

# SOCIOLOGY

493 College Street, 203.432.3323  
<http://sociology.yale.edu>  
 M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

## Chair

Emily Erikson

## Director of Graduate Studies

Jonathan Wyrzten

**Professors** Julia Adams, Rene Almeling, Elijah Anderson, Scott Boorman, Nicholas Christakis, Emily Erikson, Philip Gorski, Grace Kao, Philip Smith, Jonathan Wyrzten

**Associate Professors** Rourke O'Brien

**Assistant Professors** Angel Escamilla Garcia, Yuan Hsaio, Yagmur Karakaya, Daniel Karell, Alka Menon, Ramina Sotoudeh, Emma Zang

## FIELDS OF STUDY

Fields include comparative sociology/macrosociology; cultural and historical sociology; economic sociology; life course/social stratification; mathematical sociology; medical sociology; methodology (qualitative and quantitative approaches); networks; political sociology; race/gender/ethnic/minority relations; social change; social demography; social movements; theory (general, critical, hermeneutic); urban sociology.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Qualification for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. will take place during the student's first three years of study at Yale. A student who has not been admitted to candidacy will not be permitted to register for the seventh term of study. To qualify for candidacy the student must take twelve seminars to be completed in years one and two: four required courses (SOCY 542, SOCY 578, SOCY 580, SOCY 581) and eight electives, including at least one workshop. After completion of courses, students prepare a research paper and one field exam and defend a dissertation prospectus.

Teaching is an important part of the professional preparation of graduate students in Sociology. Students teach therefore in the third and fourth years of study.

## COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

### *Sociology and African American Studies*

The Department of Sociology offers, in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies, a combined Ph.D. degree in Sociology and African American Studies.

Students accepted to the combined Ph.D. program must meet all of the requirements of the Ph.D. in Sociology with the exception that, excluding the courses required, a research paper, and a field exam, combined-degree students may substitute African American Studies courses for six of the twelve term courses required to qualify for the Ph.D. in Sociology. For further details, see African American Studies.

## *Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*

The Department of Sociology also offers, in conjunction with the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, a combined Ph.D. in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. For further details, see Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

### MASTER'S DEGREES

**M.Phil.** See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

**M.A.** Students who withdraw from the Ph.D. program may be eligible to receive the M.A. degree if they have met the requirements and have not already received the M.Phil. degree. For the M.A., students must successfully complete eight term courses, two of which must include statistics and theory. A grade of High Pass or Honors must be achieved in five of the eight required courses. Candidates in combined programs will be awarded the M.A. only when the master's degree requirements for both programs have been met.

Program materials are available at <http://sociology.yale.edu>.

### COURSES

**SOCY 503a / PLSC 522a, Archival Methods and Historical Approaches in the Social Sciences** Jonny Steinberg

The aim of the course is to equip students to navigate different sorts of archives, to interpret archival material, and to survey debates in the social sciences about using historical material and theory to build arguments.

**SOCY 508b / PLSC 505b, Qualitative Field Research** Egor Lazarev

In this seminar we discuss and practice qualitative field research methods. The course covers the basic techniques for collecting, interpreting, and analyzing ethnographic data, with an emphasis on the core ethnographic techniques of participant observation and in-depth interviewing. All participants carry out a local research project. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

**SOCY 542a, Sociological Theory** Emily Erikson

The course seeks to give students the conceptual tools for a constructive engagement with sociological theory and theorizing. We trace the genealogies of dominant theoretical approaches and explore the ways in which theorists contend with these approaches when confronting the central questions of both modernity and the discipline.

**SOCY 554a, Research Topics on Human Nature and Social Networks** Nicholas Christakis

This seminar focuses on ongoing research projects in human nature, behavior genetics, social interactions, and social networks.

**SOCY 560a / PLSC 734a, Comparative Research Workshop** Jonathan Wrytzen

This weekly workshop is dedicated to group discussion of work-in-progress by visiting scholars, Yale graduate students, and in-house faculty from Sociology and affiliated disciplines. Papers are distributed a week ahead of time and also posted on the website of the Center for Comparative Research (<http://ccr.yale.edu>). Students who are enrolled for credit are expected to present a paper-in-progress.

**SOCY 580a, Introduction to Methods in Quantitative Sociology** Staff

Introduction to methods in quantitative sociological research. Covers data description; graphical approaches; elementary probability theory; bivariate and multivariate linear regression; regression diagnostics. Includes hands-on data analysis using Stata.

**SOCY 595a, Stratification and Inequality Workshop** Ramina Sotoudeh

In this workshop we present and discuss ongoing empirical research work, primarily but not exclusively quantitative analyses. In addition, we address theoretical and methodological issues in the areas of the life course (education, training, labor markets, aging, as well as family demography), social inequality (class structures, stratification, and social mobility), and related topics.

**SOCY 598a, Independent Study** Rourke O'Brien

By arrangement with faculty. When students register for the course online, the dropdown menu should be completed.

