SOCIOLOGY

Overview and Contact Information
Sociology is the systematic study of society and social relations. Sociology majors develop the critical tools to theoretically and comparatively understand social trends and problems, grasp the intersection of self and society, and analyze empirical data. They read the works of major sociological thinkers, from the classical figures who founded the discipline to contemporary theorists of society. The major requires courses in research methods and sociological theory. The faculty also offers classes in criminology, collective behavior and social movements, the sociology of gender, social inequality, political sociology, race and ethnic relations, and the sociology of media.

Contact Information
Kenneth Tucker, Chair
Michelle Pietras, Academic Department Coordinator
102 Porter Hall
413-538-2283
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/sociology

Faculty
This area of study is administered by the Sociology faculty:
Richard Moran, Professor of Sociology
Eleanor Townsley, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Sociology; Director of Nexus
Kenneth Tucker, Helen P. Bibbero Professor of Sociology
Patricia Banks, Associate Professor of Sociology, On Leave 2018-2019
Ayca Zayim, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Teaching Spring Only
Timothy Malacarne, Visiting Assistant Professor of Data Science
Nicole Michaud Wild, Visiting Lecturer in Sociology and Anthropology

Requirements for the Major
A minimum of 36 credits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI-123</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 credits at the 300 level</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 additional credits above the 100 level</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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<td>36</td>
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1 SOCI-223 and SOCI-225 should be completed as early as possible but certainly by the end of the junior year.

Requirements for the Minor
A minimum of 20 credits:

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Course Offerings

SOCI-123 Introduction to Sociology
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course uses a sociological framework to examine the nature and structure of modern industrial societies. To identify central trends in society and culture, this course covers several basic themes, such as social inequality and social interaction, that have appeared repeatedly in the works of major social thinkers.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
N. Michaud Wild, C. Sever, E. Townsley

SOCI-131 The Numbers Game: How Data Shapes and Explains Our Social World
Spring. Credits: 4
This course gives students a basic introduction to sociological concepts and the way in which they can be studied using data analytic methods. It introduces students to basic data analytic coding. This will focus on one form of analysis (most likely text analysis), but the course aims to give students a reading familiarity with other forms of data analysis. Along with traditional sociological concepts like structure vs. agency and stratification, this course will introduce students to the idea that numbers, data, statistics, and their graphical representations are not necessarily neutral arbiters of truth, but rather important parts of the social construction of how we understand the world.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
T. Malacarne

SOCI-214 Race in America: Inequality, Immigration, and Other Issues
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
From the Black Lives Matter movement to debates about immigration and a color-blind America, race and ethnicity are at the forefront of contemporary public discourse. In this course students will be introduced to the various sociological perspectives and theoretical frameworks used to understand racial and ethnic relations in the United States. Racial and ethnic identities remain an important aspect of how people view themselves and others. In this course, we will discuss the dynamics of individual racial and ethnic groups including African Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and White Americans. We will also examine what the concepts of race and ethnicity mean and how they affect various aspects of American society.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
P. Banks
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Additional Specifications
- Please note: Proposal deadlines are strictly enforced for independent study at the SOCI-295 and SOCI-395 levels.
SOCI-216 Special Topics in Sociology

SOCI-216CC Special Topics in Sociology: 'Cults, Conspiracies, and Moral Panics'  
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Using case studies such as the Eugenics Movement, Jonestown, and the Kennedy Assassination, this course will examine how distrust of the government, originally motivated by logical concerns, has transformed the way people think about power in the postmodern era. The class will explore the difference between rational questioning of authority and blind distrust that leads to questionable claims. Through topics such as the War on Drugs, this class shows how the powerful are able to use biases and public fears to carry out their own, often counterproductive, measures. These case studies have issues like race and class at their core. We will examine how certain social issues have managed to endure.  
Crosslisted as: CST-249CC  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
E. Townsley  
Prereq: SOCI-123.

