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Associate Professor Paul Gray

**Courses taught at BC from 2002 to present**

## **Graduate**

### **SC710 Survey of Research Methods (also offered by S Hesse-Biber)**

This course presents the wide range of alternative research methods available to and widely used by the social researcher. Among those considered are the following: survey research, observational field research, intensive interviewing, experimental research, historical analysis, and content analysis. Considerable attention will be given to comparisons among these alternative methods, to an assessment of the relative strengths and limitations of each, and to issues related to research design and proposal writing. In the context of these alternative research methods, attention will be given to problem formulation, measurement, reliability, validity, sampling, and ethical considerations.

## **Mixed Grad and Undergrad**

### **SC557 Sociology of Development**

A sociological explanation of historical and contemporary events in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This course ties together themes of social, political, and economic development. Emphasis is placed on the role of emerging institutions—political parties, bureaucracies, businesses, trade unions, armies, etc.—in meeting the challenges of dependency and modernization. Post-modern approaches are also presented. Detailed case studies are drawn from Rwanda, Afghanistan, and South Korea.

## **Undergraduate**

### **SC093 Comparative Social Change**

This course is an introductory level examination of social change, viewed from a theoretical, historical, and contemporary perspective. Significant trends in the United States are analyzed within a world wide context. These issues include the following: the decline of community, the impact of technology, the globalization of the economy, the persistence of inequality, the rise of "new" social movements, and the end of the Cold War. A critical examination of one's role as worker, consumer, family member, and citizen is encouraged.

### **SC210 Research Methods (also offered by D Karp and others)**

This course acquaints students with the range of research methods used in sociological work. We cover the

philosophical assumptions which underlie a scientific approach to the study of social life, and consider the interplay of data method, and theory. In addition to presentation of specific techniques, we will also consider questions surrounding the politics and ethics of research in the social sciences.

### **SC215 Social Theory (also offered by E Spangler and others)**

This course reviews the major lines of classical to contemporary sociological theory. The classical writers emphasized are Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Twentieth century authors highlighted include Mills, Dahrendorf, and Parsons. More contemporary figures, including Collins, Bordieu, Foucault, and Giddens, and presented in the context of their intellectual forebears.

### **SC530 International Studies Seminar**

This advanced seminar is designed for majors and minors in International Studies but is also open to graduate students. During the first part of the course, broad, common themes in contemporary International Studies are covered, including: the so-called "end of history," democratization, terrorism, technology and social change, trade and dependency, the clash of cultures, etc. Emphasis is placed on an interdisciplinary, multi-theoretical approach to these issues. In the second part of the course, students will present their own emerging ideas as their senior thesis and senior paper projects take shape.

### **SC555 Senior Honors Seminar (also offered by E Garroutte)**

This course is required of participants in the Sociology Department Honors Program. Students develop a research prospectus that is to be the basis of the Senior Thesis. This is an interactive seminar stressing hands-on experience. Skills in topic selection, research design, and theory construction are emphasized.

### **SC556 Senior Honors Thesis (also offered by E Garroutte and D Karp)**

After having completed their research proposal in SC 555, Students in the Undergraduate Sociology Honors Program then complete the data collection, the analysis, and the writing of their senior thesis during the spring of the senior year. In SC556.01 students complete their thesis research under the direction of their faculty advisor. Although SC556.01 is normally a 6 credit course, students may opt to complete their thesis using only 3 credits. Ordinarily, students are expected to complete their thesis by April 15, approximately two weeks before all senior honors students present the findings of their research in a public meeting.