ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY (Div II)

SOCIOLOGY

Chair: Professor James Nolan

- Zaid Adhami, Assistant Professor of Religion and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology & Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology and Sociology
- David B. Edwards, James N. Lambert '39 Professor of Anthropology
- Antonia E. Foias, Chair and Preston S. Parish ’41 Third Century Professor of Anthropology
- Kim Gutschow, Senior Lecturer in Religion and Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology and Sociology
- Nicolas C. Howe, Director of CES and the Environmental Studies Program, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology and Sociology
- Peter Just, Professor of Anthropology
- Kamal A. Kariem, Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in the Department of German and Russian and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology and Sociology
- Susanne Ryuyin Kerekes, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- Joel Lee, Associate Professor of Anthropology
- James A. Manigault-Bryant, Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology and Religion; affiliated with: Religion Department, Anthropology and Sociology
- Gregory C. Mitchell, Chair and Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology and Sociology
- James L. Nolan, Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Sociology; on leave 2022-2023
- Marketa Rulikova, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Olga Shevchenko, Paul H. Hunn ’55 Professor in Social Studies
- Christina E. Simko, Associate Professor of Sociology; affiliated with: American Studies Program; on leave 2022-2023
- Ben Snyder, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Phi H. Su, Assistant Professor of Sociology; affiliated with: Science & Technology Studies

The disciplines of anthropology and sociology aim to teach students how to enter into the social/cultural worlds of others, how to grasp those worlds from the viewpoints of their inhabitants, and how to articulate those denizens’ habits of mind, worldviews, and values to broader audiences.

Anthropology critically analyzes social forms and practices in all their local and global diversity, illuminating the cultural grounding of the ideologies, narratives, and structures in which we are all implicated. Archaeology extends this analysis to social formations of the historical and prehistorical past. Sociology studies the nature and trajectories of modernity, examining the intricacies of industrial and post-industrial societies and the dilemmas that confront individuals in modern social systems. These disciplines introduce students to classical and contemporary theories that illuminate the contours and contradictions of social experience. The Anthropology & Sociology program promotes a critical engagement with these theories while at the same time bringing evidence and case studies into conversation with theory.

The Department emphasizes qualitative fieldwork in its many forms. We teach students how to formulate, frame, and address intellectual problems. We also teach students the empirical methods widely used in anthropology, sociology, and other related disciplines, including, but not limited to ethnography, participant observation, interviewing, discourse and visual analysis, archival research, oral history, and archaeological methods.

Because the program emphasizes critical thinking skills to assess social claims made by others, and the application of anthropological and sociological skills to present day concerns, undergraduate training in Anthropology or Sociology has proven invaluable to majors pursuing a range of careers, including public policy, diplomacy, international development, marketing, social media development, K-12 education, journalism, medicine, and law.

MAJORS

The department offers separate majors in both Anthropology and Sociology, with a broad and diverse array of courses in both disciplines. The department is committed, however, to the unity of the social sciences. To this end, Anthropology and Sociology offer joint core courses in methodology

The disciplines of anthropology and sociology aim to teach students how to enter into the social/cultural worlds of others, how to grasp those worlds from the viewpoints of their inhabitants, and how to articulate those denizens’ habits of mind, worldviews, and values to broader audiences.

Anthropology critically analyzes social forms and practices in all their local and global diversity, illuminating the cultural grounding of the ideologies, narratives, and structures in which we are all implicated. Archaeology extends this analysis to social formations of the historical and prehistorical past. Sociology studies the nature and trajectories of modernity, examining the intricacies of industrial and post-industrial societies and the dilemmas that confront individuals in modern social systems. These disciplines introduce students to classical and contemporary theories that illuminate the contours and contradictions of social experience. The Anthropology & Sociology program promotes a critical engagement with these theories while at the same time bringing evidence and case studies into conversation with theory.

The Department emphasizes qualitative fieldwork in its many forms. We teach students how to formulate, frame, and address intellectual problems. We also teach students the empirical methods widely used in anthropology, sociology, and other related disciplines, including, but not limited to ethnography, participant observation, interviewing, discourse and visual analysis, archival research, oral history, and archaeological methods.

Because the program emphasizes critical thinking skills to assess social claims made by others, and the application of anthropological and sociological skills to present day concerns, undergraduate training in Anthropology or Sociology has proven invaluable to majors pursuing a range of careers, including public policy, diplomacy, international development, marketing, social media development, K-12 education, journalism, medicine, and law.

MAJORS

The department offers separate majors in both Anthropology and Sociology, with a broad and diverse array of courses in both disciplines. The department is committed, however, to the unity of the social sciences. To this end, Anthropology and Sociology offer joint core courses in methodology
and theory, as well as several elective courses in common. All joint courses are designated “ANSO.”

Requirements

For the degree in Anthropology or Sociology, students must complete a minimum of nine courses as outlined below:

Core Courses

Majors in both disciplines must take a sequence of four core courses. Three of these are joint (ANSO) courses. The sequences are:

**Anthropology**

ANTH 101 How to Be Human

**Sociology**

SOC 101 Invitation to Sociology

**Joint Courses**

ANSO 205 Ways of Knowing

ANSO 305 Social Theory

ANSO 402 Senior Seminar

Elective Courses

Majors in Anthropology or Sociology must take five elective courses from the course listings of their respective disciplines or from the joint ANSO listings. Two of the courses chosen are normally at the 300 level or above. In close consultation with their departmental advisors, students may take some selected courses from other disciplines to fulfill major requirements in either Anthropology or Sociology.

Majors in each wing of the department are allowed to count up to two courses in the other wing towards fulfillment of their major requirements.

STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS

In addition to the nine total courses required for the major, it is recommended that Anthropology and Sociology majors take Statistics 101 or a comparable course in statistics and data analysis.

