

SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

SOC-197 Independent Study (1 credit)

SOC Independent Study; contact your advisor

SOC-220 Social Movements & Social Change (4 credits)

The student investigates formal and informal structures and processes in complex organizations. She develops skills in analyzing bureaucracies and in proposing and evaluating solutions to problems related to organizational environments. She also acquires communication, interaction, and decision-making skills that allow her to function effectively in organizational settings.

Prerequisite(s): Communication Level 2 Writing completed. BSC-215 or MGT 120/PCM 120 completed.

SOC-301 Social Theory (4 credits)

The student refines her own social philosophy by analyzing ideas set forth by social theorists and critics. She compares different interpretations of social phenomena by examining their historical context, basic assumptions and interpretations, and societal implications.

Prerequisite(s): CLD-220/SOC-220 or MGT-221 completed. POL-225 completed or concurrent. Communication Level 3 ICM completed or CM 212 or CM-225 or CM 114 completed.

SOC-306 Race & Ethnicity in American Life (4 credits)

Students examine from an historical perspective various racial and ethnic groups that comprise American society. Similarities and differences are analyzed in terms of social status, relative power and the dynamics of racism.

Prerequisite(s): SSC-101 or LA 284 completed. Communication Level 3 ICM completed. Fulfills the requirement to take SOC-320 or SOC-321.

SOC-320 Families and Society (4 credits)

Offered Fall Term only. The student analyzes various family frameworks within a behavioral science context. She uses theories to interpret the emergence of current types of families now common in our society, including varieties associated with different racial/ethnic and social class groups. Research on families in other cultures is also presented in order to highlight how different social values are associated with different definitions of what a "normal or "good" family really is. The course also introduces the student to the process and products of ethnographic research.

Prerequisite(s): One Communication Level 3 ICM, BSC-215, plus one additional 200-level course in PSY or SOC completed. For SSH Majors: POL-225 or GLS-200 or BSC-255 completed. Offered Fall term only.

SOC-321 Criminology & Justice (4 credits)

Offered Spring Term only. Few subjects capture the imagination or receive as much attention as crime. We cannot pick up a newspaper, pass a bookstore or turn on the television without being bombarded with accounts of crime. The subject is bound to polarize opinion with parties deeply divided over the causes, consequences and remedies to the problem. This course seeks to shed some light on the subject by applying scientific methods and sociological theories to the study of crime and the criminal justice system. In so doing it will necessarily confront and often contradict widely held views of crime as expressed in the media and by politicians. One of the most important goals of the course is for students to be sensitive to the points of disagreement between conventional wisdom about crime as expressed in the public arena and what is known about crime from systematic study and investigation by social scientists. Students should also come away from this class with a better appreciation of the complexity of the problems and the difficulty in gaining consensus as to what to do about crime.

Prerequisite(s): One Communication Level 3 ICM, BSC-215, plus one additional 200-level course in PSY or SOC completed. Offered in Spring Term only.

SOC-341 Geographical Information Systems (3 credits)

This hands-on course in which students are given beginning-level opportunities to process, analyze and visualize spatial data and information using commercially-available GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software. In the process, they are introduced to the principles of GIS and its usefulness as an analytical tool and as an effective communication technique in addressing global, environmental and social science questions. The course also explores ethical issues pertaining to confidentiality and privacy when gathering and using GIS data.

Prerequisite(s): WDC: SSC-101 and 2 courses from Natural Science/ Math General Education requirements completed. WEC: LA 283 & LA 284 completed.

SOC-350 Topics in Sociology (4 credits)

This course allows the sociology program to offer occasional courses on diverse topics within the broad range of the discipline. Courses focus on sociopolitical issues and themes of a local, national, or global nature. For example, the most recent offering was Law and Society. Students examined how laws concerning major social issues like racial desegregation, affirmative action, and abortion have changed over time, by studying and debating the U.S. Supreme Court cases involved. See the online Course Offerings book in any given semester for more specific information.

Prerequisite(s): BSC-257 or BSC-256 or MT-256 or MGT-250 completed. Permission of instructor is required to register for this course.

