

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FALL 2009
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

SOC 722 Sociology of Gender

Kelly Chong

This course will offer a range of sociological perspectives on the role of gender in society. The particular substantive focus will vary each semester to allow flexibility for in-depth analysis of gender relationships in such areas as family, work, popular culture, economy, and religion. In this class, special attention will be paid to the intersectionality of gender with other axes of social organization and inequality, including race/ethnicity, class, and nation.

SOC 767 Gerontology Proseminar

David Ekerdt

The course will introduce students to the wide range of theories, research directions, and disciplinary interests in gerontology, with a particular emphasis on the behavioral and social sciences. The proseminar surveys basic and applied research, service programs, policy issues, and the professional organization of the field.

SOC 780/980 Advanced Topics: Sociology of Race

Jessica Vasquez

This graduate seminar critically examines how race is a fundamental feature of social life and social organization. "Race" refers to the way societies have historically, as now, divided and categorized people according to perceived physical differences and assigned meanings (of intelligence, worth, morality, etc.) to those categories. We will pay particular attention to 1) how race is a socially constructed category that permits and restricts access to resources (e.g., citizenship, socioeconomic status, education); 2) the ways race intersects with other axes of stratification and difference (e.g., gender, class, and nation); and 3) the social structures, institutions, and discourses that reproduce racial inequality.

SOC 780/980 Advanced Topics: Critical Perspectives in Medical Sociology

Mary Zimmerman

This course examines how societies interpret and respond to disease, illness and health through 1) systems of meanings and the cultural patterns of behavior related to them and 2) social structural arrangements such as policy frameworks and institutions, including the various occupations and professions that support these arrangements. How these health-related mechanisms serve as institutions of social control is also considered. Current health care arrangements are considered from two distinct perspectives: as a set of market commodities (part of the economy) and as elements of human welfare (part of a system of basic social services, much like public education). To assist in providing students with a critical perspective, the course emphasizes comparative analysis and the significance of historical patterns, recognizing that the resulting arrangements that constitute our health care system today are, in part, contested and look the way they do because of long term struggles among interest groups. In addition to offering a specific perspective, the course covers major concepts, theories and a sampling of related research studies from the medical sociology literature so that students have an overview of the entire field.

SOC 780 Advanced Topics: Teaching Sociology

David Smith

SOC 790 M.A. Proseminar

Eric Hanley

The Graduate Proseminar is intended to familiarize new students with the discipline of Sociology and the University of Kansas Sociology graduate program and faculty. Much of our time will be devoted to presentations and/or visits from faculty in the Department, giving you an opportunity to learn more about their sociological odysseys and their research and teaching interests. In addition, we will spend time discussing the mechanics of getting a degree, funding or graduate study, the character and traditions of the Kansas Sociology faculty, the teaching of sociology, the ethics of social science research and teaching, and issues that pertain to the broader discipline of Sociology.

SOC 803 Issues in Contemporary Theory: Globalization**Robert Antonio**

This seminar will introduce students to globalization discourse, its development, and divergent views of the process. Emphasis will be on theories of globalization and related ideas about its forms, patterns, inequalities and other pertinent social, economic, political, and environmental issues and policies. We will also address globalization's sustainability. A core concern will be emergence of the global neoliberal policy regime - its organization, contradictions, social, cultural, and environmental costs, its erosion and current crisis, and alternative future scenarios.

SOC 803 Issues in Contemporary Theory: Cultural Theory**Brian Donovan**

This seminar surveys major themes and debates in cultural theory, focusing primarily on scholarship generated in the last 50 years. Throughout the semester, we will critically engage with core issues in cultural theory: the role of culture in social reproduction; the status of meaning, agency, and structure in cultural analysis; the relationships among power, domination, and resistance; the processes by which cultural forms are socially created and received; the relationship between culture and historical change; and methodological issues that shape sociological studies of culture. We will read texts from the following theorists; Theodor Adorno, Jurgen Habermas, Nancy Fraser, Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Judith Butler, and Jeffrey Alexander.

SOC 891 Individual Master's Readings**Faculty**

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a master's degree.

SOC 899 Thesis**Faculty****SOC 910 Seminar on Special Topics in Methods: Qualitative****Shirley Hill**

This graduate seminar will acquaint students with a wide variety of qualitative research methods. We will begin by discussing the historic use of qualitative research in sociology, the theoretical/ epistemological foundations of qualitative research, and social research ethics. We will then devote our time to exploring a variety of specific qualitative research methods and developing/advancing our own individual research projects. This course will require you to write a research proposal and collect some preliminary qualitative data.

SOC 980/780 Special Topics in Sociology: Critical Perspectives in Medical Sociology**Mary Zimmerman**

This course examines how societies interpret and respond to disease, illness and health through 1) systems of meanings and the cultural patterns of behavior related to them and 2) social structural arrangements such as policy frameworks and institutions, including the various occupations and professions that support these arrangements. How these health-related mechanisms serve as institutions of social control is also considered. Current health care arrangements are considered from two distinct perspectives: as a set of market commodities (part of the economy) and as elements of human welfare (part of a system of basic social services, much like public education). To assist in providing students with a critical perspective, the course emphasizes comparative analysis and the significance of historical patterns, recognizing that the resulting arrangements that constitute our health care system today are, in part, contested and look the way they do because of long term struggles among interest groups. In addition to offering a specific perspective, the course covers major concepts, theories and a sampling of related research studies from the medical sociology literature so that students have an overview of the entire field.

SOC 980/780 Advanced Topics in Sociology: Sociology of Race**Jessica Vasquez**

This graduate seminar critically examines how race is a fundamental feature of social life and social organization. "Race" refers to the way societies have historically, as now, divided and categorized people according to perceived physical differences and assigned meanings (of intelligence, worth, morality, etc.) to those categories. We will pay particular attention to 1) how race is a socially constructed category that permits and restricts access to resources (e.g., citizenship, socioeconomic status, education); 2) the ways race intersects with other axes of stratification and difference (e.g., gender, class, and nation); and 3) the social structures, institutions, and discourses that reproduce racial inequality.

SOC 990 PH.D Proseminar**Eric Hanley**

Survey of major disciplinary issues and introduction to departmental research specialties, faculty research interests, interdisciplinary connections, funding sources, and professional writing. Required of Ph.D. students entering the graduate program in sociology. May not be taken by those who have credit for SOC 790. Graded on satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

SOC 991 Individual Doctoral Readings

Individual study of special topics or problems by students working on a doctoral degree.

Faculty

SOC 999 Dissertation

Faculty

5/27/09