Sociology

Sociology Courses for First Year Students Fall, 2013

The Department of Sociology has recently hired two new faculty who will be teaching courses appropriate for first year students:

**Foundations in Social Theory:** This course is the introductory class for those who might be interested in majoring in sociology. It is also quite useful for those who would be interested in majoring in any other social science. The course examines classical sociological theory as an exemplification of how one might do sociology today. Students may take either semester for credit, but majors must take both semesters of the course. Liping Wang, who joins Haverford after finishing a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, will be teaching one section of this course, which meets from 1-2:30 on T/Th. This is in addition to the previously scheduled section that will be taught by Lisa McCormick, meeting on M/W from 2:30-4.

**New Course**

**Sociology of Immigration:** This course introduces students to central ideas of sociology through a focus on studies of immigration. The class focuses primarily on immigration to the U.S., and how it has changed over the past hundred years. It will be taught by Matthew McKeever, who is coming to the college from Mount Holyoke College. This course will be taught M/W from 2:30-4. Students interested in discussing the major and any of the courses can consult with the chair of the department, in person in Roberts 104 or by email (mmckeever@)

**General Information**

Sociology courses help students learn how to “do sociology” by exposing them to exemplars of what sociology has been and by asking them to study micro- and macro-aspects of the “social world.” We believe that there are a variety of legitimate ways to “do sociology” and we do not seek to privilege any one of them. Our individual courses construct arguments for students to consider, to develop, and to argue against and they provide the analytical and methodological training students need to formulate theoretical arguments and to evaluate those arguments empirically. We want an active engagement from our students as they find their own points-of-view within the discipline, and we expect from them a theoretical and methodological rigor and sophistication within the approaches that they study and adopt.

There are two introductory level courses that are appropriate for first year students to take:

**Foundations in Social Theory:** This course is the introductory class for those who might be interested in majoring in sociology. It is also quite useful for those who would be interested in majoring in any other social science. The course examines classical and Marxian sociological theory as an exemplification of how we might do sociology today. Students may take either semester for credit, but majors must take both semesters of the course. There is some variation between different sections of the course.
Sociology of Immigration: This course introduces students to central ideas of sociology through a focus on studies of immigration. The class focuses primarily on immigration to the U.S., and how it has changed over the past hundred years.

Requirements for the major, as well as a description of upper level courses, are posted on the department website. Students interested in discussing the major and any of the courses can consult with the chair of the department, in person in Roberts 104 or by email (mmckeever@)