Undergraduate Sociology Courses at NIU*

*Some courses not offered every semester

- **SOCI 170. Introduction to Sociology (3):** Basic survey of major substantive areas within sociology including key contributions to our understanding of the complex social world.
- **SOCI 250. Contemporary Social Institutions (3):** Examination of the continuity, interrelationships and change in social organization & institutions in American & other societies.
- **SOCI 260. Introduction to Social Psychology (3):** How people are socialized in terms of the norms & values of their societies & how norms & values influence societal change, introducing students to the basic research & methods of sociological psychological inquiry.
- **SOCI 270. Social Problems (3):** Why social problems occur & how society can work toward correcting them. Exploration of how different value premises & social theories lead to distinctive ways of addressing social problems such as poverty, crime, homelessness, intergroup conflicts and sexual identity discrimination.
- **SOCI 288. Criminology (3):** Examination of the nature of crime & delinquency, crime statistics & criminal behavior.
- **SOCI 289. The Criminal Justice System (3):** Overview of the relationship among the system’s parts, including law, police, courts, prisons and other agencies of coercive control.
- **SOCI 290. Fields of Social Work (3):** Fields & opportunities of social work in public and private social agencies. Descriptive comparison of the types of social work, including case work & group work.
- **SOCI 300. Foundations of Sociology (3):** Fundamentals of theory, methods & scholarly writing as they apply to a sociological perspective.
- **SOCI 301. Classical Sociological Theory (3):** Examination of the major theorists & varied approaches to social phenomena form the 19th and 20th centuries that gave rise to the discipline of sociology.
- **SOCI 302. Contemporary Sociological Theory (3):** Examination of the contemporary sociological theories and theorists, with special attention paid to the development of theory from the mid-20th century onward.
- **SOCI 335. Migration (3):** Examines the national & international dynamics of migration, the causes & effects of migration, migration policies and the experiences of immigrant communities in the United States & beyond.
- **SOCI 329x. International NGO’s and Globalization (3):** Review of the history of international nongovernmental organizations (NGO’s), particularly changes since the advent of neoliberal globalization beginning in the late 1980s that heralded an NGO boom. Examination of the political roles of NGO’s and challenges negotiating multiple relationships with communities, governments and social movements.
- **SOCI 352. Population (3):** Structure & characteristics of fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration and change. Discussions of policies of developing & developed countries.
- **SOCI 353. Sociology of Education (3):** Relationship of the educational system to the social structure; changing function of education in society; impact of education on technological changes & social mobility.
- **SOCI 354. Families & Social Change (3):** Introduction to family sociological & historical research, focusing on the diversity & adaptability of families in changing contemporary American society.
- **SOCI 355. Sociology of Religion (3):** Development of religious groups & institutions; cultural variation in religious beliefs & behavior.
- **SOCI 356. Health, Aging & Society (3):** Examination of the social aspects of health & aging. Topics include inequality in morbidity, mortality and the aging process, the social organization of health & aging services.
- **SOCI 357. The Sociology of Gender (3):** Introduction to the current body of theory & research on gender from a critical social science perspective. Evaluates differences between biological maleness & femaleness and the social construction of contemporary gender identity.
- **SOCI 358. Racial & Ethnic Minority Families (3):** Examination & comparison of the diversity of family life among racial / ethnic groups in the United States, focusing on the impact of historical colonization, immigration, assimilation patterns and gender relations within these communities.
- **SOCI 361. Race & Ethnicity (3):** Analysis of the social cultural patterns that structure the lives of ethnic and racial groups in American society; impact of social change & conflict upon minority-majority relations.
- **SOCI 363. Sociology of the Military (3):** Analysis of the impact of military institutions & war upon nations & international relations.
- **SOCI 364. Environmental Sociology (3):** Relationship of the physical environment to human behavior & social structure, including topics such as population, urbanization, technological development, energy resources & natural disasters.
- **SOCI 370. History of Social Thought (3):** Survey of Greco-Roman, medieval & modern philosophies leading to the origin of sociology in the 19th century. Analysis of the social & political ideas of selected thinkers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes & Marx.
- **SOCI 375. Sociology of Organizations (3):** Application of various sociological theories in explaining structures of organizations & behaviors of individuals within organizations.
- **SOCI 377A. Sociological Inquiry I (4):** The logic, philosophy and ethics of scientific inquiry applied to understanding social phenomena, including an introduction to ethnographic methods such as field observation, focus groups, in-depth interviewing and comparison of methods.
- **SOCI 377B. Sociological Inquiry II (4):** Review of the logic, philosophy and ethics of scientific inquiry. Introduction to hypothesis construction & testing, sampling techniques, experiment design, survey methods & quantitative data analysis.
SOCI 380. Deviance in Society (3): Social deviance as a concept, including theory & research in mechanisms of social control, the social construction of norms and norm violation as well as societal reactions to deviant behavior.

