This seminar provides an overview of social capital theory. The seminar emphasizes the sociological approach to social capital theory as outlined by James Coleman, but will also cover different sociological approaches, as well as the use of social capital in other disciplines. The seminar is designed to cover a balance of theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues, with an emphasis on quantitative research using survey data. The readings will be a mix of classical theoretical treatments of social capital theory and empirical research on the role of social capital in different substantive areas, including crime, labor markets, public health, and economic outcomes. An important objective of the course is to introduce students to significant theoretical problems that can be addressed empirically, and introduce some key methodological issues. There are no formal prerequisites for the course, but it is recommended that students have exposure to a basic social science course and basic methods and statistics.

The seminar begins with various definitions, conceptualizations, and typologies of social capital. It then moves to different theories of social capital, including Putnam, Bourdieu, and Coleman. It then discusses the role of social capital in the micro-macro debate, and the role of social capital in various substantive areas, including public health, neighborhoods and crime, labor markets, civic engagement, education, social networks, and economic development. Additional topics, such as measurement, immigration, trust, and norms and sanctions will be covered if time permits.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. An original seminar paper is required of all students. The paper should address a topic covered by the seminar and should attempt to synthesize and critically evaluate a broad body of literature. Each student will submit a two-page paper proposal by Thursday, Oct 26th, which states the problem to be addressed, outlines the sections of the paper, and provides a reading list. The final paper is due Monday, Dec 11th at 5pm. Final papers may be emailed to me at matsueda@uw.edu

2. Students will prepare and lead discussions of course readings. One student will lead discussions most weeks. This will involve being prepared to lead discussions on the core (starred) required readings. Also, one discussion leader will prepare a precis on one of the noncore (nonstarred) required readings. The precis is a two page single-spaced summary of the essential details of the theory, data, methods, and arguments of the reading. The discussion leaders will distribute the precis to the rest of the seminar by the Monday evening prior to the seminar via email. All other seminar members will be required to read the precis, read the core required readings, and come to class prepared to ask questions and make critical remarks.

3. Course topics will be selected from the list below. Other topics can be added or deleted by consensus of the seminar members as we proceed into the quarter.

**GRADING:**

The seminar paper will determine approximately 60 percent of the grade; other written work (precis) will count about 20 percent; and oral contributions about 20 percent.

**BOOKS:**

*Required:

*Recommended:

*Further Reading:
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

I. INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW, AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES (SEPT 28)

II. WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL? (OCT 5)
(Kate O’Neil, Discussion Leader)

Required:


Recommended:


III. SOCIAL CAPITAL, SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, AND THE MICRO-MACRO PROBLEM (OCT 12)
(Mark Igra, Discussion Leader)

Required:


Recommended:


COURSE WEBSITE: http://faculty.washington.edu/matsueda/courses/590/web590.htm


IV. NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CAPITAL, COLLECTIVE EFFICACY, AND CRIME (OCT 19)  
(Chuck Lanfear, Discussion Leader)

*Required:*


*Recommended:*


V. LABOR MARKETS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL (OCT 26)  
(Michele Cadigan, Discussion Leader)

*Required:*


*Recommended:*


VI. POLITICS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (NOV 2)  
(Lauren Fine, Discussion Leader)
Required:


Recommended:


VII. SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH (NOV 9)
(Kerry Beckman, Discussion Leader)

Required:


Recommended:


VIII. A MIXED METHODS STUDY OF SOCIAL CAPITAL (DATE TBA)

Required:
University Press.

IX. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND MEASUREMENT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL (NOV 30)
   , Zhihang Dong, Discussion Leader

   A. SOCIAL NETWORKS & SOCIAL CAPITAL
      (Kate O’Neill, Discussion Leader)

   Required:


   Recommended:


   B. MEASUREMENT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL
      (Zhihang Dong, Discussion Leader)

   Required:


   Recommended:


X. SOCIAL CAPITAL AND IMMIGRATION (DEC 7)
(Rico Neumann, Discussion Leader)

Required:


Recommended:

XI. SOCIAL CAPITAL AND EDUCATION

Required:


Recommended:


XII. MICRO-ECONOMIC UTILITY MODELS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Required:


*Recommended:*


**XIII. SOCIAL CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*Required:*


*Recommended:*
