
Sociology

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SOCI 101. Introductory Sociology. 3 credits.

Provides students with an understanding of the structure and processes of modern societies and their historical antecedents. Explores the universality of the social experience by addressing such topics as culture, socialization, social interaction, bureaucracy, norms and diversity, social inequality, social institutions, modernization, technology and social change, world views, values and behavior.

SOCI 110. Social Issues in a Global Context. 3 credits.

This course introduces the discipline of sociology from a macrosociological perspective, emphasizing large-scale changes in social organization and institutions. We examine the global forces that shape societies, and the historical, political, social, cultural and economic origins of contemporary social problems. We consider competing theoretical models used in the study of social change as well as the conceptual and methodological challenges in analyzing societies different from one's own. May be used for general education credit.

SOCI 140. Microsociology: Individual in Society. 3 credits.

This course introduces the discipline of sociology and the subfield of microsociology. We examine the mutually constitutive relationship between the individual and society. Questions addressed include: How does society influence how we think, feel, believe, act and interact with others? What influences the self, social identity, shared social meanings, social roles and one's position in society? How do we, as individuals and as members of social groups, recreate, contest and change society? May be used for general education credit.

SOCI 200. Development of Sociological Thought and Methods. 3 credits.

This course is a foundation course for sociology majors. Topics will include the historical development of the discipline with an emphasis on the social and philosophical forces that influenced the development of sociology. Main sociological traditions will be introduced including the critical, naturalistic and interpretive paradigms, and sociological analysis from these perspectives. *Prerequisites:* [SOCI 101](#), [SOCI 110](#), [SOCI 140](#), or *permission of the instructor.*

SOCI 214. Social Deviance. 3 credits.

Course offers students a wide range of explanations of deviance. Topics considered are the functions, social definitions, societal reactions and political aspects of deviance as characteristic of all societies. Deviant attributes as well as acts are considered.

SOCI 231. Social Statistics. 3 credits.

Introduction to the techniques for collecting, describing, analyzing and presenting sociological data.

SOCI 260. Sociology of Culture. 3 credits.

This course examines sociological perspectives about values, norms, symbols, rituals and expressions. Course content includes classic perspectives on the relation between culture and institutions as well as the work of contemporary analysts who have developed, revised and/or challenged these classic positions. Students will learn to apply these perspectives to their own analyses of culture.

SOCI 265. Sociology of the Community. 3 credits.

This course examines the community as a social form. Considered are its function, social definitions, formative processes, development and systems of change. This survey may include, but not be limited to, examination of community studies research and community advocacy for social justice.

SOCI 276. Sociology of Families. 3 credits.

Covers the basic concepts and theories in marriage and the family; looks at basic issues in modern family life; examines changes in family functions and in the various stages of the family life cycle; and discusses the future of the family in contemporary society.

SOCI/GERN 280. Social Gerontology. 3 credits.

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of aging. The course provides an overview of issues surrounding aging in contemporary society: personal, familial, communal and societal. *Corequisite: 20 hours of community service-learning.*

SOCI 300. Sociological Inquiry. 3 credits.

A systematic introduction to various modes of sociological investigation, including positivism, interpretivism and critical analysis. Students learn to evaluate, critique and design original sociological inquiries with special attention to how sociological inquiry is guided by different philosophical and theoretical commitments. *Prerequisites: [SOCI 200](#) and [SOCI 231](#) or equivalent.*

SOCI 303. Sociology of Death and Dying. 3 credits.

Investigation of current American orientations toward death and dying with emphasis also given to the social organization of death and dying.

SOCI/ANTH 306. Japanese Society and Culture. 3 credits.

This introductory course takes a critical and interdisciplinary approach to exploring Japan. We will apply sociological, anthropological and demographic perspectives to comparatively understand, analyze, and discuss Japanese society and culture. Students will read and discuss issues related to history, socio-demographic change, gender, work, social class, race/ethnicity, family, health care and aging in Japanese society.

SOCI 311. Sociology of the Environment. 3 credits.

This course will introduce students to the central debates that currently preoccupy environmental sociology and political ecology. Emphasis is placed on the importance of sociological, historical and cultural modes of inquiry for understanding: socio-ecological change/crisis, environmental justice/injustice, eco-technological changes and politics of "nature."

SOCI/ANTH 313. Processes of Social and Cultural Change. 3 credits.

Investigates the procedures through which a society operates and the manner in which it introduces and incorporates changes. Issues considered include belief, innovation, directed change, coercive change, revitalization and revolution.

SOCI 315. Science, Technology and Society. 3 credits.

Through an analysis of various issues, problems and case studies, this course will explore the interactions between science, technology and society. The course will examine connections of specific technologies to science, cultural values, social and economic interests and questions regarding progress.

SOCI 318. Sociology of Immigration. 3 credits.

This course explores the patterns and processes defining immigration around the world – the reasons for migration, the types of migration, and the way it affects the sending and receiving societies. The course investigates the social forces that affect immigrants and the traits that impact their relocation experience; and how immigration creates new identities for those successful in their quest, contributing to greater cultural diversity of receiving societies.

