Sociology Department Aims and Objectives
December 2014

GOALS
Engage in critical thinking by learning:
• the socio-historical context of social phenomena
• the socio-historical construction of knowledge
• discipline-specific theory
• discipline-specific methods
• about diverse cultures and social structures
• how power operates through class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and/or other "difference"
• about the dynamics of power and inequality on local, regional, national, and/or global levels

Practice and operationalize learning through direct experience by:
• developing a sense of agency and responsibility by engaging in the world outside the classroom experience
• taking part in practices of social justice, civic and community involvement
• examining the rights and responsibility of global citizenship

Understand the dynamics of the social world by learning:
• why societies develop, are maintained, and/or change
• how intersections of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other "difference" affect institutional arrangements
• how intersections of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other "difference" affect personal experience
• about interaction between social systems and ecosystems/natural world
• about the interaction between social forces on local, regional, national, and/or global levels

SKILLS
Actively engage in sociological inquiry by learning:
• the basics of theory construction
• the logic and practice of sociological research methodologies
• tools for critical thinking/analysis
• to construct a thesis and supporting argument
• synthesize/evaluate arguments
• synthesize/evaluate different forms of data

Learn/develop/practice communication of sociological knowledge through:
• writing (multiple different assignments)
• writing (multiple drafts of same assignment)
• speaking
• visual literacy
• technological literacy
• writing/presenting in a professional/academic style
• collaborative opportunities