

Sept. 3

1. Course mechanics
(requirements, resources, etc)
2. **Course structure**
(syllabus review)

Course structure

The archipelago of sociology



A scattering of islands in Palau, by flickr user [LuxTonnerre](#)

The archipelago of sociology

Islands of highly specialized topics

- ∴ E.g. *gender in the workplace*
- ∴ E.g. *social movements and language use*

Hard to build a fence around

- ∴ Any topic has a sociological aspect

Hard to slice into pieces

- ∴ There is no obviously correct way to divide sociology into smaller subdisciplines

Bound by a *perspective*

- ∴ *Sociology is not what topics are studied, but how those topics are studied*

Course structure

One way to slice it

a.k.a. our syllabus

- **Foundations**
Methods overview
Classical (European) social theory
- **The individual in society (bottom-up)**
Ethnicity, race, and nationality
Disability
Gender and sexuality
Class and culture
- **Populations and publics (top-down)**
Inequality and stratification
Demography
Politics and economy
Social movements
- **Social systems (middle-out)**
Interaction
Institutional change
Organizations and groups
Media and technology