SOCI-216MC Special Topics in Sociology: 'Sociology of Medicine'  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course provides a philosophical and sociological interpretation of various aspects of the field of medicine. Topics include measurement of variations in rates of disease and their relationship to social characteristics and social structure, systems of care and hospitalization, and ethical concerns. Topics include death, abortion, human genome sequencing, and assisted suicide.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
R. Moran  
Prereq: SOCI-123.

SOCI-216MD Special Topics in Sociology: 'Sociology of Media'  
Fall. Credits: 4
This course explores the social organization of mass media systems as well as the various factors – cultural, economic and political – that have influenced their development. It asks: what is the connection between mass media and the large modern, democratic societies we inhabit? The first part of the course examines the historical development of mass media and the social theories that sought to interpret and explain its social impact. The second part considers the political and economic factors that structure contemporary mass media, paying particular attention to media deregulation and conglomeramation. In the third part of the course, we explore the emergence of newer media forms such as the internet and digital/satellite television.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
E. Townsley  
Prereq: SOCI-123.

SOCI-216SC Issues in Sociology: 'Sociology of Culture'  
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
What is “culture”? How has it changed over time? This course examines the definition (including religion, language, food, etc.), the social settings in which culture is produced, and the products of culture we consume (literature, film, music, painting, theatre, fashion, popular magazines, graffiti, and television, etc.). Course topics include: how to analyze culture and who produces it, the forces shaping markets for artistic objects and performances, politics and culture, the effects of censorship, globalization, and class differences.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
N. Michaud Wild  
Prereq: Sociology 123.

Fall. Credits: 4
Social networks are much more than the people you know on Facebook and Twitter. They affect everything from political beliefs to health outcomes to professional success. This course asks, “What are social networks?” and examines their impact on contemporary life. Students will develop the analytical skills to understand the formation, evolution, and significance of different relationship structures and the way they shape individuals’ lives.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
T. Malacarne  
Prereq: 4 credits in Sociology.

SOCI-223 Development of Social Thought  
Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines the origins and development of sociological theory in the nineteenth century. Focusing on the three most important representatives of the classical tradition in sociology - Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim - we consider in detail the ideas of each, compare their perspectives on emerging industrial society, and assess their contemporary significance.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
K. Tucker  
Prereq: SOCI-123 or ANTH-105.

SOCI-225 Social Science Research and Data Analysis  
Spring. Credits: 4
This course is an introduction to the use of quantitative data in sociology. It focuses on the ways in which data is collected, analyzed, and presented to make sociological arguments. It introduces various tools to describe data for single variables, explore relationships between pairs of variables, and make statistical inferences. Students will learn basic skills to conduct their own social science research and analyze data using statistical software. The aim of the course is to allow students to conduct elementary statistical analyses on their own and become critical readers of statistical evidence.  
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement  
A. Zayim  
Restrictions: This course is offered to Sociology majors only.

SOCI-231 Criminology  
Fall. Credits: 4
This course focuses on the historical and theoretical development of the major approaches to crime and criminality. Criminology began in the second half of the nineteenth century when its pioneers asked the ‘big questions’ pertaining to crime, society, and human nature. As criminology progressed, it narrowed its focus, concentrating on special areas, such as violent crime and property crime. As sociology began to dominate criminology, new theories were developed to explain the social facts gathered in the last 50 years.  
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
R. Moran  
Prereq: 4 credits in Sociology department.
SOCI-234 Social Problems

*Spring.* Credits: 4

This is a course on the social construction of social problems. It devotes almost exclusive attention to how a 'problem' becomes a social problem; examining how atypical cases become regarded as typical; how definitions are expanded to inflate statistics; and how claim makers and advocacy groups manipulate the media to market social problems and solutions to the public.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

R. Moran  
*Prereq: SOCI-123.*

SOCI-240 Collective Behavior and Social Movements

*Spring.* Credits: 4

This course examines instances of organized collective action in social, historical, and empirical contexts, from the labor movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to the new social movements of today. We also explore various forms of unstructured protest, such as riots and demonstrations.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

