

COURSE LIST FOR Spring 2025

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 10100 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Credits: 4

Instructor: Joslyn Brenton | 216 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3153 | jbrenton@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: None.

Attributes: SO, TPJ

Course Description: Basic scientific concepts related to social systems, recurring social processes, cultural factors, and social factors in the development of personality.

SOCI 20800 SOCIAL CHANGE

Credits: 4

Instructor: Alicia Swords | 218 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-1209 | aswords@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course. (Y)

Attributes: CNSL, ENSS, ESSS, LAEL, LAGC, SO, SO1, TPJ

Course Description: Analysis of evolutionary and revolutionary social change from the perspective of critical sociology. Topics include the types of groups that mobilize for change, recruitment of new members, ideologies of groups, and leadership styles. Particular U.S. social change movements examined include labor, civil rights, antiwar, welfare rights, women's movement, and the new right.

SOCI 20900 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

Credits: 4

Instructor: Jessica Dunning-Lozano | 215 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-7490 | jdunninglozano@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One course in the liberal arts. (IRR)

Attributes: DV

Course Description: This course examines the role of education and the structure of educational institutions (including colleges and universities) in American society and studies the process by which skills, cultural norms, and cultural views are transmitted. It also explores the distribution of educational opportunity. These issues are dealt with at the level of the classroom, the school, and the community. The latter part of the course focuses on possibilities for change in the educational system.

SOCI 21700 MENTAL HEALTH IN HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXTS

Credits: 4

Instructor: Katherine Cohen-Filipic | 219 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-5122 | kcohenfilipic@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course.

Attributes: CC, DV, SO1

Course Description: Explores the historical and contemporary contexts of mental health and distress from both sociological and psychological perspectives. Examination of the social construction of mental health through time, and consideration of how social and cultural factors such as race, class, and gender intersect with diagnostic paradigms and clinical treatment models employed by practitioners.

SOCI 22300 RICH AND POOR IN THE U.S.

Credits: 4

Instructor: Sergio Cabrera | 212 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-7968 | scabrera@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One course in the liberal arts. (Y)

Attributes: CNSL, SO

Course Descriptions: Examination of the causes and consequences of class inequality in the U.S. today. Explores how class is defined, how it functions, and how it is sustained across generations in a purportedly democratic and meritocratic society. Applies a sociological perspective to this exploration, with a focus on the growing gap between rich and poor and the impacts of inequality on daily lives.

SOCI 22400 WHO CARES ABOUT KIDS?

Credits: 4

Instructor: Katherine Cohen-Filipic | 219 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-5122 | kcohenfilipic@ithaca.edu

Prerequisite: One course in the liberal arts.

Attributes: CNSL

Course Description: Explores social institutions that aim to provide services to children and their families, including community mental health centers, the child welfare system, public schools, disability services, and juvenile justice. Examines the way these systems sometimes work together, but often fail to collaborate, with specific focus on systemic barriers and gaps in services.

SOCI 24800 WORK AND LIFE

Credits: 4

Instructor: Stephen Sweet | 211 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3910 | ssweet@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One liberal arts course.

Attributes: WGS, DV

Course Description: Work and Life examines the impact that jobs and employment have on physical health, psychological well-being, caregiving, and social integration. It also examines how life demands and role expectations impact employment and productivity. Throughout, inquiry focuses on effective personal strategies, community structures, employer practices, and national policies that hold promise for harmonization of what are often-times competing demands.

SOCI 32100 PUNISHMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Credits: 4

Instructor: Jessica Dunning-Lozano | 215 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-7490 | jdunninglozano@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: Two sociology courses.

Attributes: CNSL, LXME, SO2, SS

Course Description: Examines the social, historical, and political underpinnings of the mass enforcement of zero-tolerance school policies in the U.S., and the resulting creation of punitive schooling regimes. Explores the political and economic contexts of 20th-century punitive school disciplinary policies through a critical framework grounded in contemporary social theories of discipline, power, and academic distinctions. Special attention is paid to issues of race, class, and gender inequality and the administration of discipline across social groups and geographic locales, as well as to alternatives to punitive school policies.

SOCI 32900 HEALTH AND THE FAMILY

Credits: 4

Instructor: Joslyn Brenton | 216 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3153 | jbrenton@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: Two sociology courses.

