

Sociology

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Program Description

The major in sociology looks at how societies are organized and how they function, examining factors that affect social structure and interaction.

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Courses explore such topics as family, power, religion, culture, deviance, and discrimination. They probe the construction and consequences of diversity and inequality, looking at race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other indices of difference. **Students become immersed** in the study of social reality, analyze social structures and processes, **and come away with a greater understanding of social change, global and local diversity, and the power of culture as a shaping force.**

Independent research and study abroad are popular among sociology majors. Students have studied family and gender in Florence, Italy, examined perceptions of gay and lesbian college students, and researched the factors that affect high school graduation rates for teen mothers.

These and other experiences are excellent preparation for graduate study and careers in fields such as law, human services, education, business, and public policy.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Students who major in sociology take a minimum of ten full-credit courses, including:

- Soc 101, 102, or 103 (a prerequisite for all other Sociology courses)
- Soc 302 (a prerequisite for Soc 303 and 323)
- Soc 306 (a prerequisite for Soc 310, 312, 313 and 315)

(Students must earn a grade of C or better in Soc 101, 102, or 103, and in Soc 302 and 306.)

- One social inequality course: Soc 202, 209, 217, 240 or 244
- One upper-level methods course: Soc 303 or 323
- One seminar in sociological theory: Soc 310, 312, 313, or 315
- Soc 400/Capstone Seminar
- Three Sociology electives, excluding Soc 470 courses and normally excluding Soc 450 courses. One elective may be an Anthropology course.

Sociology majors typically take courses in this order:

- Soc 101, 102, or 103
- Inequality course
- Electives
- Soc 302
- Soc 306
- Upper-level theory and methods courses
- Capstone Senior Seminar

Minor Requirements

The Sociology minor consists of six courses:

- Soc 101, 102, or 103 (Students must earn a grade of C or better)
- Soc 302
- Soc 306
- Three Sociology electives, normally excluding Soc 450 and 470 courses

Course Listing

Course level:

100 | 200 | 300 | 400

SOC-101 Introduction to Sociology

Study of basic structures and dynamics of human societies, focusing on the development of principles and concepts used in sociological analysis and research. Topics include culture, socialization, social institutions, stratification, and social change. No prerequisite. Meets four hours per week.

SOC-102 Introduction to Sociology: Special Focus-Film

Study of basic structures and dynamics of human societies, focusing on the development of principles and concepts used in sociological analysis and research. Topics include culture, socialization, social institutions, stratification, and social change. Emphasis on Sociology through film. No prerequisite. Meets four hours per week.

SOC-103 Introduction to Sociology

Study of basic structures and dynamics of human societies, focusing on the development of principles and concepts used in sociological analysis and research. Topics include culture, socialization, social institutions, stratification, and social change. No prerequisite. Meets three hours per week and has extra assignments.

SOC-202 Wealth, Power & Prestige

Examination of distribution of valued resources and associated social ranking and rating systems. Topics include social classes, social mobility, economic and political power, and informal prestige and fame.

Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-203 Population

Examination of the components of population composition (fertility, mortality, and migration) to understand how they interact to produce particular population structures and population growth rates.

Course emphasizes the study of relationships between social and demographic variables, and the consequences of different population structures and population growth rates for societies as a whole and for various social groups. Special attention is given to the relationship between population dynamics and social change in the United States. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-204 Sociology of Mass Media & Popular Culture

Analysis of broadcast and print media institutions and the internet. Perspectives include the 'production of culture,' cultural content analysis, socialization effects, and media coverage. Various popular culture genres, both mass and folk, are covered, with special emphasis on music and film. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103 or permission of instructor.

SOC-205 Sociology of Religion

An exploration of the nature and organization of religion from a variety of perspectives. Topics include secularization, civil religion, comparative religion (with an emphasis on China), church-sect differences, relationships with other institutions, social inequality, social change, and new religious movements.

Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-206 Sociology of the Family

Analysis of the family as a social institution. Course takes a comparative and sociohistorical approach to the study of families, with a particular focus on the interaction between family and economy. Topics include intrafamily relations, work-family links, and family policy. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-207 Criminology

Introduction to the sociological study of crime. Course begins with a discussion of theories explaining

criminal behaviors. Course examines different types of crimes, and ways of researching and investigating crimes. The impact of crimes and laws on the well-being of the actors involved is also examined.

Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-208 Global Fertility: Perspectives on Population Change and Policy

Fertility is a fundamental population process, one that varies by (and leads to variation in) cultural, economic, and demographic characteristics of a time and place. This course places 20th and 21st century global, regional, and national fertility change in this context, with particular emphasis on economic development and public policy.

