FALL 2012 USM SOCIOLOGY COURSES

Pre requisite for most courses is SOC 210: Critical Thinking about Social Issues: Designed to follow Introduction to Sociology, this course further develops students’ skills of critical analysis through the application of sociological principles to current social issues. The course uses popular media as well as sociological materials. Examples of issues which may be examined are: poverty, health care, homelessness, aging, drugs, violence, bureaucracy, white collar crime, and changing gender roles.

SELF AND SOCIETY – SOC 315
Wednesday 5:35 – 8:05 - Portland

This course explores the social construction of self as the result of both face-to-face and societal-level social processes such as language acquisition, identity development, and the effects of culture and social structure on individual and collective conceptions of self-hood. Readings and discussions focus on the relative contributions of individual self-determination and societal constraints on self-hood. Specific topics include childhood identity development, social stigma and societal definitions of normality, social structure and self-esteem, and cross-cultural differences in the concept of self-hood. Prerequisite: SOC 210 with C or better or permission of instructor. Cr.3.

SOCIOLOGY OF DEATH AND DYING – SOC 323
Friday 5:35 to 8:05 PM – Portland

This course focuses on some of the central issues in the sociology of death and dying: the social construction of grief and loss, the experience and meaning of death and dying in the late modern world, the politics of meaning making in the face of collective trauma, and the relation of pain and death and their representation to the making and unmaking of social order. Prerequisite: SOC 210 with C or better or permission of instructor. Cr. 3.

ORGANIZATIONS: INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETY – SOC 357
Monday & Wednesday: 10:15-11:30 AM – Portland

This course examines the nature of modern organizations and their impact on individuals and society. Several theoretical perspectives on organization will be examined to gain an understanding of organizational life and organizations’ role in modern society. In addition, we will consider dilemmas faced by individuals interacting with organizations as functionaries (for example, workers, government employees, teachers, police) and as clients. Prerequisite: SOC 210 with C or better or permission of instructor. Cr.3.

SOCIOLOGY OF WOMEN’S WORK – SOC 358
Monday & Wednesday: 11:45-1:00 PM – Portland

This course will introduce students to theoretical and empirical literature on women's work in the paid labor force, on their unpaid labor in the home, and on the relationship between these two kinds of
"women's work." The course emphasizes the diversity of women's work and the interconnections among race-ethnicity, class, and gender through a detailed examination of professional women, blue-collar women, and "pink-collar" employees. Additional topics include occupational segregation, earnings differentials, poverty, law and public policy, and labor militancy. Prerequisite: SOC 210 with C or better or permission of instructor. Cr.3.

**FOOD, CULTURE & SOCIETY – SOC 363**  
Monday & Wednesday: 8:45-10:00 AM – Portland

This course views food production, processing, distribution, and consumption as social and cultural phenomena. The course develops a sociological framework for understanding and connecting the diverse food stories in the headlines: GMOs, obesity, agricultural subsidies, food safety, organics. Students will also gain a better understanding of their own food choices and opportunities for changing our food system. Prerequisite: SOC 210 with C or better or permission of instructor. Cr. 3.

**POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE – SOC 380**  
Thursday 4:10 – 6:40 PM – Portland

No description available.