AREA STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Students who wish to combine a major in Anthropology or Sociology with an Area Studies concentration are encouraged to do so. Courses taken to satisfy an Area Studies requirement may be counted toward the major with prior approval of a student’s departmental advisor. The only exception to this rule is the Area Studies senior seminar, which cannot ordinarily be counted toward the Anthropology or Sociology degree.

LANGUAGE STUDY, STUDY ABROAD, AND WINTER STUDY

Departmental advisors will help interested students integrate a major with study abroad, foreign language study, or field research during the winter study period. The department encourages Williams students to take advantage of established foreign study programs in Egypt, Japan, India, Hong Kong, and other countries. Because some foreign study programs do not offer courses that can be counted toward the Anthropology or Sociology degrees, however, sophomores planning to study abroad in junior year must consult with the departmental advisor before declaring a major.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes. In some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details). We welcome discussions of curricular plans for those major who travel abroad in their junior year. However, typically, students don't have access to all the salient information until AFTER they have taken the course.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, and complete syllabus including readings/assignments. The syllabus and readings/assignment information is required in cases when the course title and description are not sufficient to ascertain whether a course should count towards the major. We also request information on course hours.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes. We credit two, and in special cases three courses.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes. The expectation is for an intellectually rigorous semester-long course with a paper/exam component.
Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?
Yes. ANSO 205, ANSO 305 and ANSO 402 are almost always taken in the department.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)
Yes. ANSO 305 is offered in the fall and ANSO 205 and ANSO 402 only in the spring. We advise our majors to be aware if they plan to spend all or part of their junior year abroad.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:
In one case, a student had assumed that he could take the equivalent of ANSO 205 abroad, and was disappointed to discover that was not the case. He ended up taking ANSO 205 his senior year.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN ANTHROPOLOGY OR SOCIOLOGY
Honors and highest honors are normally awarded for the completion of a year-long research project that has resulted in an original thesis of high quality. Students wishing to write an honors thesis should engage a member of the department faculty as a Thesis Advisor as soon as possible and must submit a proposal for the thesis for department approval no later than the end of spring reading period of the junior year. If the proposal is approved, they will be permitted to register for Anthropology and Sociology 493-W31-494, during which they will write and defend a thesis. If their overall work in the major continues to be of high quality and the thesis is deemed of a similar quality, they may be awarded honors or highest honors in Anthropology or Sociology.

SOC 101  (F)(S)  Invitation to Sociology  (DPE)
This course provides students with an introduction to sociological analysis and an overview of sociology as a discipline. We will focus on the relationship of individuals to the social world and become acquainted with systematic institutional analysis. Students will explore the intersection of biography, history, culture, and social structure as seen in the work of classical and contemporary social thinkers, including Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, and Goffman. Special consideration will be given to the social and cultural problems of capitalism, rationality and irrationality in modern institutions and organizations, the psychological dilemmas facing the individual in modern society, and the problem of social order and conflict.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Thoughtful and consistent participation, reading responses, and a final project and presentation
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  30
Enrollment Preferences:  first-year students and sophomores
Expected Class Size:  30
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This course interrogates the social construction of identities, and how these differences manifest unequally in institutions. To familiarize themselves with the practice of sociology, students will sketch a research program that looks beyond individual-level explanations to address a social phenomena or social problem of interest.

Fall 2022
LEC Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  Ben Snyder
LEC Section: 02  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Phi H. Su

Spring 2023
LEC Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  Olga Shevchenko

SOC 210  (S)  Networks of Power: Technology in Human Affairs
Cross-listings:  STS 210  SOC 210

Primary Cross-listing
Do we control our technologies, or do our technologies control us? This course will explore different philosophies of technological progress, particularly
the constructivist and determinist theories, by examining major technological systems that shaped modern society, such as the telegraph system, the electric grid, radio and television broadcasting, and the internet. Each of these innovations entailed the construction of a complex network designed to serve a mix of public and business interests, and each resulted in wide-ranging and often unforeseen changes to people's lives. Guided by pertinent readings in the history and philosophy of technology, we will look critically at the forms and consequences of technological change, seeking answers to a series of complex and important questions: Is the course of technological progress an inevitable byproduct of scientific and engineering advances, or is it contingent on social and political circumstances and choices? Does technological change reinforce the social and political status quo or challenge it? Are technological and social progress synonymous, or is there a tension between the two? One of the goals of the course will be to provide students with a more informed and critical perspective on the technological upheavals that continue to shape society today.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, team assignments, two in-class exams, one 15-page seminar paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 210 (D2) SOC 210 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

SOC 211  (S)  Race, Environment, and the Body

Cross-listings: AMST 211  ENVI 211  AFR 211  SOC 211

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is organized around three distinct, but overlapping, concerns. The first concern is how polluting facilities like landfills, industrial sites, and sewage treatment plants are disproportionately located in communities of color. The second concern is the underlying, racist rationales for how corporations, in collaboration with state agencies, plot manufacturers of pollution. The final concern is how the environmental crises outlined in the first two sections of the course are experienced in the body. In reviewing a range of Black cultural productions--like literature, scholarship, music, and film--we will not only consider how environmental disparities physically affect human bodies, but also how embodiments of eco-crises lend to imaginaries of the relationship between the self and the natural world.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 2-3 short papers (5-7 pages), and a self-scheduled final

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: preference given to AFR concentrators, ENVI concentrators and majors, and ANSO majors.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 211 (D2) ENVI 211 (D2) AFR 211 (D2) SOC 211 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Space and Place Electives  ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives  PHLH Nutrition,Food Security+Environmental Health  PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Spring 2023

