

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SPRING 2015 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

IMPORTANT: Be sure to read the information in the Spring 2015 *Schedule of Classes* regarding how to enroll via TeleBEARS. Sociology graduate students may obtain their Advisor Code at the Graduate Office in 422 Barrows Hall. Changes to this document are tracked on the Graduate course supplement. Refer to that document for relevant changes.

GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS: There may be a limited number of seats available for non-Sociology graduate students after sociology graduate students have been accommodated; check with instructor. You may enroll in these courses during Phase I or Phase II with consent of the course’s instructor. Please note that all Sociology graduate courses are **Instructor Mark**, which allows the professor to mark a student to drop the course if pre-requisites are lacking or approval has not been obtained.

UNDERGRADUATES: For all courses you must check with the instructor before or at the first class meeting to determine if there is space after graduate students are accommodated. If space is available, you may request approval from the instructor and enroll during the Adjustment Period.

Sociology 201B	John Lie
T 12-2	402 Barrows
MODERN SOCIAL THEORY: The course will survey a variety of “theory” relevant in Sociology in the 2010s. We will also discuss the nature and function of theory in social research.	
Sociology 202B	Loic Wacquant
TH 4-7	402 Barrows
SOCIAL SPACE AND SYMBOLIC POWER IN BOURDIEU. PLEASE CONTACT INSTRUCTOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.	
Sociology 271A	Irene Bloemraad
MF 10-12	402 Barrows
METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH: This seminar is focused on evaluating and formulating various types of research designs. We will survey core methods of data collection and analysis, which can include interviewing, statistical analysis, ethnography, comparative/historical research, content analysis and formal social network analysis. This course is <u>not</u> designed to provide in-depth competence in any one area, but rather to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of various data collection choices and analysis strategies. The course is restricted to first year sociology graduate students.	
Sociology 271C	David Harding
W 10-12	402 Barrows
METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH: Sociology 271C is the second of two courses on statistical analysis of numerical data designed for sociology Ph.D. students. The course will cover regression, matching, instrumental variables, and related techniques for identifying causal effects, as well some extensions of multiple regression and the general linear model. Principal activities include: 1. Explore the statistical concepts and methods that sociologists most commonly use to gather and analyze quantitative evidence. 2. Use Stata (a	

popular computer program) to put those skills into practice. 3. Apply the skills to sociological data to gain facility and confidence in the use of these methods. Students who have not taken Sociology 271B should consult the instructor before enrolling.

Sociology C271D	Leo Goodman
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T 12-2	330 Evans
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QUANTITATIVE/STATISTICAL RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES:
 Selected topics in quantitative/statistical methods of research in the social sciences and particularly in sociology. Topics covered include analysis of qualitative/categorical data, loglinear models and latent-structure analysis; the analysis of cross-classified data having ordered and/or unordered categories; measures, models, and graphical displays in the analysis of cross-classified data; correspondence analysis, association analysis, and related methods of data analysis. For additional information, phone 642-5988 or 843-6013.

Sociology 273C	Mara Loveman
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T 10-12	402 Barrows
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**COMPARATIVE & HISTORICAL RESEARCH:
 PLEASE CONTACT INSTRUCTOR**

Sociology 273D	Trond Petersen
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M 4-7	475 Barrows
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**QUANTITATIVE/STATISTICAL RESEARCH:
 PLEASE CONTACT INSTRUCTOR**

Sociology 275	Heather Haveman
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W 4-6	402 Barrows
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RESEARCH DESIGN: This seminar is designed to guide you through the process of developing, carrying out, and writing up an empirical study that can be submitted to a sociology journal, either a general journal like *AJS*, *ASR*, or *Social Forces* or a specialty journal like *Demography*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Gender and Society*, or *Social Networks*. Although it is intended primarily for students working on their MA papers, I also welcome students working on another research project, such as a portion of their dissertation they want to turn into a journal article. Students may find this course helpful at several stages in the research process: when they are preparing to gather data, when they have finished gathering data and are conducting analysis, when they have finished analysis and are starting to write up results, and when they are revising a completed paper. You will complete a series of almost-weekly writing assignments that are designed to help you improve your research by taking you through the process of writing (and rewriting) a journal article. These writing assignments are designed to be cumulative. They are also designed to be flexible; you are very likely to redraft them as your research project evolves.

Sociology 280AA	Sandra Smith
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W 12-3	420 Barrows
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POVERTY: Arguably, the book that has had the most profound impact on urban poverty, urban inequality, and race scholarship has been William Julius Wilson's *The Truly Disadvantaged* (TTD). Over twenty-five years since the first edition's publication, and this canonical text continues to shape the direction that urban poverty research takes. The book caused a paradigmatic shift that has inspired hundreds of studies across several disciplines, studies in

which researchers have built on and/or tested the book's key empirical and theoretical claims about neighborhood effects, economic restructuring and spatial mismatch, persistent poverty and depopulation, social isolation and concentration effects, and the role of family structure. The attention showered on TTD by social scientists, journalists, and policymakers marks it as one of the most influential, and most cited, books of the last half-century. We will begin the seminar with a close examination of the empirical and theoretical insights offered by TTD. In the weeks to follow, we will engage the texts that both inspired TTD or was inspired in some way by it, and in the process, we will interrogate the major ongoing debates that constitute the urban poverty and inequality literature, including the role of culture versus structure, how and why neighborhood context matters, the effects of government intervention, and the role of the criminal justice system in perpetuating extreme disadvantage.