SOCI 321. Politics in Society. 3 credits.

The relationship between society and politics, the nature of distribution of social power, political participation, political thought, and politics as a vehicle for social change are explored.

SOCI/REL 322. Sociology of Religion. 3 credits.

This course is a sociological analysis of the nature, function and structure of religion. The course is a survey of the relationship between religion and society: the social nature of religious phenomena, the interaction between religious beliefs and practices and other arenas of secular societies, the social functions of religions, and the way religion changes and is changed by secular society.

SOCI/CRJU 325. Criminology. 3 credits.

Study of the extent, causes and possible deterrents to crime including murder, assault, white-collar offenses and organized crime with attention to the role of the victim and policy implications. *Prerequisites:* [CRJU 215](#) and [CRJU 225](#).

SOCI 327. Juvenile Delinquency. 3 credits.

Study of youth gangs, deviation and youth culture standards as well as the treatment used. Recent research reports will be emphasized.

SOCI/JUST/SOWK 330. Corrections. 3 credits.

The history, philosophy, policies and problems of the treatment of violators by the police, courts and correctional institutions.

SOCI 334. Socialization and Society. 3 credits.

This course examines socialization in society. Biography, narratives and socialization are examined in relation to issues of personal power, justice, culture, politics, social relations and other social formations.

SOCI 335. Disability and Society. 3 credits.

This class focuses on the social and cultural aspects of disability in the U.S. and around the world. It explores the meaning of the concept “disability;” its relation to other social markers such as race, gender and sexual orientation; how it is experienced by those occupying the category; and major policy approaches to dealing with disability.

SOCI 336. Race and Ethnicity. 3 credits.

This course examines the social construction of race and ethnicity around the world and how they influence social processes, institutions, change and ideology. The course will include discussions concerning the intersection of race and ethnicity with other aspects of social inequality such as class, gender, sexuality and nationality in contemporary society.

SOCI/WGS 337. Sociology of Gender. 3 credits.

Examination of theories of sex role development, the roles of men and women in society and gender as a social construction.

SOCI 341. Sociology of Education. 3 credits.

Examination of sociological theories and research on education, emphasizing stratification, socialization, organization and relationship between schooling, family, community and work. Focus on cross cultural approaches to education.

SOCI 342. Muslim Movements in the Middle East. 3 credits.

This course is designed to provide a basic knowledge of current Islamic movements in the Middle East. The primary emphasis is on social movements in Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan.

SOCI 344. Work and Society. 3 credits.

This course examines the nature and meaning of work under various social and historical conditions. This includes such things as the relationship of work organization to life chances and personal experience, the place of work in social theory, the organization of occupations, occupational socialization and commitment, and how the nature of work changes in relation to local and global contexts.

SOCI 346. Leisure in Contemporary Society. 3 credits.

Sociological analysis of leisure or non-work in contemporary society with particular emphasis upon conceptual and human problems and the potentials of leisure in a context of social change.

SOCI/SOWK 348. Introduction to Developing Societies. 3 credits.

This course examines economic development and social and political changes in developing countries. The historical experiences of developing societies will be analyzed within the context of the global system and from the perspective of competing and complementary theoretical perspectives.

SOCI/ANTH 352. Birth, Death, Sex: Exploring Demography. 3 credits.

Fertility (birth) and mortality (death) and their biological and social determinants in cross-cultural and evolutionary/ historical frameworks. Exploration of the dynamic between the material constraints on and symbolic significance of, reproduction, sexuality and death within a cultural context. Critical examination of population growth as a global "problem." Basic demographic methods. *Prerequisite: Any lower level course in anthropology or sociology or permission of the instructor.*

SOCI 354. Social Inequality. 3 credits.

Course covers the systems of stratification and inequality in the United States including race, class, gender, religion, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality. Discussion will center on their role in providing rationales for oppression and discrimination in society and their relationship to the distribution of power and ideological control.

SOCI 357. Sociology of Disasters. 3 credits.

This course aims to familiarize students with the sociological study of the causes and consequences of disasters. The course takes a broad view of the social science literature on disasters, but largely employs a case study approach. In keeping with sociology's focus on the causes and consequences of social stratification, the relationship between disasters and patterns of inequality will be a central theme throughout the course.

SOCI 358. Sociology of Consumption. 3 credits.

This course encompasses themes that range from identity construction to the macro processes of cultural globalization. As consumption becomes more integral to society, it is becoming more central to various disciplines. This course situates scholarly work from this nascent interdisciplinary field of consumption studies within the context of contemporary social, cultural and economic issues.

SOCI 360. Social Movements. 3 credits.

Introduction to the study and analysis of social movements in the United States as agents of social and ideological change. Emphasis is given to movements which have goals of extending and/or protecting rights of individuals and groups in the face of increasing industrialization, urbanization and centralization of power.