LEC Section: 01  Cancelled

SOC 212  (S)  Understanding Social Media

Cross-listings: STS 214  SOC 212
Over just the last twenty years—beginning with Friendster and MySpace and continuing through Facebook and Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram—the rise of social media has had a profound influence on the way we live. It has given a new rhythm to our daily routines, shaped the way we inform ourselves and converse with others, and transformed media and entertainment, politics and public discourse, and many other aspects of culture. This seminar course will undertake a broad and critical examination of social media, looking at it from historical, economic, legal, social, and phenomenological perspectives. The topics addressed will include social media's effects on self-image and self-formation, its influence on protest movements and political campaigns, its use as a conduit for news and propaganda, and the way commercial interests and technical characteristics have shaped its design and use. Through pertinent readings and lively discussions, and drawing on students' own experiences with social media, the course will illuminate social media's benefits and drawbacks while providing a foundation for thinking about possible legal, regulatory, and personal responses to this far-reaching and still unfolding social phenomenon.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, team assignments, two 5-page writing assignments, final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 214 (D2) SOC 212 (D2)

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year
justify, and at times contest their place in social and economic hierarchy. Complex as they are, such processes are all the more pressing in societies built on the explicit promise of economic equality, as was the case in the USSR and socialist Eastern Europe. Using the combined perspectives offered by economics, history, and sociology, this course will trace the practices and lived realities of social differentiation and income/wealth distribution brought about by the socialist experiment and intensifying after its demise. We will explore the life of class in these supposedly classless societies, and its reconfiguration after 1991, approaching class as, simultaneously, a matter of social classification, consumption differences, cultural identity, economic policy, and political power. We will study how the economic and political developments of late-socialism and the transition period generated class-based differences in all walks of life, and ask what these experiments have to teach us about inequalities and persistent social and economic divisions closer to home.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation; small writing assignments and research exercises; and a final research project
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: 1st and 2nd-year students thinking about majoring in Anthropology, Sociology, or Economics
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: This course cannot count toward the ECON major. It may be taken for the SOC major.
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ECON 107 (D2) SOC 217 (D2)
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The subject matter of this course is all about the origins, evolution, current structures, and implications of economic and social differentiation in a region quite apart from the United States. Moreover, by crossing disciplinary lines, we hope it will offer a particularly valuable perspective on such issues. Thus, we felt that it should naturally serve as a DPE course.
Not offered current academic year

SOC 218 (S) Law and Modern Society
This class is designed to introduce students to the field of law and society. The course begins with an overview of the various theoretical perspectives on the subject, including Durkheimian, Marxist, Foucauldian, and Weberian analyses of law and society; as well as the work of those following in the different theoretical schools established by these scholars. Informed by the theoretical overview, the next part of the course considers empirical research in selected areas of law, including tort law, criminal trial procedures, abortion and divorce law, "community justice," and the adjudication of drug offenses. Recognizing that understandings of our own legal practices are enlightened through comparisons to other legal systems, the second half of the course is primarily historical/comparative in focus. In this section, through an exploration of several case studies, American legal processes and habits are compared with related legal practices in such places as Japan, England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, Germany, Norway, and Canada.
Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: a short paper and midterm and final exams
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 30
Enrollment Preferences: Priority given to sociology majors.
Expected Class Size: 30
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: JLST Interdepartmental Electives
Not offered current academic year

SOC 219 (S) Images and Society
"This is obvious!" is what we say when we believe our point is irrefutable. But images are far less obvious than we may like to think. This course will create a forum for discussing the role of images in our lives, as well as the place of the visual in social inquiry. It will explore the variety of ways in which images—and even vision itself—are shaped by the social and cultural context in which they are embedded, develop skills for critical analysis of existing representations, and address the analytical possibilities and limitations of the study of signs and images. The course will touch upon a range
of visual material, from advertising to paintings, but the bulk of the course is dedicated to photography, both as an object of visual analysis and as, increasingly, a research method in social sciences. Topics for discussion include debates around truth in photography and the politics of representation, changing uses of photography in institutional settings, different photographic cultures and their anthropological and sociological significance, as well as the use of photography in social research. Primary sources for the discussions will be drawn from a variety of spheres, from Soviet propaganda posters to Indian studio portraiture, and will include the images we encounter in everyday life, media, politics, academia, "high" art and pop culture.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, several short papers, and a final paper
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: FMST Related Courses

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Olga Shevchenko

SOC 221 (S) Money and Intimacy (WS)
Does money matter in affectionate relationships? Can dollars buy love and care? What impact does market economics have on intimate relationships? This course will examine these questions and their relevance over the course of history, considering what forces have contributed to the shift in thinking about them, and, most importantly, how sociological research and knowledge helps us understand their current status. We will look into a wide range of aspects of private life that require actors to mix personal affairs with financial transactions, including romantic encounters, marriages (and divorces), families of various kinds and compositions, child adoptions, and outsourced care for dependents to name just a few. Intimacy carries different value and content in these contexts, as so does handling exchanges within them, and negotiating the balance of intimate and economic exchanges also necessitates applying diverse strategies vis-à-vis the external social world. The course will simultaneously look into the changing character of the economy as it has responded to shifting social values. We will specifically focus on how previously private concerns have penetrated the public sphere and shaped the evolution of what has been dubbed 'emotional capitalism'. People skills, teamwork, emotional labor, commodification of intimacy, care, sex, and body parts, are only few examples of the central concepts at stake. Naturally, a reflection on the growth of new technologies and social media will enrich many of the discussed themes.

Requirements/Evaluation: Each student will be expected to submit five or six 5-6-page essays and five or six brief responses. In addition, each student will be expected to actively participate in tutorial discussions. There will be no final paper or exams.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Students will be required to submit a 4-5 page essay every other week. During the week when students are not submitting essays, they will submit a brief (1-2 page) response to their partner's essay.

Spring 2023
TUT Section: T1 TBA Marketa Rulikova

SOC 224 (F) Going Nuclear: American Culture in the Atomic Age
Cross-listings: SOC 224 HIST 273
Primary Cross-listing
This course will examine the historical development and use of the nuclear bomb. Among other features of the early atomic age, the course will look at the Manhattan Project, the delivery of the bombs for combat, and the destructive effects of the bomb's initial use in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ongoing testing in the Marshall Islands. The class will investigate the role of the nuclear arms race in the Cold War, the consequences of nuclear production on specific communities, and the implications of the atomic age on our critical understanding of technological innovation more generally. We will also consider the saliency of competing narratives interpreting America's decision (and continuing policies) to build, use, and stockpile nuclear weapons. Employing both sociological and historical perspectives, we will explore the interactions between science, politics, and culture in the nuclear age.

