cook County Community Survey. They will draw on the data to prepare written, public-facing reports, public presentations, and scholarly research.

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

Course equivalencies: PLSC 311/SOCL 311

Outcomes:

Describe the strengths and limitations of modern polling techniques; Use statistical software to analyze survey data; Communicate findings from surveys to a broad audience orally and in written form

SOCL 334 Latinas/os/xs in Space (3 Credit Hours)

Latinas/os/xs are the largest minoritized population in the United States with a population of more than 60 million. As the fastest growing demographic in the U.S., how is this complex and variegated population (re)conceptualizing, (re)framing, (re)making, and (de)constructing spatial boundaries? Further, how are Latinas/os/xs both transforming and challenging U.S. physical and conceptual landscapes? Drawing from spatial, decolonial, and feminist of color theories, we will engage these questions through a thematic exploration of the ways that Latinas/os/xs have influenced, shaped, and (re)used space as a struggle to maintain dignity and engage in place-making. We will connect these ideas to geography, citizenship, civil rights, social justice, and cultural practices. This is a discussion and project-based course.

Interdisciplinary Option: Latin American Studies, Race and Ethnicity, Women & Gender Studies

Outcomes:

Identify and describe the impact Latinas/os/xs have on US culture, history, and geography; Critically analyze political, social, and cultural treatment of Latinas/os/xs in the US; Critically analyze US culture using spatial and decolonial theories; Understand the intersection(s) of space, race, and opportunity within the US; Link social issues and responses to creative outlets/endeavors; Work in small teams; Gain oral presentation skills

SOCL 335 Urban Semester Seminar (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: Junior or senior standing

Students explore how cities work through texts, field trips, and guest speakers, and help find solutions to pressing urban issues. They fulfill civic engagement core value requirement.

Interdisciplinary Option: Urban Studies

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

Course equivalencies: X-SOCL335/PLSC335

Outcomes:

Students will understand and address inequities in urban communities, and identify avenues of leadership and civic engagement in contemporary cities

SOCL 365 Social Theory & Social Research (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: SOCL 205, 206, 301, and senior standing, or permission of instructor or chair

In this capstone course, each student designs and conducts an empirical research project resulting in a senior research paper.

Outcomes:

Student demonstrate mastery of sociological theory and methods by writing a research paper bringing a full complement of sociological skills to bear on an issue of substantial theoretical and/or practical importance

SOCL 370 Undergrad Seminar-Special Topics (3 Credit Hours)

Using a seminar format, the course undertakes an in-depth study of selected contemporary sociological issues in depth. Topics addressed represent specialized or newly emerging areas of sociological inquiry and will vary from semester to semester.

Outcomes:

Students have opportunity to examine contemporary social issues in a seminar environment and learn how to use the concepts, theory and methods of sociology to examine them

SOCL 372 Directed Readings (3 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: Permission of instructor or chair

Independent study of a selected body of sociological literature on a topic defined by the student in collaboration with a faculty advisor.

Outcomes:

Student gains in-depth knowledge of a selected sub-field of sociology

SOCL 380 Internship (3-6 Credit Hours)

Pre-requisites: Permission of instructor or chair

Supervised field experience for students working in a selected community organization, government agency, social agency, or business.

Interdisciplinary Option: Human Services

This course satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement.

Outcomes:

Students have opportunity to apply the skills and analysis of sociology to a concrete situation

SOCL 380I Internship: Interreligious & Interfaith Studies Focus (3 Credit Hours)

An internship in an interreligious or multireligious setting. The student will also write an analysis of the ways diverse religious traditions interact in practical settings. Restricted to IRIF minors.

Interdisciplinary Option: Interreligious and Interfaith Studies

Course equivalencies: X-IRIF 380/SOCL 380I

Outcomes:

This capstone experience is intended to give students an opportunity to experience and reflect on developing interreligious cooperation in the contemporary world

SOCL 397 Independent Study Projects (3 Credit Hours)

Independent study of a topic delineated by the student in collaboration with an individual faculty member.

Outcomes:

Student gains experience and expertise in defining and conducting independent scholarly work

SOCL 398 Independent Study Projects (1-6 Credit Hours)

Independent research done in collaboration with a faculty member on a sociological topic defined by the student in consultation with a faculty member.

Outcomes:

Student gains experience and expertise conducting independent research

SOCL 399 Independent Study Projects (3 Credit Hours)

Advanced independent research in collaboration with a faculty member on a sociological topic relevant to the student. Limited to senior Sociology majors.

Outcomes:

Student gains experience and expertise conducting independent research