SOC-209 Race and Ethnicity

Study of the diverse manifestations of race and ethnicity around the world, with particular focus on the American experience. Topics include immigration and assimilation, prejudice and discrimination, and the construction and reconstruction of ethnic and racial boundaries and identities. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-212 Deviance, Diversity & Difference

Examination of the concept of deviance and exploration of various sociological theories and perspectives for viewing deviant phenomena. Topics include extreme tattooing, alien kidnapping, obesity, white supremacy, and S&M practices. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-217 Gender Inequalities

Examination of patterns of gender stratification in American social structures. Course centers on how class, race, and gender influence the experiences of women and men in families and occupations. Topics include images of women in the media, construction of gender, and movements for change. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-231 Self and Society

Study of the self, socialization, social roles, social relationships, communication, and group behavior. Emphases include group dynamics and differences in perception based on class, race and gender. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103, or permission of instructor.

SOC-233 Science, Knowledge & New Age

Exploration of science as a social institution. History and ideology of science as an objective method are examined, drawing from Merton, Kuhn and others. 'Antiscience' and 'New Science' perspectives include postmodernist, feminist, and New Age views. Parapsychology and other paranormal topics receive special attention as alternative knowledge systems. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103, Anthropology 103, or permission of instructor.

SOC-237 Power, Politics & New Media

Interrogates the role and power of new media in the formation of national identities, global assemblages, international information flows, legal structures, and social change. Students examine: how the nation-state and technological innovation in media overlapped, interacted and countered one another over the last century; how community, knowledge, rights and revolution are created, influenced, reconfigured or damaged by new media; and the structures, dimensions, fractures and fragmentations of today's new media worlds. Prerequisite: Any 100 level Sociology or 100 level Political Science course.

SOC-239 Health, Medicine and Society

Analysis of social factors that influence health and illness and of health care as a social institution. Topics include the cultural construction of health and illness, the sick role, the effects of social inequality on health and illness, health occupations and professions, and the social organization of health care systems in various societies. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-240 Sexualities

Exploration of how sexualities are socially constructed and controlled. In this course we use a sociological lens to examine how sexualities directly and indirectly shape our daily lives. We adopt both a life-course perspective and a cross-cultural perspective to understand the fluidity of sexual identities (lesbian, straight, gay, and bisexual) throughout our lives and within different cultural contexts. Topics include categorization of sexualities, representation of sexualities, sexual identities, sex practices, sexual health and disease, commercial sex, and social control of sexualities. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103 or permission of instructor.

SOC-241 Globalization

Examination of the changing relationship between nation, culture, politics and economics in a global context. Using comparative case studies from around the world, this course examines a variety of questions about contemporary social change. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103.

SOC-243 Chinese Diaspora

Examination of relationships between China's political and socio-economic changes and the Chinese Diaspora over the past century. Course explores how the diaspora has been affected by China's changing global positions. North America and Singapore are used as case studies to examine the relationship of overseas Chinese people with China. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103 or permission of instructor.

SOC-244 Global Sexualities

Comparative examination of inequalities within local sexual systems and situating them within a global context. Topics include social control and categorization of sexualities, and sexual identities and practices. The course investigates how religion and tradition shape these local systems. It also examines the hierarchies created by class and race within these systems. Last, the course discusses how these systems are being contested through activism. Throughout the course, discussions include how these systems simultaneously resist and accept the influences of globalization. Prerequisite: Sociology 101, 102 or 103 or permission of instructor.

SOC-250 Special Topics in Sociology

Exploration of a topic in sociology not usually covered in the regular curriculum.

SOC-262 Social Development of Latin America

A study of the development of Latin American states and societies. It first examines the various strategies employed by Latin American elites to develop capitalist societies that serve their interests. Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina are used to illustrate the implementation of these strategies. The second part of the course focuses on social movements to analyze the popular reaction to elites' strategies of social development. It looks at social movements generally in the region, but it pays particular attention to Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. Soc 262 and LAS 262 are cross-listed.

SOC-267 Society and Politics in Latin America

A study of historical, social and political development of the Dominican Republic. The course looks at the tensions between dictatorship, democracy, social development, and international migration to explain contemporary Dominican society. These factors are seen in the context of international capitalist development and the nation's re-insertion into globalization. Soc 267 and LAS 267 are cross-listed.

SOC-276 Contemporary Mexican State and Society

Study of the development of Mexico's economic and social development in the Twentieth Century. The

course focuses on two tasks: it provides an outline of economic and social development since independence and evaluates the process of industrialization in the twentieth century. The basic conceptual framework is that a socio-historical approach may help us understand the successive periods of growth and stagnation in Mexican society. What does the sociological analysis teach us about the current obstacles to social and economic development?

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SOC-302 Research Methods

Introduction to the logic of social science research. Goal is to develop student's ability to review and evaluate critically social research findings and to prepare for planning and carrying out research. A variety of qualitative and quantitative designs are examined, including survey, experiment, participant observation, and evaluation research. Issues of sampling, measurement, causality, and validity are considered. Prerequisite: SOC 101, 102 or 103 with a grade of C or higher and one 200-level Sociology course.

