Changing Sociology Majors/Honours
Graduation Requirements\textsuperscript{1}

The Sociology Department is changing the 400-level requirement in our Honours and Major programs; instead of SOCI 402 and 412 students will choose 3 units from a series of new courses numbered SOCI 431-438 (course titles below).

- Students who have completed both SOCI 402 and 412 do not need to take one of the new 400-level courses;
- Students with only one of SOCI 402 or 412 can choose any one of SOCI 431-438 to complete the requirement; and,
- Whenever possible these courses will be capped at 20 students each.

The new 400 level courses are\textsuperscript{2}:

- SOCI 431: Issues in Social Theorizing;
- SOCI 432: Issues in Health and Aging;
- SOCI 433: Issues in Demography and Families;
- SOCI 434: Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control;
- SOCI 435: Issues in Gender, Sexuality and Trans Communities;
- SOCI 436: Issues in Sociology and Social Justice;
- SOCI 437: Issues in Environmental Sociology and Climate Change; and,
- SOCI 438: Issues in Contemporary Sociology.

Note: Existing students cannot take the new courses if they have completed the following mutually exclusive courses:

- You cannot get credit for SOCI 432 if you have already completed SOCI 445;
- You cannot get credit for SOCI 433 if you have already completed SOCI 340 or 342;
- You cannot get credit for SOCI 434 if you have already completed SOCI 401;
- You cannot get credit for SOCI 436 if you have already completed SOCI 450; and,
- You cannot get credit for SOCI 437 if you have already completed SOCI 465.

When can you enrol in these courses?

- \textbf{June 19 to July 3, 2017} – Restricted to 4\textsuperscript{th} year SOCI Majors/Honours
- \textbf{July 4 to July 14, 2017} – Restricted to 3\textsuperscript{rd} year SOCI Majors
- \textbf{After July 17, 2017} – Open to all eligible 3\textsuperscript{rd}/4\textsuperscript{th} year students

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Undergraduate Advisor, Bruce Ravelli (bravelli@uvic.ca).

\textsuperscript{1} If approved by the university, these changes will take effect in September 2017.

\textsuperscript{2} Specific topics in each Issues course vary by year and instructor.
FALL 2017

Course: SOCI 433 Issues in Demography and Families
Professor: Karen Kobayashi
Focus: Continuity and Innovation: Canadian Families in the New Millennium

This seminar explores continuity and innovation in the family and family relationships. We will begin by reviewing key changes in Canadian families over time. We will then introduce “continuity” alongside “innovation” as the two guiding themes for this seminar, outlining how we see the social construction of meanings about family and the practices and processes of family life both as consistent over time and as offering opportunity for innovation. Throughout the seminar, we will discuss how these two sometimes contradictory themes are represented simultaneously in families in theories of late modernity.

Course: SOCI 434 Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control
Professor: Don Fetherston
Focus: Sociology of Law

This seminar begins by examining the foundations of Canada’s legal system and how it works. Legal problem-solving methods used by lawyers within the legal system are investigated and practically applied (e.g., contract and criminal law). Law is also studied from the point of view of sociologists working outside the legal system. Topics include law as both a reflection of and a cause of social structure; law as repressive, functional, and ideological; inconsistencies between the formal written law and law in action; and law and inequality in Canada.

Course: SOCI 437 Issues in Environmental Sociology and Climate Change
Professor: Martha McMahon
Focus: Living in the Anthropocene

This seminar investigates how climate change is emerging as a cultural and political phenomenon that is reshaping how people think about themselves, their social worlds and their futures. Some call this new era the “Anthropocene” – a period of time recognizing the influence human activity has on the planet. This seminar interrogates these changes and the opportunities and challenges they present to avoid planetary disasters and inspire a more just and ecologically responsible world.

Course: SOCI 436 Issues in Sociology and Social Justice
Professor: Sebastian Bonet
Focus: Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Resurgence, and Decolonization

This seminar theorizes settler colonialism and its relationship to other systems of oppression. We examine what it is that indigenous people are resurging, and we inquire into what it would mean to decolonize Canadian institutions, culture, and lifeways.

3 These topics/instructors may change due to unforeseen circumstances.
SPRING 2018

Course: SOCI 431 Issues in Social Theorizing
Professor: Steve Garlick
Focus: Expanding the Social

This seminar introduces students to a series of moves in recent social theory that attempt to expand our field of concern beyond the human and its attributes of rationality, language, and culture. Taking up these theories, we will consider a range of questions such as: Do nonhuman actors have a place in sociology? What role do affect and emotion have in social life? How should we understand the agency of nature within the social? To what extent are bodies socially constructed? And how can sociology better respond to the complexity of the ecosystems in which human life is embedded?

Course: SOCI 432 Issues in Health and Aging
Professor: Cecilia Benoit
Focus: Inequalities in Health Care

Health equity encompasses concepts of social justice such as fairness, equality and human rights. Health inequities are considered unjust because they reflect an unfair distribution of the social determinants of health across social groups. In this seminar, we will learn to think critically about the fundamental causes of health inequities in Canada and internationally, assess research frameworks and methodologies for studying major health issues through an equity lens, and evaluate various policies and practices for reducing health inequities.

Course: SOCI 435 Issues in Gender, Sexuality and Trans Communities
Professor: Aaron Devor
Focus: Living trans and Non-binary Lives

This three-hour seminar will explore trans and non-binary lives and social issues. Some of what we consider may include: experiences of gender variant people in other times and places; some of the challenges faced by trans and non-binary people today in terms of access to health care and legal recognition; issues related to transition for children, youth, and adults; challenges faced in families of origin and families created; violence against gender nonconforming people; the treatment of trans people in the media; and trans activism.

Course: SOCI 438 Issues in Contemporary Sociology
Professor: Bruce Ravelli
Focus: Applied sociology through Community Engaged Learning

This seminar explores applied sociology through community-engaged learning. This seminar supports students who want to “make a difference” in their community. Students will work with local agencies and assist them in the organization itself and/or in its programming (e.g., conducting a review of the literature on safe injection sites from around the world, or, help the agency conduct a program review required by a funding agency). The community partners, with a list of projects, will be available before the class starts and the semester will be dedicated to supporting the students as they work to complete the project. These projects are intended to help the agency undertake initiatives that they would not otherwise be able to.