Sociology 280D	Heather Haveman
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T 4-6	402 Barrows
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ORGANIZATIONS: This course is an introduction to the sociological study of organizations, the basic building blocks of modern society. From birth to death, the lives of people in modern societies play out in formal organizations. Thus, organizations have an enormous impact on social life; they wield tremendous power and distribute innumerable benefits. All interests – economic, political, social, and cultural – are pursued through formal organizations. To understand the world we inhabit, then, we must appreciate the power and scope of organizations. This will familiarize you with the main sociological perspectives on organizations and to show you how they are used to investigate important phenomena. To that end, we will review the classics, but only briefly and with an eye to understanding how these foundational studies continue to reverberate in contemporary research on organizations. The bulk of our time will be spent considering current debates. I also want to help you learn how to *use* these ideas and findings in your own research. Therefore we will spend a lot of time trying to get inside the minds of the scholars whose work we read – figuring out why they did what they did, what you would have done differently, and what you could do next.

Sociology 280G	Sam Lucas
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TH 2-4	402 Barrows
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SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND CLASS ANALYSIS: This course serves as an introduction to the field of social stratification and class analysis (strat for short). Strat is a field that weds an intense interest in theoretical claims to a commitment to the empirical adjudication of theoretical debates, with the outcome being socially relevant understanding of power and inequality. To evaluate theories empirically has called analysts to employ tools systematically; many times, theoretical debates about the world find articulation in the language of methodology. Yet, if one can attend to the technical issues without becoming lost in the wizardry, one can find at the center a substantive debate with potentially large implications for our understanding of inequality and power in society. And what could be more important for our time? Why is it that some people are paid a great deal, while others scrape by on very little? What are the structural forces that allocate persons to these different positions in society? How much does one's parents' status determine one's own future? How are persons sorted into mating partnerships? How long do the effects of previous generations last? Can states or trans-state entities do anything to alter the pattern of inequality or reduce its impact? I could go on listing questions, which is to say that, unfortunately, we will not be able to read the literature

on every single question of interest to strat researchers. But, as even this smattering of questions suggests, the issues that occupy strat researchers concern the development of public policy; the functioning of economies and distribution of goods; the acquisition and wielding of political power; the stock of philosophical, religious, and ideological commitments; in short, the entire edifice of society and any effort to forge a better world for future generations. Hence, the stakes in play for strat research are vast, daunting--and humbling.

Sociology 280P	Jerry Karabel
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M 4-6	IRLE
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THE UNITED STATES IN COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: The United States in Comparative and Historical Perspective: This graduate seminar will examine works from sociology, political science, and history to situate the United States in comparative and historical perspective, with a special emphasis on the issue of American “distinctiveness.” Drawing on the “varieties of capitalism” literature, it will assess the extent to which the United States is an outlier among wealthy democratic countries in basic forms of economic and political organization. Among the questions asked will be: Why did the United States, alone among advanced industrial societies, never develop a mass-based socialist movement? What is behind the growth of inequality in the United States from the past three decades? What factors explain the distinctive organization of criminal justice in the United States? Readings may include: Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Robert Dahl, *How Democratic is the American Constitution?*, Seymour Martin Lipset and Gary Marks, *It Didn't Happen Here: Why Socialism Failed in the United States*, Robin Archer, *Why Is There No Labor Party in the United States?*, David Garland, *Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty In An Age of Abolition*, Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics*, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, and Thomas Piketty, *Capital*.

Sociology 280Q	Neil Fligstein
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M 4-6	402 Barrows
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ECONOMY & SOCIETY: Sociology has a long history of considering how the economy is embedded in society. This course considers some classical writings on this subject, including the work of Karl Polanyi. Then we consider the "new economic" sociology that has emerged to consider the relationships between states, production markets, labor markets, law, and the consumption behavior of households. We examine some of the theoretical approaches with reference to particular phenomena such as the role of networks in economic life, the problems of economic development, the comparative capitalisms literature, and how to think about globalization.

Sociology 280S	Kim Voss
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T 2-4	402 Barrows
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SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: is designed to give graduate students a broad understanding of the lines of theorizing and types of research that animate the study of social movements. Scholarship in the area has grown dramatically in recent years and to keep the course within the time boundaries of a single semester, I will choose readings that highlight key questions and developments in the field while also providing empirical knowledge about a variety of social movements. We will begin by looking at the different ways that sociologists have defined and

conceptualized what is at stake in the study of social movements. We will then spend a week or two on the empirical case of the American civil rights movement, as it is the most researched and theorized movement in the contemporary field of social movements. In both this section of the course and the ones that follow we will delve into major questions in the field, including why movements emerge, how they are mobilized and organized, and how they generate and are shaped by collective identities. We will next turn to the role of tradition, repertoire, and innovation in the tactics of social movements. We will subsequently take up studies of individual recruitment, exploring how movements shape the life course of their participants. A discussion of social movement outcomes will follow. As the semester draws to a close, we will consider some new directions in the study of social movements, debating whether new theorizing or new research methods might be required to understand protests by noncitizens and activism in the Internet age. Finally, we will conclude with the future by discussing students' research projects.

Sociology 286	Claude Fischer
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TH 1-3	420 Barrows
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PROFESSIONAL WRITING SEMINAR: This course began "unofficially" in the fall of 2014 and continues -- now open for official enrollment by students who attended the first semester -- in the spring.

Sociology 290	Raka Ray
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M 12-2	402 Barrows
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THEORIZING GENDER: Will move between classical and new theories of gender, as well as new empirical research, to work through the most constructive ways to analyze gender in the contemporary moment. We will focus in particular on how theories of sexuality, intersectionality and globalization can inform our work both in the field of gender and in other fields where gender is an important consideration.