**SOCI 498 (Senior Seminar) Sections, Fall 2022**

**Each SOCI 498 section has its own topic and research method. Students will design and conduct an individual research project using their section’s topic and method.**

**Modality:** Both sections of SOCI 498 will be offered in person. The department does not plan to offer senior seminar online in the future.

**Prerequisites:** Before enrolling in SOCI 498, students must complete SOC 201, SOCI 300, and SOCI 375, and MATH 165/SOCI 301, each with a minimum grade of C-, and 12 additional sociology units.

**Registration**: Allowed only for students with an approved Senior Seminar application. There is a hard cap on the number of seats available. If you submitted a late application, you are not guaranteed a seat.

**SOCI 498.1: Senior Seminar: Gender and Sexualities**

Instructor: Prof. James Joseph Dean, PhD

Method: **In-Depth Interviews**

Time: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:50 pm

Modality: In Person

Gender is grounded in sex; bodies cannot be represented as entirely social. This lack of a sharp distinction results in a conflation and a confusion around the difference between gender and sex. What is gender, anyway? We will explore gender as a performative identity situated in social and hierarchical relations of power. Sexuality is a three-part relationship among desire, sexual behaviors, and identity. How do we understand the relationship between biology or nature and society or nurture in determining sexuality? We will examine the major models of sexualities, particularly focusing on social constructionist writings that are attentive to social and historical factors and how sexuality is a principle of social organization in social life.

This class focuses on how gender and sexualities are socially constructed in individuals' everyday lives as social identities as well as part of our social institutions, from families to schools to workplaces.  Students read articles and books that serve as role models for their own qualitative in-depth interview study.  From choosing their study's topic to writing the literature review and interview questions to conducting and analyzing the interviews themselves, students complete an entire study within the length of the semester.

**SOCI 498.2: Senior Seminar: Medicine, Health, & the Body**

Instructor: Prof. Debora A. Paterniti, PhD

Method: **Intensive Interviewing & Grounded Theory**

Time: Tuesday, 8:00 -11:40 am

Modality: In Person

This course will focus on the topic of medicine, health, and bodies. We will use theories and concepts in medical sociology to examine bodies and health as *symbolic social processes*, including the ways individual and public bodies are defined, how health and illness are understood and represented in the body and bodily states, and changes in definitions of risk and risky behaviors. We will discuss the cultural significance of medicine and its role in characterizing and shaping attention to and understandings of bodies and their parts.

You will engage in intensive interviewing and grounded theory to craft original research. In this seminar, you will learn to develop a sociological research lens and "voice" through participation in a variety of exercises and assignments, including involvement in data collection, analysis, and presentation of original research on the topic of interest to you related to medicine, health & the body. Weekly writing assignments and course exercises will require intensive reading and literature review relevant to your topic. We will create an interview guide to elicit meaningful reflections from interviewees about relationships, institutions, and processes connected to medicine, the body, and social interactions. And we will practice data analysis using grounded theory, and will consider the empirical content of each interview in memo writing. The final research project will emerge from inductive analysis of your data and the formulation of a sociological work that contributes to understanding medicine, health, and the body.