SOCI 384. Police in a Democratic Society (3): Examination of the police, their organization and their functions with attention to political & social factors that affect their activities

SOCI 386. Peace & Social Justice (3): Analysis of the nature, origins and types of social conflict & violence, examining the social cultural sources of war & peace as well as the process & conditions for peaceful resolution to conflicts.

SOCI 388. Punishment & Corrections (3): History of punishment & corrections, with emphasis on the administration & functions of prisons, including custody, institutional programs & inmate subcultures.

SOCI 390. Internship in Sociology (3): Work as an intern in an agency engaged in activities related to sociology. Readings & the preparation of a paper under the supervision of a faculty member in the department. May be repeated up to 6 credit hours.

SOCI 392. Organizing for Social Action (3): Social problem analysis & organizing skills for societal change; strategies of community organization & social protest movements

SOCI 395. Contemporary Topics in Sociology (3): Selected topics in the analysis of contemporary social phenomena. Topics vary each semester. May be taken a total of three times as topic changes. Enrollment in multiple sections of SOCI 395 in a semester is permitted.

SOCI 441. The Urban Community (3): Growth of cities; urban structures & urban interaction; influence of demographic factors & social change on urban forms; social problems & planning in urban areas.

SOCI 450. Social Inequality (3): The causes & consequences of multiple sources of inequality across social institutions & social locations.

SOCI 451. Medical Sociology (3): In-depth examination of health, illness & medical care from a sociological perspective. Attention given to the structure of social relationships & how they relate to health, illness and the medical institutions in society.

SOCI 457. Families in Global Perspective (3): Examination & comparison of the diverse family institutions in selected societies, focusing on economic, sociodemographic & cultural factors that are essential in shaping the changing forms, functions & internal dynamics of families & households.

SOCI 458. Sociology of Work (3): A critical analysis of work in a capitalist system including issues of mobility, discrimination, wages, accreditation & bureaucratization

SOCI 459. Political Sociology (3): Examines the interface of politics & society with an emphasis on the linkages of political institutions & other social institutions, in particular, power structures, the role of the state & political & social elites.

SOCI 460. Social Structure & the Life Course (3): Aging as a lifelong process of development through socially structured, historically conditioned stages. Topics include cohort differences, role transitions, intergenerational relations & age norms.
- **SOCI 463. Topics in Social Psychology (3):** Treatment of recent developments in social psychology. Possible topics include social influence processes, attitude formation & change, leadership, group-dynamics, personality in social structures & person perception & attribution processes.

- **SOCI 464. Sociology of Mental Health & Illness (3):** Examination of the definition, experience & social distribution of mental health & illness, particularly in the United States.

- **SOCI 465. Sociology of Everyday Life (3):** Uses symbolic interactionist theory to examine the ways in which taken-for-granted aspects of everyday life such as public space, the workplace, home & family and popular culture are shaped by microlevel processes.

- **SOCI 475. Health Organizations & Health Care Systems (3):** Social structure & social relations in provider settings, including hospitals, public health, ambulatory care & nursing homes.

- **SOCI 476. Seminar in Sociological Research Methods (4):** Selected areas of sociological research methods including survey methods, experimental methods, quantitative methods, field methods, multimethods & evaluation research methods. May be repeated up to 8 credit hours as the topic changes.

- **SOCI 480. Communities & Crime (3):** Examination of the various theories & empirical research regarding the community context of crime, criminality & crime prevention.

- **SOCI 482. Sociology of Death & Dying (3):** Systematic study of the last stage of the life course from a sociological perspective, including the social organization of dying & death across time & culture.

- **SOCI 485. Law & Society (3):** Law as a social institution, including the origins of law & its relationship to other social institutions, social control & social change.


- **SOCI 488. Juvenile Delinquency (3):** Social & psychological factors in delinquent behavior, including causation, prevention, rehabilitation.

- **SOCI 490. Independent Study in Sociology (1-3):** Special readings & topics in sociology. May be repeated up to 6 credit hours.

- **SOCI 492. Comparative Criminology (3):** Historical & comparative analysis of crime & the criminal justice system in Europe, the United States, developing countries & socialist countries.

- **SOCI 495. Proseminar in Sociology (3):** Selected topics in sociology introduced in response to timely events and/or circumstances or as specialized knowledge in a content area of the discipline. May be repeated up to 6 credit hours as the topic changes.

- **SOCI 496x. History & Social Science Instruction in Grades 6-12 (3):** Organization & presentation of materials for history & social science courses at the middle school, junior high & senior high school levels.