The course is intended to give students a sense of some major themes in social network analysis and to provide a basis for students to work on research involving networks. The material here also builds a foundation for further reading in these and other areas.

The scope of “social network analysis” has long been too large to adequately cover in a one-semester course, and this is true more than ever today. Recognizing that, we will try to give medium-depth coverage of a limited number of subfields (see list of readings), rather than touching on many areas in little depth. The articles are a mix of older and more recent papers, and include methodologically- and substantively-oriented work. Along with discussion of the listed articles, there will be some lecturing in class.

Prerequisites: Students are expected to have had some graduate-level statistics course already. Because a lot of the material is rather “self-contained”, this prerequisite is as much aimed at general experience looking at symbols and equations as at any specific knowledge from statistics (though some of that is helpful at certain points too). When an article has more difficult or intimidating parts, we will work through those elements together, but it is still important that students start with some degree of comfort with a bit of “mathy” material. Of course I am happy to individually discuss anyone’s situation and background in more detail.

Textbook and Software: We will not have a required text, though below I have listed an optional supplemental text that works as a conventional textbook supporting many of the topics in the course while also helping with UCINET, the software package that we will emphasize. This book also addresses many important topics (such as collecting network data) that we will not have time to cover in the course. So it is nice to own, but not required.

The supplemental text is


UCINET software is available at a very reasonable student price. To obtain the software, visit https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/home.

(Students who really enjoy this material may want to own a reference that gives more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a wide variety of classical topics. For that purpose, a good set is Wasserman, S. & Faust, K, 1994, Social Network Analysis, Cambridge University Press, and the later follow-up Carrington, P. J., Wasserman, S., & Scott, J. (Eds.), 2005, Models and Methods in Social Network Analysis, Cambridge University Press.)

Paper: Students will write a paper on a topic of their choosing. This could be an application of methods from the course to a substantively interesting question, an exploration of the implications of network ideas for research on some topic, an attempt to extend or get new insight into the methods themselves, or some other interesting project. We will talk more about the paper as the semester moves along.
Assignments: We will have several assignments that give some hands-on experience with analyzing network data in UCINET and interpreting results. Assignments will therefore involve analysis of example data using UCINET.

Tests: We will have a scheduled midterm exam (after the actual middle of the semester). If it seems necessary, we may also have a few very simple pop quizzes.

Grading: Graded elements will be weighted as follows in calculating final scores. Paper, 50%; Midterm 30%; Assignments/Quizzes 20%.

TOPICS AND READINGS

1. Introduction/Motivation


2. Centrality


3. Cohesion and Structural Equivalence


4. Affiliation Networks


5. Statistical Approaches


6. Small Worlds


7. Some More on Contagion & Network “Effects”


*We won’t go through every word of the following papers, but will pick and choose chunks that illuminate the debate over C & F:*


8. Any time left for more???

Probably not. But if there is, there are many other interesting topics we could discuss.
The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACIttr.pdf

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct.cfm

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf. Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.