SOCIOLOGY OF THOUGHT

- Explore questions at the intersections of Sociology, Biology, Neurology and Psychology
- Why do we make mistakes? What makes us happy?
- How do we make decisions—rationally or intuitively?

This course will explore a broad range of theoretical arguments about thinking and cognition, including instrumental rationality, values, emotions, habits, identities, frames, and schemas. Since this topic is necessarily interdisciplinary, students will be reading works from psychology, economics, political science, anthropology, and biology, in addition to sociological texts.

The main goal of the course is to provide a broad overview of the full range of arguments about the Sociology of Thought, and thus of social change, ranging from cultural sociology at the most macro level to neurobiology at the most micro. The course will focus greater attention to contemporary rather than on classical theories, and—since the scope of the course is so broad—more on summaries of literatures rather than specialized research.

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