K. Tucker  
*Prereq: SOCI-123.*

SOCI-295 Independent Study

*Fall and Spring.* Credits: 1 - 4

The department  
*Instructor permission required.*

SOCI-316 Special Topics in Sociology

SOCI-316BL Special Topics in Sociology: 'Black Cultural Production and Consumption'

*Not Scheduled for This Year.* Credits: 4

This course explores black cultural production and consumption in the United States using a sociological lens. The central focus is how the production and consumption of cultural objects such as visual art, music, and television reproduce and erode racial boundaries. Topics include the construction of racial identity through consumption; representations of blacks in the media; and the impact of cultural tastes and preferences on black achievement.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

P. Banks  
*Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors*

SOCI-316DG Special Topics in Sociology: 'Sociology of Development and Globalization'

*Spring.* Credits: 4

This course investigates economic development and globalization through a sociological lens. What is development? Why and how has the idea of development changed over time? Which development policies has this promoted, and with what consequences on people's lives in developing countries? Based on case studies across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, the course examines economic, political, and institutional factors that inform global development processes from post-WWII to the present. As we discuss challenges to the neoliberal development paradigm, students will gain a critical perspective on contemporary issues such as environmental damage, global inequality, and poverty.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

A. Zayim  
*Prereq: 8 credits in sociology.*

SOCI-316NQ Special Topics in Sociology: 'Organizations and Inequality'

*Spring.* Credits: 4

In Organizations and Inequality, we analyze how organizations create, reproduce, and also potentially challenge social inequalities. Drawing on different organizational perspectives, students will engage the challenges of ethical action in a complex world marked by competing rationalities and deep inequalities. Students will also research an organization of which they are a member and develop their own case study.

*Crosslisted as: EOS-349NQ*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

E. Townsley  
*Prereq: SOCI-123.*

SOCI-316NT Special Topics in Sociology: 'Social Network Analysis: Analyzing Who You Know and How It Matters'

*Spring.* Credits: 4

Social networks analysis investigates social structures by looking at the actors in a system and the relationships between them. It's techniques can be used to map everything from Facebook friendship networks to the connections between corporate boards to status hierarchies in monkeys. In this class, students will learn the practical skills needed to do their own network analysis. The course uses R, but no prior programming experience is required.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

T. Malacarne  
*Prereq: Any 200- or 300-level Sociology course or ECON-220.*

SOCI-316PS Special Topics in Sociology: 'Intellectuals, Digital Media, and the Public Sphere'

*Not Scheduled for This Year.* Credits: 4

This research seminar investigates how different kinds of stories unfold in contemporary public spheres. How do we make sense of pressing matters of common concern? It asks: what are the effects of a pervasive cultural distrust in social institutions, the widespread mediatization of everyday life, and the intercultural and intertextual nature of media texts themselves? Drawing from foundational texts about the role of intellectuals and the public sphere, students will be asked to develop an empirical case study to explore these questions and test their ideas.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

E. Townsley  
*Prereq: 4 credits in Sociology.*

SOCI-316SC Special Topics in Sociology: 'Sociology of Culture'

*Not Scheduled for This Year.* Credits: 4

What is "culture"? How has it changed over time? This course examines the definition (including religion, language, food, etc.), the social settings in which culture is produced, and the products of culture we consume (literature, film, music, painting, theatre, fashion, popular magazines, graffiti, and television, etc.). Course topics include: how to analyze culture and who produces it, the forces shaping markets for artistic objects and performances, politics and culture, the effects of censorship, globalization, and class differences.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