SOC-303 Data Analysis and Statistics

Study of elementary quantitative data analysis, including logic, application, and interpretation of statistical techniques. Students carry out and present original quantitative research projects. Includes laboratory. Prerequisite: C or better in SOC 302 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-306 Intro to Sociological Theory

Exploration of the nature of sociological theory and major theoretical orientations (paradigms). Course examines the origins and creation of these paradigms in the nineteenth and early twentieth century - the period of 'classical sociology' and their development, elaboration, and application in contemporary sociology. Prerequisite: SOC 101, 102 or 103 with a grade of C or higher and one 200-level Sociology course.

SOC-310 Seminar in Sociological Theory

Examination of a topic in sociology from a number of theoretical perspectives. Emphasis is on gaining an in-depth knowledge of the topic, while also learning how theoretical perspectives shape research and analysis. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 306 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-312 Theories of Social Change

Application of sociological theories to understanding social change in the globalizing world. Focus is on

social institutions and the transformations occurring in work, schools, and families. Course considers the impact of gender, class, race, and position in the world economic system on the experience of change. Building on classical theories, the work of contemporary theorists including Acker, Giddens, Wallerstein, Bourdieu and Foucault are examined. Students also consider how groups may shape and direct change through social activism and movements. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 306 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-313 Theories of Politics & Society

Analysis of the role of power in social and political institutions. Course examines the bases, distribution, and exercise of power in organizations, communities, and nations, as well as organized attempts to change existing power relationships. Theoretical perspectives include Marxism, Weberian theory, elitism and pluralism, resource mobilization, and new social movements theory. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 306 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-315 Theories of Self

Exploration of the nature of the self and how it is shaped by social experiences. Students examine classical and contemporary explanations of the origins of self and consider how individuals come to perceive themselves as gendered and sexual beings. Course includes symbolic interaction, psychoanalytic, and post-modern theories. Emphasis is on the influence of the family, work, and relationships on emotions and cognitive structures. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 306 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-318 Theories of Capitalism

A survey of how various socio-theoretical perspectives conceive of, and evaluate the political, social, and economic aspects of capitalism. A variety of issues related to capitalism and capitalistic societies are explored, ranging from how capitalism emerged historically to more contemporary debates regarding the contemporary nature of capitalism. These issues are explored through the theoretical lens of Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Joseph Schumpeter, Milton Friedman, Naomi Klein, Jean Baudrillard, and others. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 306 or consent of the instructor.

SOC-323 Field Methods in Social Research

Seminar on conducting qualitative fieldwork. Topics include how theory informs research, ethical issues, and developing descriptive fieldnotes. Students carry out original research projects, using field methods such as participant observation and qualitative interviewing, and learn how to gather data, analyze results, and write research reports. Prerequisite: C or better in Sociology 302.

SOC-331 Reinventing Latin American Societies

A study of the changing pattern of democratic development in Latin America. It will first analyze the processes of transition and consolidation of the region's democracies from the 1980s to 2009 and, then, focus, on issues of clientelism, citizenship, and populism. What is holding back the consolidation of democracy in the region? Prerequisite: LAS 140 or any other course with a focus on Latin America. Soc 331 and LAS 331 are cross-listed.

SOC-368 Reading

An immersion in the life and works of an important thinker who, though not normally identified as a philosopher, produced a body of work with philosophical significance. The course offers a close reading of major works, in the context of biography, social milieu, and intellectual developments. The philosophical impact and continuing importance of the selected thinker will be examined also through contemporary scholarship. Exemplars include: Wollstonecraft, Darwin, Freud, Gandhi, or Einstein.

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SOC-400 Sociology Seminar

Intensive culminating experience for sociology-track majors. Under the direction of a faculty member, students work to integrate their major and their understanding of the sociological perspective.

Prerequisite: Sociology 302 and 306 with a grade of C or better.

SOC-450 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

SOC-451 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

SOC-452 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

SOC-453 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

SOC-460 Individualized Study-Research

Individual investigation of a research topic in sociology in the student's special area of interest under the guidance of a faculty member. Topic must be approved by department. Project culminates in written and oral presentations of a formal paper to the departmental faculty. One way of qualifying for departmental honors. Students must submit a proposal to the department a minimum of two weeks before the end of the semester preceding the proposed study. Prerequisite: Consent of department. Open to juniors and seniors only.

SOC-461 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

SOC-462 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

SOC-463 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor graded S/U

SOC-470 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

SOC-471 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

SOC-472 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

SOC-473 Individualized Study-Intern

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

SOC-474 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded A-F, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office.

SOC-475 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded S/U, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office

SOC-477 Half Credit Internship

Half credit internship, graded S/U.

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