Requirements/Evaluation: a midterm, a final exam, and a 10- to 12-page research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to sociology and history majors.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SOC 224 (D2) HIST 273 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

SOC 228 (S) The Panopticon: Surveillance, Power, and Inequality (DPE)

Cross-listings: STS 229 SOC 228

Primary Cross-listing

Surveillance is built into the very fabric of modern life. From CCTV cameras, to supermarket loyalty cards, to the massive gathering of personal data on social media sites, people participate in today's "surveillance societies" just by doing everyday activities. This course uses the metaphor of the "Panopticon" as a doorway to engagement with traditional and new forms of surveillance. First described by philosopher and social theorist Jeremy Bentham, the Panopticon is a physical structure that enables one observer to see all inhabitants without those inhabitants knowing when they are being observed. In *Discipline and Punish*, Michel Foucault famously expanded thinking on the Panopticon as a metaphor for the "disciplinary" power that lies at the heart of inequality in modern society. Since Bentham and Foucault's time, however, surveillance technologies have changed significantly. To what extent does the concept of the Panopticon give us purchase on today's surveillance societies? How does watching people with new digital and algorithmic surveillance technologies shape the exercise of power and, in turn, (re)produce forms of inequality? Can privacy, convenience, and safety ever be truly balanced? Topics include: the historical origins and expansion of surveillance in modern societies, policing and state surveillance, and social media surveillance.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, reading responses, midterm essay, final paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 229 (D2) SOC 228 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores how power is distributed unequally through the mechanism of surveillance technologies, particularly in regard to racial and class differences. Among other topics, it will consider the concrete case of surveillance by police in Baltimore City and the question of if and when surveillance is appropriate there, given the city's ongoing crisis of citizen and police violence. Students will discuss police surveillance in a context shaped by racial segregation and class inequality.

Spring 2023
**SOC 230 (S) Memory and Forgetting** (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** AMST 233  SOC 230

**Primary Cross-listing**

On the surface, remembering generally confronts us as a deeply personal act. What is more private than nostalgic reverie or the secrets of a dark and painful past? Yet even "individual" memories take shape through social frameworks, and we also remember "collectively" through shared myths, narratives, traditions, and the like. This course will explore the social dimensions of memory and remembering as well as their inevitable counterpart—forgetting. How do social frameworks inform our individual understandings of the past and shape our sense of selfhood? How and why are figures from the past cast as heroes or villains? How do collectivities celebrate past glories, and how do they deal with shameful or embarrassing episodes? How do economic and political power relations shape struggles over the past? In an increasingly global society, can we speak of "cosmopolitan" or "transcultural" forms of memory? Topics will include autobiographical memory and self-identity; memorials, museums, and monuments; reputations, commemorations, and collective trauma; silence, denial, and forgetting; and transitional justice, official apologies, and reparations.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** thoughtful and consistent class participation; an autobiographical essay (4-5 pages); four response papers (2 pages each); and a research paper (8-10 pages) with class presentation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

AMST 233 (D2) SOC 230 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course pays particular attention to how power and inequality shape narratives about the past. We will examine and compare several efforts to transform national memories, such as the Equal Justice Initiative memorial in the United States and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. In doing so, we will also consider the role of memory and memorialization in broader processes of social change.

Spring 2023

**SEM Section: 01**  **Cancelled**

**SOC 234 (S) How Emotions Work**

What could be more personal and unique than one's own emotions? Over the last century, sociologists, anthropologists, historians, and social psychologists have challenged this taken for granted view of emotion, revealing just how much context, institutional structures, and history shape feeling. Emotion does not just emerge from an individual's brain and body; it is also a product of intersubjective dynamics outside the individual. In this deeply interdisciplinary course, students explore how societies shape emotion. Beginning with psychological research on the brain/body connection, we build a capacious model for how social context, norms, and institutions interact with individual psychology to produce both conscious and unconscious forms of feeling. As the course progresses, we zoom further out from the individual level and unpack emotional dynamics at the national, cross-cultural, and civilizational levels. Along the way, we take a deeper look at specific emotions, including love, shame, sympathy, sadness, and happiness. The course concludes by focusing on a pressing social problem—the seemingly global crisis of mental illness on college and university campuses. What is causing this crisis? What can we do to address this issue right here in our community?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** participation, two short essays, midterm essay, emotion map activity, open space meeting, final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Anthropology and Sociology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 20
**SOC 241 (S) Meritocracy**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 241  SOC 241

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Although fewer than 1% of Americans have a degree from the country's top 30 colleges and universities, 39% of Fortune 500 CEOs, 41% of federal judges, 44% of the writing and editorial staff at the *New York Times*, 64% of Davos attendees, and 100% of Supreme Court justices do. Is this a positive sign that the United States is governed by its most talented and capable members who have risen through hard work and equal opportunity? Or a negative one pointing to the power of a corrupt and self-selecting elite? This course explores the theme of meritocracy—rule by the intelligent—in comparative perspective. We will look at both old and new arguments regarding the proper role and definition of merit in political society as well as take the measure of meritocracy in present-day Singapore, France, and the United States. The course concludes with a focus on the current debate over American meritocracy and inequality.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two short papers, one long paper, take-home final exam, discussion questions, class participation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science and Sociology majors, first-years and sophomores intending a Political Science or Sociology major

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 241 (D2) SOC 241 (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

