Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.

Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor.

SOC 475  
Social, Cultural, and Media Studies  
Communities, Difference, and Belonging  
UFV CREDITS: 4

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the relationship between diversity and communities. For this course, diversity is broadly defined to include all sorts of social differences, but there will be special attention paid to minority groups and alternative subcultures (e.g. ethnic, religious, LGBT, the deaf, etc). The course will primarily focus on internal and inter-group/community relations. There will only be a minor focus on policy and government structures. Topics covered include: normativity and belonging, internal group/community dynamics (e.g. formal structures and organization, social cohesion, the role of communication, and common experience), and external pressures on communities (e.g. cross-cultural tensions, misunderstandings, power relations within society). Students conduct their own qualitative research project as a major portion of their coursework.

Note: Students with credit for SOC 399F may not take this course for further credit.

**PREREQUISITES:**
60 university-level credits to include at least 9 credits of Sociology; SOC 255/ANTH 255/MACS 255 (formerly SCMS 255) is highly recommended. SOC 265 is recommended.

**COREQUISITES:**

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**
(a) Replaces: 
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take: SOC 399F for further credit.

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 60

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

| Lectures | 45 Hrs |
| Seminar  | 15 Hrs |
| Laboratory | |
| Field experience | |
| Student directed learning | |
| Other (specify) | |

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

Length of course:  
Hours per day:  

**OTHER:**

Maximum enrolment: 25  
Expected frequency of course offerings: Every 2 years  
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)**

- [ ] Yes  
- [x] No

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)**

- [ ] Yes  
- [x] No

**TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:**

- [ ] Yes  
- [x] No

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Course designer(s): Chantelle Marlor  
Department Head: Stephen Piper  
Date approved: April 19, 2013

Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)  
Date of meeting: April 26, 2013

Curriculum Committee chair: Tetsuomi Anzai  
Date approved: May 10, 2013

Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte  
Date approved: May 10, 2013

Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval  
Date of meeting: June 21, 2013
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the relationship between communities, diversity, and minority group dynamics
- Explain theoretical ideas developed and used by sociologists to discuss communities, diversity, and belonging
- Articulate complexities around belonging, inclusion, and exclusion
- Describe key tensions and issues that emerge within and around communities, multiculturalism, cross-cultural understanding, and sub-culture/minority and majority group relations
- Use Sociological terms to discuss belonging, communities, and pluralism
- Apply course-related theories to a case study or ethnographic data collected by the student
- Critically discuss similarities and differences between different types of communities (e.g. religious, cyber, neighbourhood, gay, etc.)

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

Lectures, discussion, student presentations, and possibly field trips.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☐ Examination(s)  ☐ Portfolio assessment  ☐ Interview(s)

☒ Other (specify): Methods will be considered on a case-by-case basis

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts might be:]


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Discussion leader  15%
Data submission #1 (transcriptions from two interviews)  15%
Data submission #2 (field notes from additional course of data)  10%
Presentation  5%
Feedback on others’ presentations  5%
Preliminary analysis  10%
Research report  30%
Reflection paper on diversity and communities  10%
COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

- **Week 1:** Overview of course and assignments, including research project
- **Week 2:** Defining key concepts and some initial exploring of the relationship amongst these concepts
- **Week 3:** Legal frameworks and other macro-structures that contribute to the formation of minority groups, communities, and diversity
- **Week 4:** Who belongs? “Normality” and other mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion
- **Week 5:** Classical and contemporary theories about groups, communities, and inter-group relations
- **Week 6:** Connections and clashes – shared and opposed interests, understandings, and practices
- **Weeks 7-8:** Conditions under which communities form and grow (funding, formal organizations, leadership, demographic pressures, tensions within communities, institutionalized privileges, etc.)
- **Week 9:** Power relations within and across communities, minority groups, and society
- **Week 10:** Space, place, and events – where communities come together (or not)
- **Week 11:** The role of mass media and technology in fostering or undermining communities and the dynamics of minority groups
- **Weeks 12-13:** Research presentations