N. Michaud Wild  
*Prereq: SOCI-123.*
SOCI-316SY Special Topics in Sociology: 'The Business of Culture: Marketing & Selling Symbolic Goods'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course investigates the creative economy through a sociological lens. Through case studies of various creative industries, as well as examination of the creative sector as a whole, we will examine how the cultural economy influences, and is influenced by, social phenomena. We will explore issues such as how value is produced in the field of fashion modeling, how music and other creative industries drive urban economies, how local crafts enter global markets, and how norms and values influence the adoption of e-commerce in the market for fine art.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
P. Banks
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

SOCI-316UC Special Topics in Sociology: 'Wrongful and Unlawful Convictions in Capital Cases'
Spring. Credits: 4
The Death Penalty in America: Unjustly Convicted Death Row Inmates. This course will examine in detail the cases of all 130 death row inmates exonerated in the post-Furman era (1976-2009). It will focus on how the 130 men ended up on death row, as well as the process by which they gained their freedom. In addition, the course will spotlight the many proposals, videotaped police interrogations, eyewitness identifications, forensic science procedures, etc., designed to correct sources of mistakes; and assess their likelihood of successfully preventing both unjust and wrongful convictions in capital cases.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
R. Moran
Prereq: SOCI-123.

SOCI-316WT Special Topics in Sociology: ‘Sociology of 9/11 and the War on Terror’
Fall. Credits: 4
We will explore the cultural and political impact of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The media’s role in constructing meanings will be a main organizing focus of the course. Using readings, discussions, assignments, and films, the course will allow students to form a picture of how 9/11 changed America and beyond. Course topics include: the way the mainstream media constructed 9/11 and alternate ways they could have; how popular culture and the Public Sphere responded; complex historical factors leading up to 9/11; reasons the attackers say they committed the attacks; ways the event changed culture and politics in the world; conspiracy theories.
Crosslisted as: CST-349WT
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
N. Michaud Wild
Prereq: 8 Credits in Sociology.

SOCI-317ST Topics in Contemporary Social Thought
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This seminar examines some recent developments in cultural sociology and contemporary social theory. The first part of the class asks: How do we imagine social things? The second part of the class reviews the history of social theory with a focus on the multiple crises of the modernity narrative, and various attempts to resolve these crises. The final third of the class poses the question of how to analyze culture and "do" social theory.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
E. Townsley
Prereq: 8 credits in Sociology.
Advisory: Some familiarity with social theory is required (for example: Sociology 223 or some substitute).

SOCI-324 Class in the Black Community
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course explores class in the black community from a sociological perspective. It focuses on how race fosters commonalities and how class fuels differences among blacks. We will examine the nature of these commonalities and differences within several contexts, such as neighborhoods, politics, work, and culture.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
P. Banks
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

SOCI-327 Social Inequality
Fall. Credits: 4
This course is a critical survey of theoretical and empirical research on social inequality, stratification, and mobility. The central focus is class, race, and gender inequalities as they have changed during the post-World War II period in the United States (although we will look briefly at stratification regimes in other cultures and time periods). The concepts and methods of social stratification have wide application in sociology, economics, public policy, and administration contexts. As the course progresses, we will explore some of these applications as we wrestle with several policy issues currently confronting U.S. society.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
K. Tucker
Prereq: SOCI-123 and 4 credits in the department.

SOCI-333 Contemporary Social Theory
Spring. Credits: 4
In this critical survey of the main theoretical perspectives in contemporary sociology, we focus specifically on structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, critical theory, feminism, and postmodernism. Besides gaining familiarity with these alternative perspectives, we try to identify the main axes of theoretical dispute in sociology and discuss the problems of evaluating and resolving conflict between theories.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
K. Tucker
Prereq: SOCI-223, 8 credits in sociology.
SOCI-350 Sociology of Punishment

Fall. Credits: 4
This seminar covers the social history of punishment, beginning with the birth of the prison in the late eighteenth century and continuing to the present. Emphasis on the shift in philosophy from public to private punishment, prison reform movements, and the death penalty.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
R. Moran
Prereq: 8 credits in Sociology.

SOCI-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.