---

**SOC 244 (S) What They Saw in America**

**Cross-listings:** SOC 244  AMST 244  HIST 366

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course traces the travels and writings of four important observers of the United States: Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb. The course will consider their respective journeys: Where did they go? With whom did they talk? What did they see? The historical scope and varying national origins of the observers provide a unique and useful outsider's view of America—one that sheds light on persisting qualities of American national character and gives insight into the nature and substance of international attitudes toward the United States over time. The course will analyze the common themes found in the visitors’ respective writings about America and will pay particular attention to their insights on religion, democracy, agrarianism, capitalism, and race.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** A midterm examination, two short essays, and a final paper.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Priority given to Sociology, History, Anthropology, and American Studies majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SOC 244 (D2) AMST 244 (D2) HIST 366 (D2)

**Attributes:** HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year
We think of the freedom to move as a mark of privilege. In the United States, passing a driving test, owning a car, and getting a passport are milestones that signal modernity and freedom. Likewise, we think of restrictions on movement as the domain of the underprivileged, such as the current and formerly incarcerated. But as the Covid-19 pandemic reveals, there have always been two sides to immobility: privileged as well as involuntary immobility. There are correspondingly two sides to mobility: those who move because they want to and others because they have no choice. In this class, students will explore conceptions of mobility as adventurous, free, and modern (as with jet-setting international elites). They will compare and contrast when mobility can be threatening, exclusionary, and limited (as recognized by the Black Lives Matter movement). This class invites students to interpret their environment through the lens of mobility and inequality in the time of coronavirus. Drawing on sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, geography, and migration studies, this interdisciplinary course offers a beginning conversation on the causes and consequences of the freedom to move—or to stay still.

Requirements/Evaluation: Thoughtful and consistent class participation, several short reflection papers, two drafts of an opinion essay, class presentation

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 252 (D2) SOC 252 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Emphasis on the processes of writing and revising, several short papers on which students will receive close feedback, and drafts of a final paper

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores a politics of im/mobilities: how we move through space through different bodies at the intersection of race, class, gender, ability, and citizenship. Students will use their own bodies as research sites for deepening their understanding of how we navigate the freedom to move or stay still.

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01   MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm   Phi H. Su

SOC 262  (S)  Paper Trails  (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 262  SOC 262  STS 262

Primary Cross-listing

Long before the invention of the passport, states or state-like entities sought to document and manage populations and discipline bodies. This course invites students to critically reflect on documentation practices and systemic violence, particularly against racial, ethnic, sexual, and political minorities. Students will explore identity-making through documentary practices such as the three-generation life history, a biographical form that Soviet-allied countries used to reward loyalty and punish disloyalty. Labels, such as a criminal record or pre-existing health conditions, also trail or precede individuals their whole lives. Students will grapple with what happens when the paper trail goes cold—when identification documents are invalidated, birth certificates withheld, household registries purged, and archives destroyed. Students will explore the rise of surveillance and biometric data alongside the actors, technologies, and industries that try to circumvent them in places such as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and along the US-Mexico border. In this project-based course, students will exhume paper trails and imagine alternative ways to create, alter, and subvert them.

Requirements/Evaluation: thoughtful and consistent class participation, facilitation of guest speakers, Special Collections visit, project memos, and final project and presentations

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15
**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** In this course, students will interrogate some of the key documents that structure our lives and serve as tools for waging systemic violence against ethnic, racial, sexual, and political minorities. Students will synthesize and apply these lessons about bureaucratic documentation toward the benefit of a community partner.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course centers activism organized around various axes of difference, enabling students to learn about how various groups are defining and pursuing equity. It requires students to explicitly engage the question of ethical intervention in political movements, stressing attentiveness to the dynamics of privilege and marginalization internal to movements.

**Attributes:** WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

**Not offered current academic year**

**SOC 291 (S) Religion and Ecology in America (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** SOC 291 ENVI 291 REL 291

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course examines the relationship between religious and environmental thought in America. Exploring a broad range of practices, symbols, and beliefs, we will examine the religious roots and branches of modern environmentalism. Rather than survey the formal teachings of organized religious groups, we will explore the creation and contestation of environmental meaning in the public sphere through literature, art, philosophy, and popular culture. How have writers, thinkers, and artists from different religious and cultural backgrounds shaped the way we think about nature? How have they shaped the way we think about politics, science, and social justice? How have they influenced each other to produce distinctively American forms of eco-spirituality? In pursuit of these questions, we will consider a diverse array of topics and cases, including struggles to protect Native American
sacred places, the role of Black churches in fighting environmental racism, Protestant outdoorsmanship, Catholic climate activism, Jewish eco-mysticism, atheist biology, Buddhist therapy, and more.

Requirements/Evaluation: Each week each student will either write a 5- to 7-page essay on assigned readings or offer a 2-page critique of their partner’s paper.

Prerequisites: ENVI 101 or instructor permission

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 291 (D2) ENVI 291 (D2) REL 291 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write five five-page papers and five two-page papers in this class. They will be given extensive weekly feedback on their writing in the form of one-on-one meetings and written comments, and they will be given multiple opportunities for revision. Emphasis will be placed on the mechanics of argumentation, logic and rhetoric, and the development of a distinctive voice.

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Spring 2023
TUT Section: T1 TBA Nicolas C. Howe

SOC 303 (S) Cultures of Climate Change

Cross-listings: ENVI 303 SOC 303

Secondary Cross-listing

This course asks why people think and talk about climate change in such very different ways. Climate change is a physical phenomenon that can be observed, quantified, and measured. But it is also an idea, and as such it is subject to the vagaries of cultural interpretation. Despite scientific agreement about its existence and its causes, many people do not see climate change as a serious problem, or as a problem at all. Many others see it as the most serious problem our species has ever faced. What are the sources of this disparity? Why can’t we agree about what climate change means? How does something as complex as climate change become a “problem” in the first place? And what can its many proposed “solutions” tell us about the role of culture in environmental policy, politics, and decision-making. This course will explore a broad array of factors, from religion to race, class to colonialism. Emphasizing ethnographic and historical accounts of climate change as lived experience, it will apply a range of theories from the social sciences and humanities to case studies from around the world.

