Note: Students must have completed SOC 201, SOCI 300, and SOCI 375, each with a minimum grade of C-, and an additional 16 units in Sociology before enrolling in SOCI 498. Students must also have filed an approved graduation application for Spring or Summer 2021.

**SOCI 498.1: Senior Seminar: Medicine, Health, and the Body**  
Instructor: Prof. Debora A. Paterniti, PhD  
Method: **Intensive Interviewing & Grounded Theory**

This course will focus on the topic of medicine 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, definitions of risk and risky behaviors. We will discuss the institution of medicine and how that plays a role in characterizing and shaping understandings of bodies and their parts.

This course will introduce you to intensive interviewing/grounded theory and engage you in original research. You will learn to develop a sociological research lens and "voice" through active and intentional participation in a variety of exercises and assignments, including (verbal and written) presentation of original research on the topic of interest to you related to medicine & the body (which will be approved by the professor). Weekly writing assignments and course exercises will require intensive reading and development of a literature review in an area relevant to your chosen topic. Creation and development of an interview guide to elicit meaningful reflections from interviewees about relationships, institutions, and processes connected to medicine, the body, and society is required. You will practice grounded theory and data analysis, by considering the data content of each interview, including how it might be used to enrich subsequent interviews, through writing detailed memos after each interview. The final research project will require inductive analysis of rich and detailed data from 10 intensive interviews that results in formulation of your own sociological contribution to the topic of medicine, health, and the body.

**SOCI 498.2: Senior Seminar: Gender & Sexualities**  
Instructor: Prof. James Dean, PhD  
Method: **In-Depth Interviews**

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 498.3: Senior Seminar: Family & Inequality**
Instructor: Prof. Soo-Yeon Yoon, PhD
Method: **Statistics & Secondary Data Analysis**

For this section of senior seminar, the theme of the course is the sociology of families. 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 498.4 and SOCI 498.5: Senior Seminar: US Housing Policy**
Instructor: Dr. Roxanne Ezzet, PhD
Method: **In-Depth Interviews & Content Analysis**

For this section of senior seminar, the emphasis will be on urban sociology as it relates to housing and social services. Your project will focus on the use of interviews to understand the role of housing (e.g., housing policies, affordable housing, homelessness) and the link to social services in urban areas.

Specifically, this course will focus on the role of housing in shaping the quality of life in various parts of society. We will examine housing issues in urban areas while also focusing on the broader history and social impact of housing and affordable housing policies. This course will examine past and current housing policies and their influence on American society. We will also spend a significant amount of time discussing proposed policy issues to persistent affordable housing issues as well as strategies that community-based organizations and social movements are using to bring about change. We will use interviews with members from the public sector, private sector, non-profit groups and the community to understand housing problems and address policy solutions.
Students will conduct in depth interviews and use content analysis to examine the interview data.