

FALL 2023 Sociology Special Topics Classes

Professor Joanne Ford-Robertson

SOC 4853.01 Sociology of Horror Films

Mix of in-person and online; W 10-11:15AM (max 50)

This course is designed to teach key sociological topics and theories through the genre of the horror film. In this course, we will utilize film screenings, content analysis, frame analysis, academic journal articles, and activities to examine how a range of social issues are depicted in the horror films. We consider how societal norms, belief systems, power dynamics, and the “other” are reinforced or challenged by the tales. This includes how different groups of people are represented in horror films and how ideologies (e.g., heteropatriarchy, consumerism, “a just world”, the self) pervade these types of media and the moral lessons they deliver. Specific themes explored in this course include race, gender/sexuality, class, and deviance.

Dr. Michael V. Miller

SOC 4853.02 Multimedia Applications

Online only, no set time (max 30)

The course is designed to enhance your ability to create sociologically-relevant digital content (e.g., photo images and video) and integrate such content into presentations and online platforms (e.g., user-sharing sites and social media). The course will introduce a coherent system of information generation and processing that will enable you to easily move between the massive universe of digital materials on the Internet and your own creative efforts. You will learn to navigate within this system, and in the process, employ various applications to help curate, conceptualize, and create sociological content. Particular attention will be directed to how multimedia can make abstract scholarly concepts more understandable.

Miller, M. & Cohen Miller, A. 2019. Open video repositories for college instruction: A guide to the social sciences. *Online Learning*. 23 (2). <https://olj.onlinelearningconsortium.org/index.php/olj/article/view/1492/>

Andrist, L., Chepp, V., Dean, P., & Miller, M. 2014. Toward a video pedagogy. *Teaching Sociology*. 42:3 196-206. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0092055X14524962>

Miller, M. 2011. A system for integrating online multimedia into college curriculum. *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*. 7: 294-312. https://jolt.merlot.org/vol7no2/miller_0611.pdf

Miller, M. 2009. Integrating online multimedia into college course and classroom. *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*. 5: 395-423. https://jolt.merlot.org/vol5no2/miller_0609.pdf

Instructor TBD

SOC 4863.01 Migration and Immigration

Traditional in-person; MW 4:00-5:15PM (max 50)

This course is designed to improve your understanding of migration: what is it; what social, economic, political, and environmental forces drive different forms of migration (including the roles of development, globalization, violence, climate change, and immigration laws, policies, and practices); and what are some of its most important consequences or impacts of this mobility for those that engage in it, for the communities/nations they move into. To examine these themes, we will also aim at understanding some “flows” more deeply. In addition to a broad comparative-historical look at many important “postcolonial” international migrations around the world, we will pay particular attention to current issues on U.S. immigration and their historical roots, studying the genesis and evolution of migration from different nations as well as of undocumented migration and asylum seekers.

Professor Donna Miller

SOC 4863.02 Disability and Society

Traditional in-person - MWF 3:00-3:50PM (max 50)

Experiential Learning (A learning experience that is active, hands-on, and engaging by preparing students for their future job roles.) Examines our understandings and practices regarding disability through time and place. Describes inequalities and exclusions of people based on ideas of ability and disability. In so doing, we discover how disability intersects with topics such as culture, identity, gender, sexuality, race, aging, economics, health care, education, and criminal justice. The course will include an experiential learning component to reflect on a direct learning activity with respect to disability and society.