

Visiting Assistant Professor opportunity at Kenyon College

The [Department of Sociology](#) at Kenyon College seeks a part-time Visiting Assistant Professor to teach 1-3 courses for the spring 2021 semester. Specifically, we seek to cover the following courses:

- Sociology 103: Society and Culture - Introductory course, primarily first-years and sophomores. Remote instruction. Capped at 25 students. Fully enrolled.
- Sociology 229: Social Movements - Intermediate level elective for majors. Currently hybrid instruction, but could be made remote. Capped at 20 students. Fully enrolled.
- Sociology 362: Contemporary Social Theory - Advanced seminar that fulfills theory requirement for majors. Currently in-person instruction, but could be remote. Capped at 15 students. 14 enrolled.

Full course descriptions are appended below. Course syllabi will be made available to instructors, and the department will provide guidance, support, and mentorship in the conduct of courses. Visiting faculty at Kenyon join a robust community of accomplished teacher/scholars and also have the opportunity to participate in faculty development activities.

Successful candidates will hold a PhD (or ABD candidacy) in Sociology or another related field, with demonstrated expertise relevant to the courses of interest. We will consider candidates interested in one, two, or all three of the courses above, and instructors are compensated on a per-course basis. Instructors may work remotely and are not required to relocate, though faculty who are interested in in-person or hybrid instruction of the two upper level courses may arrange to do so.

Kenyon College is a highly selective liberal arts college in central Ohio. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college has been operating at reduced density, and in the spring we will be welcoming the sophomore, junior, and senior classes back to campus, with classes scheduled to begin on February 1.

Interested candidates should contact Drew Kerkhoff, Associate Provost and Acting Chair of Sociology.
kerkhoffa@kenyon.edu

Full course descriptions:

SOCY 103: Society and Culture

This course introduces students to the field of sociology through studying the role of culture in society. We examine the connections between culture and society by following four major sociological traditions and we combine theoretical discussions with concrete sociological studies. For the conflict tradition, we read Marx's writing on alienation as well as a study about the complex relationship between domestic help and their employers in contemporary America. For the Durkheimian tradition, we discuss Durkheim's view of religion and morality while reading about why women turn to Orthodox Judaism in New York City today. For the utilitarian and rational choice tradition, we discuss rational choice theory by examining a sociological and historical analysis of the rise of early Christianity and for the microinteractionist tradition, we explore the ideas of Goffman and Bourdieu through reading a French sociologist's ethnographic account of training to be a boxer in an African American gym in Chicago. This course helps students develop a sociological imagination, as well as familiarity with research methods and social theory. Students may take only one introductory-level course. This counts toward the foundation requirement for the major. Open only to first-year and sophomore students. No prerequisite. Offered every year.

SOCY 229: Social Movements

This course will examine social movements as attempts to bring about social change through collective action. The major goals of the course are: (1) to acquaint students with the sociological literature on social movements; (2) to examine the development, life cycle and impact of several important social movements in the United States; (3) to examine issues of race, class and gender within social movements; and (4) to develop students' skills in thinking sociologically about social discontent and social change. Substantively, the course focuses primarily on U.S. social movements from the 1960s through today. This course counts toward the American Studies major. Prerequisite: 100-level sociology course or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

SOCY 362: Contemporary Social Theory

Social theories offer systematic explanations of human behavior as well as insights into the historical moments in which they were created. We will investigate some of the last century's major theories concerning the nature of society and the human social process. Most of these sociological theories are American in origin, but some new developments in Western European thought will be included as well. Specific theories to be considered include: (1) the functionalist theory of Talcott Parsons; (2) social behaviorism, as articulated by George Herbert Mead; (3) Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann's sociology of knowledge; (4) the critical theory of Herbert Marcuse; and (5) intersection theory, as developed by Patricia Hill Collins. The consideration of the intellectual and social contexts in which these theoretical traditions have arisen will be central to our analysis throughout. This course will be of value to students interested in developing a systematic approach to understanding society and should be especially relevant to those concentrating in the social sciences. This counts toward the theory requirement for the major. Prerequisite: SOCY 262 or permission of instructor. Offered every year.