SOC-351 Law & Society (4 credits)

In this course you will analyze the nature of law as a social institution: a complex array of roles, rules, and sets of interactive relationships established to provide the basic human need of societal regulation. All societies have had some type of law, in the form of traditions handed down and/or codified into documents, because all societies need some system for defining folkways and mores, what is right and wrong conduct and thought, teaching people those norms, and sanctioning those who disobey them. Law is also a carrier of deep cultural values: ideas about the true, good and beautiful that become criteria for making judgments about what is right and wrong. So law is often about past tradition and carrying on a heritage. But sometimes law makers – influenced by various ideas, opinions, and interest groups – can change a society's direction by setting new values and norms for people to live by, setting new precedents to be enforced by the power of the government.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed or permission of instructor.

SOC-365 Social Psychology: Cross Cultural Persp (4 credits)

Social psychology is concerned with the way that the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of a person are influenced by the presence of other people. In this course, the student examines such fundamental human issues as aggression, prejudice, attraction, altruism, persuasion, conformity, and emotion. She also takes a critical look at the cultural and historical contexts of studies on these issues, which are most often rooted in cultures that emphasize the importance of the individual. She analyzes the limitations those contexts imply for generalization about human behavior, and seeks a better understanding of the way her own cultures shape her thoughts, feelings, and actions in the social world.

Prerequisite(s): PSY-250 completed and all 200-level courses completed in major. For CLD Majors: BSC-255, BSC-256, CLD-220, MGT-201, MGT-210 and POL-225 completed.

SOC-390 Case Management (4 credits)

This course focuses on case management within a variety of human service organizations. The student explores how to assess and address client concerns through a working alliance with the client. She considers various models of case management and the ethical standards that guide this type of work. She also studies how to help clients access community resources through the building of functional community networks. Further she explores what it means to be an active agent of systemic change, particularly through the knowledge gained from the unique vantage point of a caseworker. Throughout the semester, the student develops case-management skills through practice in "labs"

Prerequisite(s): BSC-215, SSC-101 & PSY-250 completed.

SOC-397 Independent Study (0 credits)

The student wishing to pursue a special project in social science can do so in this course. She is expected to develop whatever abilities are required for the project, as determined by mutual agreement with her mentor. The student should consult with the instructor for specific information.

SOC-398 Community Power & Change (3 credits)

Offered Fall Term only. This course introduces the student to the economics and politics of local and regional government decision making. She compares different structures of governance and planning in order to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each. For example, communities include many different economic, cultural, and political interest groups. How well do various types of local and regional government address their diverse needs? The student examines case studies of local political issues and investigates issues in her own community.

Prerequisite(s): SOC-220 completed

SOC-399 Formal Introduction to Advanced Work (0 credits)

The Advanced-Level Event marks a significant accomplishment for each student as she proceeds into the work of her major department. When a department determines that a student is ready for advanced work within a discipline, the student is invited to participate in a ceremony that is both a celebration and an explanation of future requirements of the major and support areas. She registers for this experience at a point determined by her major department: for most majors the registration is connected to the taking of a particular course. Students and faculty gather for an afternoon during Mid-semester Assessment Days. Following a general program, students meet in departmental sessions with their faculty to discuss advanced outcomes, department courses, advising procedures, and so on.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed or concurrent registration. Begins SOC cumulative assessment process.

SOC-483 Advanced Internship (2 credits)

Advanced Internship

Prerequisite(s): Contact your Advisor to register for this advanced internship.

SOC-491 Advanced Seminar in Sociology (2 credits)

In this course, students in the disciplines of community leadership and development, political science, and sociology meet together. Each student synthesizes the abilities and knowledge she has acquired through disciplinary courses. She demonstrates advanced-level outcomes by independently analyzing issues within her particular discipline.

Prerequisite(s): SOC-301 completed Course offered spring terms only

SOC-497 Independent Study (4 credits)

The student wishing to pursue a special project in social science can do so in this course. She is expected to develop whatever abilities are required for the project, as determined by mutual agreement with her mentor. The student should consult with the instructor for specific information.