

# NEW SPRING

# 2026

# COURSE



SOC395: SPECIAL TOPICS  
**THE SOCIOLOGY OF JOY**  
T/TH 12:30-1:15PM

## FOR MORE INFO:

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What is **joy**? How does joy as both an **experience** and an **emotion** shape human behavior? How are emotions like joy shaped by society? Why is joy contested as an area of study within sociology? What makes joy different from **toxic positivity** and how has the concept of joy been **commodified**? Is joy connected to **species-being**? What are the implications of ignoring, suppressing, acknowledging, or **celebrating** joy? How has joy been used as **resistance** by marginalized groups throughout history? What does it mean to build **communities** of hope, justice, and joy? Grapple with these questions and engage in **social action** in The Sociology of Joy this fall!

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

This course includes a social action component!! following the Myers-Lipton “Ready! Go! Get Set!” model of teaching social action. This means, as part of course requirements, students will identify a campus or community organization, evaluate its relationship to joy in practice, and develop a campaign to expand, modify, or overhaul the work.

Change  
Theory

Building  
Power

Social  
Action Tour

Research

Group  
Dynamics

Strategy &  
Tactics

Campaign  
Kick-Off

Campaign  
Launch