Requirements/Evaluation: a 15- to 18-page research paper and several shorter writing assignments

Prerequisites: ENVI 101 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Environmental Studies majors and concentrators first; Anthropology and Sociology majors second

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENVI 303 (D2) SOC 303 (D2)

Attributes: ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Nicolas C. Howe

SOC 308 (S) What is Power?
What is power? Despite the importance of notions of power across the social sciences, there is a broad lack of consensus. Is power essentially domination or resistance? Is it freedom, empowerment, privilege, or oppression? Are there forms of unequal social power which are morally neutral or even good? Is power the kind of thing held by individuals, races, genders, classes, discourses, causal mechanisms, institutions, or social structures? What is the connection between social and physical power? Does power obey laws? How does power relate to technology? Or knowledge? Or agency? Or ideology? This course begins with the observation that power is often described as a causal relation--an individual's power is supposed to equal their capacity to produce a change in someone else's behavior. This suggests that the better we can understand the nature of cause and effect, the better we can understand power. Fortunately, in recent decades philosophers have made significant progress in theorizing causation. Hence, this seminar will put two very different bodies of theory in conversation: critical theory about power and philosophy of science about cause and effect. We will touch on classic philosophical accounts of power and causation, but focus our attention on more recent developments in philosophy of science, political theory, and other fields. The insights we gain in this course from analyzing the nature of power should empower us to more effectively transform society. It will help students in the social sciences to understand the nature of causation in the social world, and it will help students interested in political action to better understand the nature of power. Thinkers to be considered may include: Aristotle, Amy Allen, Hannah Arendt, Bourdieu, Judith Butler, Nancy Cartwright, Foucault, Gramsci, Byung-Chul Han, Han Feizi, Giddens, Steven Lukes, Machiavelli, J.L. Mackie, Marx, Nietzsche, and Max Weber. (Note that in 2023 this course will also fulfill the senior seminar requirement for STS)

Requirements/Evaluation: critical annotations for every class, midterm review essay (4-6 pages), final essay (10-12 pages)

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: STS concentrators, then Religion, Sociology, and Political Science majors.

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 308 (D2) PSCI 306 (D2) STS 308 (D2) REL 308 (D2)

Attributes: PHIL Related Courses STS Senior Seminars

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Jason Josephson Storm

SOC 314 (F) The Social Ecology of Racial and Gender Inequity (DPE)

Cross-listings: SOC 314 WGSS 314

Secondary Cross-listing

Why the political furor over monuments? What would a feminist city look like? Does racial justice require integration? This course trains your focus on space and place, asking you to take a socioecological perspective on race, gender, and other axes of privilege and marginalization. In it, we examine how ideas about race, gender and more shape space as well as how the design of space reinforces social constructs and power relations. After examining specific regions (the city, the suburb, the country) and their relation to one another, we examine specific sites (public transport, public toilets, libraries, houses). The course enables students to better understand the tenacity of inequity by drawing attention to its spatial dimension while at the same time introducing students to -- and providing students tools to engage in -- spatial interventions designed to disrupt vicious social-spatial cycles.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance, class facilitation, problem identification report, two presentations, reflection

Prerequisites: WGSS/SOC Majors

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 314 (D2) WGSS 314 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course introduces students to a socioecological approach, giving them a lens which can help them understand how important axes of difference—race and gender—are socially constructed as well as the stubborn persistence of racial and gender power differentials. Students in this course will be required to apply this lens to their own experience, as well as to discuss difficult questions about different obstacles and potential paths to greater equity in social relations.

**Attributes:** WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

**SOC 326 (S) Being Mortal**

One of the defining features of the human condition is our awareness of our own mortality. How do we cope with this awareness? How does it influence our social institutions? We will begin by exploring how social theorists such as Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Ernest Becker, and Peter Berger grappled with mortality and its significance for human social life. We will then turn to the social institutions that structure our confrontation with mortality today. How, why, and with what consequences has death been "sequestered" in modern Western societies and set aside from the social world of the living? What rites and rituals remain for coping with death and dying, and how do our cultural assumptions influence the experiences of grief, loss, and mourning? How does modern medicine—which is oriented toward cure but must ultimately confront the inescapable realities of aging and death—deal with mortality? How have hospice, palliative care, and debates over physician-assisted suicide changed the landscape in recent years? How do societies cope with collective losses in the aftermath of wars, disasters, and atrocities? Our focus will be on the United States, but we will also consider cross-cultural comparisons.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three 6- to 7-page papers; an in-class presentation; thoughtful and consistent participation in class discussion

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Sociology and Anthropology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

Not offered current academic year

**SOC 329 (F) Work and the Future of Capitalism**

What does it mean to work? How does capitalism shape the way we work? What might work look like in the future? In this three-part course, students engage with global capitalism's past, present, and future, asking analytic and normative questions about work and the trajectory of capitalism. The first part of the course examines the historical origins of capitalism and leading theories about what capitalism is and how it stratifies the world into racialized social classes. A central theme in part one will be how capitalist labor relations shape meaning and subjectivity, particularly the experience of dignity. In part two, we examine recent and emerging trends in capitalist labor, such as the death of the career, the rise of the "gig" economy, platform capitalism, and even the seemingly inevitable end of work itself as entire occupations become automated by machine learning. A key question will be how these transformations exacerbate and/or alleviate longstanding inequalities from capitalism's 19th century past. The course concludes by asking students to imagine a better vision for work in the next century. Should we continue to work at all? What kinds of productive activity should we value, and how would we go about taming, eroding, or even smashing capitalism to allow them to flourish?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** participation, reading responses, midterm paper, final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Anthropology and Sociology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Ben  Snyder

SOC 335 (F) - Nowheres (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 335  SOC 335

Primary Cross-listing

We live in a world of nation-states. The world map, according to journalist Joshua Keating, is "itself as an institution, an exclusive club of countries" that rarely accepts new members. Throughout the course, we question how countries conquered the world and became the taken-for-granted political unit. We do so, paradoxically, by looking at contemporary nations that do not appear on the world map. These include nations without statehood, such as Somaliland; those that span countries, including indigenous nations across the US and Canada; and nations that have lost their countries, such as Palestine and South Vietnam. By interrogating "nowheres," we tease out what it means to be a country, and pinpoint when and why the definitions do not apply uniformly. Students will reflect on why the world map has been so remarkably static since the end of the Cold War. We will further probe the social, political, and human costs of the exceptions to this general rule. Students will raise questions and attempt answers to what our interconnected world means for "nowheres" looming on the horizon--nation-states that, as a result of climate change, will soon vanish.

