

Professor David Karp
Courses taught at BC from 2002 to present

Graduate (mixed Grad and Undergrad)

SC507 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness

The purpose of this seminar is to consider what a sociological perspective brings to our understanding of mental health and illness. The goal throughout will be to examine critically how history, institutions, and culture shape our conceptions of mental illness and ill persons. We will especially examine how a medical model has triumphed in defining the causes and cures for mental illness. Students will be expected to participate in weekly discussions, to carry out research on a topic of their own interest, and to present their findings towards the end of the semester.

SC550 Important Readings in Sociology

Ordinarily, students will take this course during the spring of their junior year. The purpose of this seminar will be to read and discuss a series of books that are generally thought to be important contributions to the field. The books chosen will reflect a range of thought to be important contributions to the field. The books chosen will reflect a range of substantive issues, methodological approaches, and theoretical perspectives. The abiding question throughout this "seminar" class will be the following: What are the characteristics of powerful and compelling sociological work?

SC556 Senior Honors Thesis (also offered by E Garroutte and P Gray)

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.

Undergraduate

SC 001.01 Introductory Sociology (for Majors) (also offered by R Lowry and other instructors)

Although the content will be the same as a "regular" introductory course, the class will be limited in size and will emphasize class participation. The class will introduce students to the most essential concepts, ideas, theories, and methods of the discipline. The goal of class discussion, lecture, and readings will be to convey the distinctive features of the "sociological imagination." We will deal with fundamental questions about what it means to be a human being living in a society at a given moment in history.

SC210 Research Methods (also offered by P Gray and other instructors)

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.