**SOCI 498 (Senior Seminar) Descriptions**

**Sociology Department, Sonoma State University**

**Spring 2024**

*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:*** *All sections of SOCI 498 will be offered in person.*

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

***Registration:*** Allowed only for students with an approved Senior Seminar application (please complete a senior seminar application with your assigned SOCI advisor before registering for SOCI 498). There is a hard cap on the number of seats available. If you submit a late application, you are not guaranteed a seat in Senior Seminar.

# SOCI 498.1: Senior Seminar: Family and Inequality

* Instructor: Prof. Soo-Yeon Yoon, PhD
* Method: ***Statistics and Secondary Data Analysis***
* Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00-4:50 pm

For this section of senior seminar, the theme of the course is the family and inequality. Students will learn how to conduct research on families and become an intelligent and critical consumer of research on families. The course will focus on understanding changing family and demographic behavior in the United States and beyond. Students will conduct research projects drawing upon sociological perspectives on family and social stratification. Research projects will examine how family behavior and family relationships vary by race/ethnicity, age, gender, class and across the life course with the use of the statistical analysis of survey data. Learning outcomes include 1) how to frame research questions and formulate them into testable research hypotheses; 2) critically evaluate previous studies and write a literature review; 3) analyze quantitative survey data to answer the research questions; and 4) produce an original research paper. In this course, students will not collect their own data, but will analyze the General Social Survey, a nationally representative adult sample. The course will cover core topics in descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will use SPSS, a statistical software program, to analyze the data.

# SOCI 498.2: Senior Seminar: Identity, Biography & Society

* Instructor: Prof. Debora A. Paterniti, PhD
* Method: ***Ethnographic method***
* Time: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:50am

This course focuses on the topic of identity. We will use theories and concepts in social psychology to examine individual and social group identities as symbolic social processes that include the ways identities emerge, develop, and change. Weekly topics will emphasize the role and impact of narrative accounts, collective understandings, and their interpretations on identity, social groups, institutions, and public/collective action. Engagement in Sociology 498.2 will introduce you to the ethnographic method and qualitative data analysis and offer you an opportunity to do original research.

Learning objectives for this course include: (1) framing a specific research question about identity and biography through a coherent review of relevant sociological literature(s); (2) conducting observations and ethnographic interviews as well as developing an observational lens to detail the contexts and meaningful accounts related to identity-making and maintenance in interaction; (4) organizing, coding, and analyzing qualitative data from observations and interviews to critically and systematically address your research question; (5) applying the ethical principles important to research practice; and (6) presenting orally and in writing an original piece of research that meaningfully engages the ethnographic method.