Requirements/Evaluation: Thoughtful and consistent class participation, visits to Sawyer Library and WCMA, three short response papers, and a final assessment on a "nowhere" of students' choosing

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors, Global Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 335 (D2) SOC 335 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course asks students to grapple with the asymmetries of modern statehood--why some places meet the criteria for statehood but are denied it, while others fall short of formal definitions but are still considered states. Students will assess the stakes of statehood for places that cannot achieve it or do not aspire to. They will creatively marshal these lessons to become the class expert on a "nowhere" that provides us with a lens for interrogating the world map as it currently exists.

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm     Phi H. Su

SOC 338 (F) - Transhumanism: Religion, Technoscience, Obsolescence

Cross-listings: HSCI 338  SOC 338  STS 338  REL 338

Primary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary seminar invites students to pursue sociohistorical analysis and sustained critical discussion of the transhumanist movement and its overriding aims: the augmentation, transformation, and eventual transcendence of human biological constitution; the realization, through speculative technoscientific means, of an enhanced or even "postbiological existence"--a "posthuman condition." "Humanity 2.0." Through close readings of primary historical documents, transhumanist texts, scholarship on transhumanism, works of science-fiction film, literature, and popular culture, we will position the movement as an empirical conduit through which to explore the sociohistorical conditions under which transhumanist ideas and practices have emerged, circulated, and taken up residence. To that end, we will consider the ties of transhumanism to eugenics and massive investments in pharmaceuticals, anti-aging medicine, and so-called "GNR" technologies (i.e. genetics, nanotechnology, and artificial intelligence and robotics); the movement's affinities with neoliberalism and what some have pointed to as transhumanism's racialized subtext of whiteness. We will furthermore devote considerable attention to the technological singularity, the figure of the cyborg, mind-uploading, space colonization, and cryonic suspension, all of which, like transhumanism broadly, suggest that science and technology have in some sense come to operate as powerful channeling agents for the very sorts of beliefs, practices, and forms of association that theorists of secularization expected modernity to displace. Lastly, throughout the course of the seminar we will take transhumanism as a provocation to think broadly and seriously about religion, technology, embodiment, and ways of being human.

Requirements/Evaluation: informal weekly writing, two short review essays, and one 15-page seminar paper
Prerequisites: Prior coursework in sociology-anthropology, history, religion, or science and technology studies.

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors and Science and Technology Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HSCI 338 (D2) SOC 338 (D2) STS 338 (D2) REL 338 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

SOC 340 (S) Performing Masculinity in Global Popular Culture (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 358 THEA 341 LATS 341 SOC 340 WGSS 347

Secondary Cross-listing

This course examines popular cultural contexts, asking what it means to be a man in contemporary societies. We focus on the manufacture and marketing of masculinity in advertising, fashion, TV/film, theater, popular music, and the shifting contours of masculinity in everyday life, asking: how does political economy change the ideal shape, appearance, and performance of men? How have products - ranging from beer to deodorant to cigarettes - had their use value articulated in gendered ways? Why must masculinity be the purview of "males" at all; how can we change discourses to better include performances of female masculinities, butch-identified women, and trans men? We will pay particular attention to racialized, queer, and subaltern masculinities. Some of our case studies include: the short half-life of the boy band in the US and in Asia (e.g., K-Pop), hip hop masculinities, and the curious blend of chastity and homoeroticism that constitutes masculinity in the contemporary vampire genre. Through these and other examples, we learn to recognize masculinity as a performance shaped by the political economy of a given culture.

Requirements/Evaluation: masculinity reflections, mid-term essay exam (or quizzes), visual rhetorical analyses of pop culture images

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: a short statement of interest will be solicited

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AMST 358 THEA 341 LATS 341 SOC 340 WGSS 347

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the construction of masculinity as it relates to intersecting identities such as race, sexuality, class, and global political economic considerations. Key to understanding masculinity are questions about the diversity of experiences of masculinity, cultural variations of gender norms, privilege, agency, patriarchy, heteronormativity, and interlocking systems of oppression.

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses FMST Related Courses LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Gregory C. Mitchell

SOC 348 (F) Altering States: Post-Soviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: RUSS 348 SOC 348 GBST 348

Primary Cross-listing

Critics and apologists of Soviet-style socialism alike agree that the Soviet ideology was deeply egalitarian. Putting aside for a moment the very reasonable doubts about how justified this perception actually was, it is still worth asking, how did people who lived in the world in which differences in rank, gender or ethnicity were not supposed to matter, make sense of their postsocialist condition, one in which new forms of difference emerged, and old ones assumed greater prominence? And how do these encounters with difference impact current events, such as the war Russia is currently waging on Ukraine, or the persistent tensions between East and West Germans? This tutorial will examine new dilemmas through
ethnographic studies and documentary films that aim to capture in real time the process of articulating and grappling with newly discovered divides. We will focus especially closely on Russia, but will also read studies on East Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, and Ukraine. This course fulfills the DPE requirement by exploring comparatively the ways in which people in different countries made sense of the social, cultural and political heterogeneity of the postsocialist condition.

Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page paper every other week, written comments on the partner’s paper in alternate weeks

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology, Sociology, and Russian majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RUSS 348 (D1) SOC 348 (D2) GBST 348 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: This is a tutorial course, with plenty of opportunities to work on writing and argumentation. Tutorial papers receive written feedback from both the instructor and the tutorial partner, and are workshopped during the tutorial meetings.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will learn to identify and interrogate processes of social differentiation and exclusion as they take place across Russia and Eastern Europe. We will also train ourselves to identify parallels, as well as differences, between responses to the social and economic uncertainty ushered by the fall of socialism, and the discontents triggered by similar conditions closer to home.

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2022

TUT Section: T1  TBA  Olga Shevchenko

SOC 362 (S) Stories We Tell (WS)

Cross-listings: SOC 362  COMP 362

Primary Cross-listing

From The Moth to StoryCorps to Williams College's own Storytime, stories are ubiquitous in contemporary society. Indeed, sociologists have argued that social life is itself "storied"—that we locate ourselves within familiar narrative structures, using them to "construct" identities and "tell" our lives. Stories, in this view, are not only the stuff of literature, but also the very fabric of social life: the foundation for individual and collective identities. This course grapples with the role of stories and storytelling in modern social life. What role do stories play in constituting personal identity? What cultural templates structure the stories we tell? Why are memoirs so popular, and how can we explain the more recent resurgence of interest in oral forms of storytelling? What role does storytelling play in politics and social movements? Specific topics will include confessional culture, podcasts, memoir, politics, and social change. Along the way, we will pay explicit attention to medium, and consider how sociologists might learn from journalists, documentarians, and memoirists to convey stories from their own research.

Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page paper every other week; written comments on a partner's paper in alternate weeks

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: if overenrolled, students will be asked to submit a short statement of interest

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 362 (D2) COMP 362 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: As a tutorial, this course includes consistent opportunities to develop skills in writing and argumentation. Partners will alternate between receiving detailed written feedback (from both the instructor and a peer) and offering constructive comments. At the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to revise one of their essays, implementing and solidifying what they have learned.

Not offered current academic year
What does it mean to care—about a person, a situation, or a cause? We often assume that care arises spontaneously and organically. Yet both feelings of care and acts of care always take shape in social contexts. In this course, we will uncover and critically interrogate the norms surrounding caring, caregiving, and care-receiving in our own communities. What social factors influence our willingness to offer care, and to accept it from others? Why is caregiving so heavily gendered and racialized? Is care inevitably corrupted by capitalism? Specific topics will include domestic work and reproductive labor; child welfare and foster care; therapy and mental health care; the discourse of self-care; and social movements that center around enacting care. The course will culminate in a significant experiential learning component: as a class, we will work collaboratively to design and implement a project that pushes or challenges the "care norms" in the northern Berkshires.

Requirements/Evaluation: thoughtful and consistent class participation; weekly journal entries (1-2 pages each); collaboratively designed experiential learning project; and a final paper (6-8 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: if overenrolled, students will be asked to submit a short statement of interest

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course centers the relationship between structural inequality and the cultural norms surrounding caregiving and care-receiving. Throughout the semester, we will reflect on how care norms both reflect and perpetuate larger systems of inequality, especially race and gender. Through a student-designed experiential learning project, we will strive to create social change in the local community.

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  Cancelled

SOC 390 (S) Sex Marriage Family

Cross-listings: SOC 390  PSCI 380

Secondary Cross-listing

Something has happened to America over the past fifteen years. Large minorities of young adults, especially young men, are now celibate. Cohabitation has skyrocketed but marriage is disappearing, and the country's birth rate is at an all-time low. Not surprisingly, loneliness has become epidemic. A similar story can be told for most other developed countries. The implications for political polarization, economic growth, social insurance programs, public health, military defense, even national survival are grim. What is the cause of this loss of faith in the future? Can public policy reverse these trends? This course is an investigation into relations between the sexes in the developed world, the fate of children and the family, and government attempts to shape them. The course investigates family models in historical and comparative context; the family and the welfare state; the economics of sex, gender, marriage, and class inequality; the dramatic value and behavioral changes of Gen Z around sex, cohabitation, and parenthood; and state policies to encourage partnership/marriage and childbearing in both left-wing (Scandinavia) and right-wing (Central Europe) variants.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 4-5 page papers, 12-15 page research paper, discussion questions, class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Political Economy, Political Science, and Sociology majors and prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SOC 390 (D2) PSCI 380 (D2)

Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses
SOC 397 (F) Independent Study: Sociology
Sociology independent study.
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
**Distributions:** (D2)

SOC 398 (S) Independent Study: Sociology
Sociology independent study.
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
**Distributions:** (D2)

SOC 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Sociology
Sociology senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
**Distributions:** (D2)

SOC 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Sociology
Sociology senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
**Distributions:** (D2)

Winter Study -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SOC 16 (W) The Lives of Infamous Men
Michel Foucault is famous for his analysis of how power and knowledge are interwoven in institutions such as the prison or the clinic. Less well known are the life stories that Foucault exhumed from the archives of these institutions. These stories, such as that of a parricidal peasant assumed to be insane and an intersex individual raised in a convent but later legally identified as a man, provoke questions about the self, identity, knowledge, power, and resistance. We will explore the violence done to lives when they are made to conform to the neatness of the archive and ask how we might do justice to these lives as historians. This class will include a research project in which students will collaborate to curate a biographical exhibit in the Williams Library.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Final project or presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 30
Enrollment Preferences: seniority
Expected Class Size: NA
Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: William Stahl is a political theorist researching the politics of biography. Previously, he has taught at New York University, Abu Dhabi and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression  STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2023
LEC Section: 01  TBA  William Samuel Stahl

SOC 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Sociology
To be taken by students registered for Sociology 493-494.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023
HON Section: 01  TBA  Antonia E. Foias

SOC 99 (W) Independent Study: Sociology
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023
IND Section: 01  TBA  Antonia E. Foias