Instructor: J. P. Sapinski

**Course Description:**
With the rapid expansion of communication technologies, social networks have become salient in our everyday life. But sociologists have long been analyzing social networks of all sorts. Since the 1930s, they have developed a vast array of tools to capture the relational nature of social life, and make amenable to analysis the fundamental structures of societies. What makes certain organizations more or less powerful? What is the nature of social capital? How do new ideas or new diseases spread within a population? How do international trade flows evolve as the economy is globalizing? All these questions can be best addressed from the perspective of social networks. This course introduces the fundamental theories and techniques of social network analysis (SNA), with an emphasis on both concepts and practical applications. Because of the growing use of social network visualizations, a section of the course will be devoted to producing and interpreting graphic representations of social networks.

**Course Outcomes/Objectives:**
- Understand the distinctiveness of structural and relational approaches in sociological analysis;
- Learn to interpret academic articles that make use of SNA;
- Master the fundamental SNA concepts and metrics;
- Be able to produce basic visualizations using SNA software.

**Course Pre/Co-requisites:**
SOC211

**Topics May Include:**
- Introduction to structural and relational sociology;
- Social network data collection and organization;
- Analysis of social network data using SNA software;
- Introduction to sociograms and network visualizations, including some basic software.

**Required Resources May Include:**
Gephi 0.9.2 (open source multiplatform network visualization software).

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1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.