PROPOSED THEMES

(Actual themes vary from semester to semester depending on student interests. Some students prefer to concentrate on one society in comparative perspective. Others are seeking a sociological approach to international relations. At times the emphasis has been on the history of macrosociology and macrohistory. Another option is to stress new trends toward regionalism around the globe and their impact on national identities and decentralization. The instructor has background on China, Japan, and Russia, as well as the US in comparative perspective.)

WEEK 1   SOCIAL SCIENCE THEORY and COMPARISONS of SOCIETIES

The comparative tradition

Types of comparisons

Comparative sociologists and their interests

Methodological issues

Focus on China, Japan, Russia, including comparison with the U.S. and Western Europe
WEEK 2 MODERNIZATION THEORY REEXAMINED


Convergence theory updated

WEEK 3 CIVILIZATIONAL THEORY REEXAMINED


Clash theory critiqued

WEEK 4 EAST ASIA and THE WEST: VALUES and REGIONALISM


Cultural values reexamined

WEEK 5 JAPAN in COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE


Historical uniqueness reexamined
WEEK 6  COMPARISONS of NATIONAL IDENTITY


Toward a typology of national identity

WEEK 7  COMPARISONS of TRUST and PERSONAL NETWORKS


Building networks in one society or across societies

WEEK 8  COMPARATIVE COMMUNISM REEXAMINED


Focusing on Russia and China in reform.
WEEK 9  RECENT THEMES in GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY


Ch. 3, Macrosociology, @9-72.

Ch. 4, Global Sociology, @3-98.


Ch. 4, The Cultural Foundations of the New Globalism, @31-76.

Conclusion, Toward a Cultural Definition of International Relations, @77-85.


Ch. 8, The Final Arbiters of Community = Values, @17-57.

Toward a sociology of international relations

WEEK 10  STUDENT REPORTS on RESEARCH with RELEVANT READINGS

WEEK 11  CONCLUDING TOPICS with RELEVANT READINGS