**SOCY 605b / WGSS 570b, LGBTQ Population Health** John Pachankis

Sexual and gender minority individuals (e.g., those who identify as LGBTQ) represent a key health disparity population in the United States and worldwide, but high-quality evidence of this problem has historically been slow to accumulate. This course engages students in critically examining today's rapidly expanding empirical knowledge regarding sexual and gender minority health by considering challenges to, and opportunities for, conducting this research with methodological rigor. Students consider social and ecological influences on sexual and gender minority health, including migration, community, and neighborhood influences. Social institutions, including religion, school, family, and close relationships, are examined as sources of both stress and support. Given the relevance of individual and collective identity and stress as mechanisms through which stigma impacts sexual and gender minority health, the empirical platform of the course is complemented by intersectionality theory, critical postmodern work on identity fluidity and multiplicity across the life course, and minority stress conceptualizations of health. Students apply lessons learned in the course to evaluating and developing policy and health care interventions for this increasingly visible segment of the global population. *Also SBS 570.*

**SOCY 617a / ANTH 541a / ENV 836a / HIST 965a / PLSC 779a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development** Jonathan Wyrzten and Elisabeth Wood

An interdisciplinary examination of agrarian societies, contemporary and historical, Western and non-Western. Major analytical perspectives from anthropology, economics, history, political science, and environmental studies are used to develop a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of the transformations of rural society. Team-taught.

**SOCY 624a, Sociology of International Migration: U.S. and Global Perspectives**

Angel Escamilla Garcia

The study of international migration in sociology is today a well-established field that has studied almost every corner of the planet, expanding both our classic sociological theories and concepts but also generating new ones. This graduate course explores recent sociological scholarship on sociology of international immigration from both a U.S. and a global perspective. During this class we cover diverse topics of relevance in the field of international migration: the evolution of immigration theories, social

construction of immigrants, the methods that sociologists employ to study international migration, the tensions between the categories that we use to study international migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, structural factors in transnational migration, globalized borders, immigrant incorporation, transnationalism, and changing attitudes influencing immigration policies. The discussions during class integrate diverse sociological themes like gender, race, economics, nationalism, nativism, culture, religion, crime, and social inequality. During the course we review the work of sociologists of sociology of migration conducted around the world like Eritrea, Vietnam, India, Mexico, China, France, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. The main objective of this course is to provide the students with a global perspective of the field of international migration and use this literature for their own projects.

**SOCY 625a, Analysis of Social Structure** Scott Boorman

Emphasizing analytically integrated viewpoints, the course develops a variety of major contemporary approaches to the study of social structure and social organization. Building in part on research viewpoints articulated by Kenneth J. Arrow in *The Limits of Organization* (1974), by János Kornai in an address at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences published in 1984, and by Harrison C. White in *Identity and Control* (2nd ed., 2008), four major species of social organization are identified as focal: (1) social networks, (2) competitive markets, (3) hierarchies/bureaucracy, and (4) collective choice/legislation. This lecture course uses mathematical and computational models—and comparisons of their scientific styles and contributions—as analytical vehicles in coordinated development of the four species.

**SOCY 628a, Workshop in Cultural Sociology** Yagmur Karakaya and Philip Smith

This workshop is designed to be a continuous part of the graduate curriculum. Meeting weekly throughout both the fall and spring terms, it constitutes an ongoing, informal seminar to explore areas of mutual interest among students and faculty, both visiting and permanent. The core concern of the workshop is social meaning and its forms and processes of institutionalization. Meaning is approached as both structure and performance, drawing not only on the burgeoning area of cultural sociology but on the humanities, philosophy, and other social sciences. Discussions range widely among methodological, theoretical, empirical, and normative issues. Sessions alternate between presentations by students of their own work and by visitors. Contents of the workshop vary from term to term, and from year to year. Enrollment is open to auditors who fully participate and for credit to students who submit written work.

**SOCY 630a / AFAM 773a, Workshop in Urban Ethnography** Elijah Anderson

The ethnographic interpretation of urban life and culture. Conceptual and methodological issues are discussed. Ongoing projects of participants are presented in a workshop format, thus providing participants with critical feedback as well as the opportunity to learn from and contribute to ethnographic work in progress. Selected ethnographic works are read and assessed.

**SOCY 653a, Workshop in Advanced Sociological Writing and Research** Philip Smith

This class concerns the process of advanced writing and research that converts draft material into work ready for publication, preferably in refereed journals, or submission as a substantial grant proposal. It investigates problem definition, the craft of writing, the structure of argument and data presentation, and the nature of persuasion more generally. The aim is to teach a professional orientation that allows work that is promising to become truly polished and compelling within the full range of sociological

genres. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor; participants must enter the class with suitable draft material for group analysis and discussion.

**SOCY 656a, Professional Seminar** Jonathan Wyrzten

This required seminar aims at introducing incoming sociology graduate students to the department and the profession. Yale Sociology faculty members are invited to discuss their research. There are minimum requirements, such as writing a book review. No grades are given; students should take for Audit. Held biweekly.

**SOCY 661a / ANTH 553a / CPLT 503a / GMAN 553a, Karl Marx's Capital** Paul North

A careful reading of Karl Marx's classic critique of capitalism, *Capital* volume 1, a work of philosophy, political economy, and critical social theory that has had a significant global readership for over 150 years. Selected readings also from *Capital* volumes 2 and 3.