SOCI 361. Sociology of Organizations. 3 credits.

Study of formal organizations primarily in contemporary society. Emphasis is given to the social-historical context that has given rise to and perpetuates the bureaucracy as a form of social organization, and to the study of the structure and dynamics of contemporary formal organizations such as business, universities, governments, etc.

SOCI 366. Sociology of Knowledge. 3 credits.

This course explores sociological understandings of the social sources, bases and effects of knowledge, including scientific knowledge. This includes explorations of various knowledge systems, knowledge generating institutions, competing knowledge claims, and the links between knowledge and social power. *Prerequisite: SOCI 200 or instructor permission.*

SOCI 367. Sociology of Sexuality. 3 credits.

This course examines sociological theory and research on sexual behaviors, identities, cultures and social movements, investigating how sexuality is shaped by society and its social institutions. In addition, the course examines how sociological research on sexuality is conducted, how society shapes the sociological study of sexuality, the unique ethical concerns and methodological challenges in researching sexuality, and the place of sociology in shaping public discourse and social policy on relevant social issues.

SOCI/ANTH 368. Contemporary American Culture. 3 credits.

This course analyzes contemporary American society in relation to popular cultural formations and representations. Cultural expressions found in music, literature, theatre, film, television, cyberspace and sports will be examined with respect to the values, sentiments, identity constructions and lived experiences of differentially situated social actors.

SOCI 369. Law and Society. 3 credits.

The history and functions of law as a form of social control; the social forces in the creation and practice of the law. The nature of law as a catalyst for and the product of social change.

SOCI 375. Medical Sociology. 3 credits.

An introduction to the field of medical sociology that examines the salient issues in the field and related theoretical perspectives. These two focuses are important in understanding the ability of humans to live to capacity. Attention is given to health care programs in developing countries as well as modern industrial societies.

SOCI 380. Critical Analysis. 3 credits.

An examination of the historical context and current status of the critical paradigm within sociology, including issues involved in critical understanding of and participation in modern society. *Prerequisite:* [SOCI 200](#).

SOCI 382. Qualitative Sociology. *3 credits.*

This course introduces students to qualitative research methods, including participant observation, interviewing, and content analysis. Students will read examples of qualitative sociology and learn how to design and conduct a qualitative research study. In addition to reviewing methodological, theoretical, and ethical issues, students will produce an independent qualitative research project. *Prerequisite:* [SOCI 200](#).

SOCI 385. Madness and Society: The Sociology of Mental Health and Illness. *3 credits.*

This course will explore the role that social and cultural factors play in the occurrence, diagnosis, experience and treatment of mental illness. It will compare sociological perspectives to those of biology and psychology. The course will examine the intersection of mental health systems with other systems, such as the broader health care and the criminal justice systems. Finally, it will critically analyze psychiatry, policy and popular culture depictions of the mentally ill.

SOCI/ANTH 390. Topics in Cultural Studies. *3 credits.*

This course explores contemporary culture through a “cultural studies” lens, an interdisciplinary perspective interested in using empirical knowledge to encourage more just human relations. Specific topics of investigation will vary by semester, but each course will cover cultural studies’ intellectual history and its application to cultural expressions found in everyday life, film, music and text.

SOCI 391. Study Abroad. *1-6 credits.*

Designed to encourage students to enhance their academic programs through studying abroad. Arrangements must be made with a faculty member who will direct the study with preparatory instructions and final requirements. May be repeated for up to 12 credits.

SOCI 395. Special Topics in Sociology. *3 credits.*

Examination of selected topics that are of current importance in sociology. May be repeated for credit when course content changes.

SOCI 480. Senior Seminar in Sociology. *3 credits.*

The integration of previous class experience the student has had during the undergraduate years. Fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major. Can be repeated as course content changes. *Prerequisite:* [SOCI 300](#).

SOCI 485. Sociology Course Assistantship. *1-3 credits.*

Assistantships provide students with a sense of what it is like to teach a sociology course by allowing them to work closely with faculty members through different phases of course preparation, presentation and evaluation. Assistantships also allow for a deeper understanding of course material by providing opportunities for student assistants to lead discussion and to help their peers review the material outside of the classroom. *Prerequisites:* *Students must have junior/senior standing, must have earned a grade of “B” or better in the course for which he/she will serve as assistant, and may register by faculty invitation only. May be repeated up to six credits; only three credits can count toward the major. A student may only serve as a course assistant to the same course twice.*

SOCI 490. Independent Study in Sociology. 1-3 credits.

Designed to give capable students in sociology an opportunity to complete independent study under supervision. *Prerequisites: Recommendation of the instructor. More than one repeat requires department head approval.*

SOCI 492. Internship in Sociology. 1-3 credits.

Provides the student with practical experience in employing and refining sociological skills in a public or private agency under faculty supervision. May be repeated up to six credits.

SOCI 499 A, B, C. Honors. 6 credits. Three semesters.

An independent research topic initiated and completed by qualified senior majors who want to graduate with distinction.

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