

Professor Ritchie Lowry
Courses taught at BC from 2002 to present

Graduate (mixed Grad and Undergrad)

SC578 Corporate Social Responsibility

Contemporary capitalism is in a crisis because of the general lack of social responsiveness on the part of corporate executives, shareholders, investors, and other economic stakeholders. In response, movements have arisen in recent decades to respond to this crisis including socially responsive investing, shareholder and consumer action, and corporate social responsibility. This seminar, through shared readings and discussions, will consider the ways in which these movements are responding to the crisis in capitalism. We will consider alternative and more productive forms of economic and business conduct.

SC584 Sociological Roots of War

This seminar will explore the historical change in nature and current character of wars and the use of power in contemporary society. Proper/improper uses of wars and power from utilitarian and ethical perspectives will be examined. Specific topics include growth of the national security state, the increasing use of force and violence to resolve domestic and international problems, the military-industrial complex, the social and cultural origins of militarism, the development of international terrorism, and the prevalence of war in contemporary society. Alternatives to war will also be discussed.

Undergraduate

SC 001.01 Introductory Sociology (for Majors) (also offered by D Karp 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.

SC049 Social Problems (also offered by other instructors)

This course will examine the connection between popular myths, social scientific paradigms and social policies related to various social problems such as war, poverty, environmental pollution, racial and gender discrimination, addiction and crime. We will look for the reasons why so many private/public programs to resolve problems fail because of inappropriate myths and paradigms. We will also examine the usefulness of newly emerging and alternative interpretations and paradigms, particularly those which are based upon a historical, cultural, and critical perspective.