

Graduate seminars represent an important opportunity for high-achieving, engaged undergraduate students to work intensively in an area of their academic interest and see how they respond to the challenges of graduate-level work. Graduate seminars will have more comprehensive reading lists than are typical in undergraduate classes and involve in-depth, analytical discussion of the theoretical and empirical subjects explored in readings. Graduate seminar papers may give ambitious undergraduates an excellent grounding for undergraduate thesis research and writing, as well as enhance their writing samples for applications to graduate or professional school or applying for fellowships.

If you are interested in adding a graduate seminar to your class schedule, you will need to contact the instructor for a permission number. It would be helpful to the instructor if you provide a little background to your interest – your major, relevant upper-level courses taken, if you are an honors student, and how the seminar would let you build on your previous studies or build toward a goal (your thesis, perhaps). If you're interested in the possibility of doing something, but aren't sure which one, you may get in touch with one of the departmental Honors Advisors <http://honors.uconn.edu/honors-advising/current-advisors/>.

The following departments offer graduate courses that may have seats available to qualified Honors students and other high achieving undergraduates. Students should contact the professor for more information and to request a permission number.

Further details about graduate courses in particular departments are listed below.

- [Public Policy](#)
- [Sociology](#)

Public Policy

The Department of Public Policy is based in West Hartford, but teaches both in West Hartford and at Storrs. Several graduate seminar taught on the Storrs campus may interest Honors students. Honors students may contact the director of the MPA Program, Professor Bill Simonsen (William.Simonsen@uconn.edu) to request a permission number: make clear that you are an Honors student, outline your relevant background and/or experience, and very briefly explain your interest in taking the course.

PP 5327 Analysis for Management Decision Making

Instructor: Beth Neary, Public Policy

Class #11803, Th 5:00-7:30, 3 credits

Analytic approaches to decision making in a public management environment.

(Meets with PP 3098-002. Honors students may request permission to take the graduate section and earn Honors credit.)

PP 5340 Introduction to Public Policy

Instructor: Deneen Hatmaker, Public Policy

Class #111797, M 5:00-7:30, 3 credits

Introduction to the fundamentals of public policy making in the United States with a focus on developing the communication skills required in a professional workplace.

(Meets with PP 3020W. Honors students may request permission to take the graduate section and earn Honors credit.)

PP 5397 Special Topics in Public Policy: Managing Public Money

Instructor: William Simonsen, Public Policy

Class #11799, T 5:00-7:30, 3 credits

Introduction to the policy and management issues surrounding how governments spend the money they raise.

(Meets with PP 3032-001. Honors students may request permission to take the graduate section and earn Honors credit.)

PP 5397 Special Topics in Public Policy: Race and Policy

Instructor: Erin Melton, Public Policy

Class #11801, W 5:00-7:30, 3 credits

Examination of contemporary public policy through the lens of race.

(Meets with PP 3033, AFAM 3033, POLS 3633, Honors students may request permission to take the graduate section and earn Honors credit.)

Sociology

SOCI 5201 Logic of Sociological Research

Class# 4469, Th 5:00-7:45, 3 credits

Professor: Mary Fischer

This course provides an introduction to the methods of research widely used in the social sciences. The topics to be covered include the logic of social inquiry; formulation and conceptualization of research problems; measurement, sampling, and research design; modes of data collection; and the logic and techniques of data analysis. This course provides the methodology foundation to enable students to read and critically evaluate contemporary social science research literature. An additional objective is to enable students to develop their own research questions, testable hypotheses, and research designs so that they may execute worthwhile research projects of their own.

SOCI 5231 Qualitative Methods I

Class # 5923, M 12:20-3:05, 3 credits

Professor: Andrew Deener

This course is the first part of a two-semester sequence on qualitative methods. The aim of the first semester is to: 1) introduce students to a range of classic and contemporary qualitative studies; 2) focus on theoretical and epistemological issues surrounding qualitative research; 3) learn about various data-gathering approaches, such as life stories, in-depth interviews, oral histories, and participant observation; and 4) put some of the data production/analytic techniques into practice. To this end, we will critically read and dissect empirical cases, and students will begin to design and conduct their own original research projects, focusing especially on the fit between evidence and analysis.

SOCI 5251 Core Theorists

Class # 7075, Tu 5:00-7:45, 3 credits

Professor: Claudio Benzecry

This course focuses on the “classical” sociological theories of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, W.E.B. Du Bois and Georg Simmel. Attention will be paid at the key concepts through which these

founding thinkers have elucidated society and their relevance to the analysis of modern society and social processes. It will also connect these concepts to some key developments in contemporary social theory and provide contemporary examples to work with. We will start by exploring the different approaches to the methodological that are constitutive of sociology as a discipline: Does sociology have a substantive subject matter? What is it? What is a social theory? Should the social sciences be like the natural sciences? Is interpretation the same thing than explanation? Among the topics to be explored will be the diverse ways in which society gets differentiated, the relationship between social structure and ideas and forms of consciousness, the links and bonds between social groups, the ways in which power is produced and maintained, and the regulated character of everyday life.

SOCI 5421 Seminar in Social Stratification

Class # 11065, M 3:35-6:35, 3 credits

Professor: Michael Wallace

This course provides a graduate-level survey of the field of social stratification. The course is a good starting point for students who want a broad introduction to the field and can serve as a springboard to more specialized study in inequality. Arguably, there is no more important topic in sociology than social stratification because everything we study is directly related to inequality: its causes, its consequences, and its implications for social policy. We will cover the major theoretical perspectives ranging from classical to contemporary that have animated the field. We also will cover a diverse range of substantive topics and methodological approaches. The weekly topics covered in the course are as follows:

Introduction to the Class, Classical Views of Inequality, Three Early Approaches in U.S. Stratification Research, A Closer Look at Class, Education and Inequality, Gender Inequality, Race Inequality, Immigration and Transnationalism, Labor Markets, Poverty, Health Inequalities, Culture and Inequality, Inequality in Comparative Perspective, Globalization and Inequality.

Sociology 5501 Racism

Class # 11066, Tu 2:00-4:45, 3 credits

Professor: Noel Cazenave

This seminar offers students an opportunity to critically examine contemporary theories of racism from a variety of academic disciplines. These theories and their critiques, although largely underdeveloped, provide insights into the organization, dynamics and persistence of racism as a central and enduring phenomenon around which the United States and other modern societies are structured and evolve. Students are encouraged to use the course as a resource in the conceptualization of theses and dissertations in the emerging area of racism studies.

SOCI 5821 Social Movements

Class # 11067, Th 2:00-4:45, 3 credits

Professor: Mary Bernstein

Social movements and collective protest have centered around some of the most contentious political issues of our time, providing a voice for many who seek to promote or resist social change. This course will examine diverse theoretical perspectives which explain the origins, strategies, goals, and outcomes of social movements. In addition to understanding the more standard approaches of resource mobilization

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and political process theories, we will explore the importance of collective identity and culture in the field of social movements.