Attributes: CNSL, SS, WGSC

Course Description: Examines the meaning of health and illness in the family context and against a shifting backdrop of family policies, healthcare values and goals, and intersecting inequalities. Investigates how we define family and health, how marital status affects health, how health is negotiated among family and community members, and how inequalities shape health opportunities. Includes in-depth interviewing to apply course concepts to one's own health status and family dynamics.

SOCI 34200 DATA ANALYSIS

Credits: 4

Instructor: Stephen Sweet | 211 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3910 | ssweet@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: SOCI 24200.

Attributes: QL, SS

Course Description: Data Analysis introduces students to how sociologists use quantitative and qualitative data to study social phenomena. Quantitative topics include: data management, variable structures, numeric and graphic displays of data, univariate analysis, and bivariate analysis. Qualitative topics include: data management, reading interview transcripts and fieldnotes, positionality; open and focused coding, content analysis data rubrics, analytic memos, applying sociological concepts/theory to analyze qualitative data, and report writing.

SOCI 40100 COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Credits: 4

Instructor: Alicia Swords | 218 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-1209 | aswords@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: Three courses in SOCI. (IRR)

Attributes: CNSL, SS

Course Description: Designed to teach students about a range of approaches to community organizing. Exposes students to theories of organizing and requires practical fieldwork with a community or campus organization in which classroom instruction, information, and insights are tested and improved.

SOCI 40900 SKILLS FOR THE HELPING PROFESSIONS

Credits: 4

Instructor: Jessye Cohen-Filipic | 207 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-9133 | jjcohenfilipic@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: SOCI 21700; PSYC 32100; and PSYC 34100 OR PSYC 34200 (courses may be taken concurrently).

Course Description: This course introduces students to theory and practice of psychotherapy and other professional helping relationships. Students learn about counseling, assessment, ethics, and helping skills. This course emphasizes basic and specialized skills necessary to function effectively in a helping relationship. Emphasis is placed upon understanding the nature of the helping process in a practical and applied way. Professional helping is explored in the context of cultural competency and a biopsychosocial viewpoint. Self-exploration and some level of self-disclosure are required inasmuch as effective counseling requires the ability to understand oneself and to articulate personal feelings.

SOCI 48000 SEMINAR OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF PEDAGOGY

Credits: 1

Instructor: Joslyn Brenton | 216 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3153 | jbrenton@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One 100-level sociology course; three upper-level sociology courses; permission of instructor.
Corequisites: [SOCI 48100](#).

Attributes: SS, WGS, WGS3

Course Description: Designed to supplement the practicum on teaching assistance and is required for teaching assistants in sociology courses. It presents the theoretical approach to teaching generally shared by sociology department faculty. A variety of pedagogical theories, including that of Paulo Freire, are examined using an ongoing analysis of the relationship between educational theories and larger social forces and historical conditions. The seminar meets as four half-day workshops during the semester. The seminar is team-taught by the instructors of courses that use teaching assistants. The format includes didactic presentation of theoretical material and discussion, along with focused papers on the reading. The required reading must be completed before the seminar workshop. In the workshop at the end of the semester, the text material is reviewed with analysis of its application in the teaching assistance experience.

SOCI 48100 PRACTICUM IN TEACHING ASSISTANCE

Credits: 2

Instructor: Joslyn Brenton | 216 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-3153 | jbrenton@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: One 100-level sociology course; three upper-level sociology courses; permission of instructor.
Corequisites: [SOCI 48000](#). (F-S,Y)

Course Description: Leadership skills for leading educational discussion groups. Open to students who are acting as teaching assistants in sociology courses.

SOCI 48400 QUANTITATIVE CAPSTONE

Credits: 4

Instructor: Sergio Cabrera | 212 Muller Faculty Center | 607-274-7968 | scabrera@ithaca.edu

Prerequisites: SOCI 31100 and SOCI 34200.

Attributes: CP, WI

Course Description: A capstone experience in which students define and execute a research project that involves irenicon or collection and analysis of quantitative data. Students write a full thesis paper. Students also reflect on the relevance of sociology with respect to change future pathways through their own life course. Salsifies ICC Capstone and Writing Intensive requirements.

[Updated: 2024-10-9]