Sociology (SOC)

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Basic theories, concepts, and processes involved in scientific study of society; includes socialization process, social inequality, the family, religion, deviance, population, the environment, and social change.

SOC 200 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged

SOC 201 Introduction to Inequity and Justice
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
An interdisciplinary and historical study of social inequities and inclusion in a cross-cultural global context. The course examines multiple forms of diversity and stratification including, but not limited to, culture, class, race/ethnic, gender/sexuality, religious diversity, and political ideology in an effort to raise students’ ability to interact with and understand others in our increasingly multicultural world. Courses may vary in their emphasis on United States’ or international experiences. May include service learning.
Prereq: SOC 101

SOC 203 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged

SOC 204 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged

SOC 211 Development of Social Theory
3 credits
Development of social theory from classical roots through contemporary schools; biographical accounts and original works in sociological theory.
Prereq: SOC 101

SOC 230 Social Problems
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Contemporary social issues and personal deviations; crime and delinquency, poverty and wealth, drugs, sexual variations, racism, sexism, and the environment.

SOC 299 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged

SOC 309 Social Science Research Methods
3 credits
This course introduces students to quantitative and qualitative research methods employed in the social sciences. It will discuss research design and ethics, data collection processes, and data analysis.

SOC 327 Sociology of the Family
3 credits
This class is designed to help students critically evaluate and understand the ways they think about families and the role of the families. In this course we will examine families as social institutions that vary across time and culture, the ways that families shape and are constrained by structural conditions, and the interactions between the family and other social institutions.
Prereq: SOC 101

SOC 340 Environmental Sociology and Globalization
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
This course introduces students to sociological understanding of environment and globalization, demonstrating the importance of connecting questions of environmental concern to global processes. Area emphasis within the study of environmental sociology and globalization will vary depending on instructor.

SOC 341 Science, Technology, and Society
3 credits
This course situates science and technology in the social context. The course draws from Sociology of Science and Science and Technology Studies to examine the nature of scientific expertise, processes of knowledge creation, interrelationship between science and technology, impacts of science and technology on society, and science policy. Students will develop the ability to ask important questions about how the human world affects science and technology, and how science and technology affects the human world.

SOC 342 Gender and Science
3 credits
This course examines the growing body of scholarship that analyzes the intersections of gender, sexuality, science, and technology. Throughout the course, students will explore the various barriers of expertise, the production of scientific knowledge, and the effects of technological developments. Students will participate in a learning community that allows them to shape their own directions of inquiry and develop their skills as scholarly investigators.

SOC 343 Power, Politics, and Society
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Examines the relationship between political and social institutions, the distribution of power and authority in society, the origins and expansion of the modern state, social and cultural basis of political behavior, and characteristics of transnational and global governance. Recommended Preparation: SOC 230.
Prereq: SOC 101 or Instructor Permission

SOC 345 Extremism and American Society
3 credits
This course explores sociological perspectives on extremism in American society. We will consider the socio-structural factors that contribute to a rise in extremist activism, that motivate people to join these organizations, and that provide political opportunity for organizational growth. The class will also explore the historical and contemporary circulation of extremist discourse and ideology in more mainstream spaces. Finally, the course will examine the impact these organizations have on broader society: culture, ideology, political discourse, etc. To accomplish this, the course will focus on case studies of past and current reactionary groups, including hate groups (KKK, neo-Nazi), militia and patriot groups (Posse Comitatus), terrorist groups, and other examples of extremism.
Prereq: SOC 101 or Instructor Permission

SOC 346 Responding to Risk
3 credits
This course uses risk as a paradigm for a sociological analysis of agency and structure. Students are introduced to various theories and frameworks for modeling risk. The course investigates risk in individual and group behavior, decision making in situations of risk, and risk in the workings of social institutions and social practices, within the areas of crime and deviance, science and technology, health, and the environment.
Prereq: SOC 101 or Instructor Permission
SOC 350 Food, Culture, and Society
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Cross-listed with ANTH 350
Examines the structural and cultural implications of eating and producing food in a global world. Utilizing a social scientific framework, it explores the history of particular foods and examines how food systems are racialized, classed, and gendered. Primary foci include the social history of food holidays and taboos, the relationships between food and identity, the impact of agricultural production practices on food systems and food security, and forms of resistance to these impacts. Recommended Preparation: ANTH 220 or a 200-level Sociology course. May include field trips.
Prereq: SOC 101
SOC 400 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged
Prereq: SOC 101
SOC 403 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged
Prereq: SOC 101
SOC 404 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged
Prereq: SOC 101
SOC 416 Qualitative Social Science Methods
3 credits
Cross-listed with ANTH 416, Joint-listed with ANTH 516.
This course introduces students to social science research methods that collect qualitative data. It will discuss research design and ethics, data collection processes, and data analysis.
Prereq: SOC 101 or ANTH 100
SOC 417 Social Data Analysis
3 credits
Cross-listed with ANTH 417, Joint-listed with ANTH 517.
This course introduces students to social science research methods that collect quantitative data. It will discuss research design and ethics, data collection processes, and data analysis.
Prereq: SOC 101; and STAT 153 or STAT 251
SOC 420 Sociology of Law
3 credits
The course examines law creation and law enforcement in their social, political, and economic context. Discussions include the major theories of the role of law and functioning of the modern state, and through the use of historical and contemporary case studies students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these theoretical perspectives.
SOC 423 Economic (In)Justice in the United States
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
This course investigates how United States’ institutions create and maintain conditions of economic inequality and injustice. Various angles of inquiry include the unequal distribution of wealth amongst different social groups, the rising power of financial institutions, the prevalence of housing insecurity, the causes and consequences of consumer indebtedness and bankruptcy, and unequal community development.
Prereq: SOC 101 or Instructor Permission
SOC 424 Sociology of Gender
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Historical and comparative analysis of the various roles, statuses, and life opportunities of men and women; emphasis on how gender roles develop in society and their effect on social structure, social institutions, and interpersonal interaction.
Prereq: SOC 101 and a 3 credit lower-division SOC course, or SOC 301/ANTH 301
SOC 427 Racial and Ethnic Relations
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Examination of the social construction of racial categories and meanings; theories of race relations; historical and contemporary experiences of racial/ethnic groups in the U.S.; contemporary issues and debates.
Prereq: SOC 101 and a 3 credit lower-division SOC course
SOC 428 Self and Society
3 credits
This course provides an overview of sociological social psychological research examining the significance of the self within the larger society. Specific attention is paid to symbolic interactionism, including its historical and philosophical roots, its key concepts and ideas, and its different theoretical frameworks and methodologies. Various social psychological topics (e.g., the construction of the self, socialization, deviance, mental health, collective behavior) are examined from a symbolic interactionist perspective.
SOC 460 Capstone: Sociology in Action
3 credits
Gen Ed: Senior Experience
Sociology in Action is designed to provide the resources and guidance necessary for sociology seniors to complete an independent or collaborative research project.
Prereq: SOC 101 and Senior standing and major in Department of Sociology and Anthropology; or Permission
SOC 462 Senior Practicum
3 credits
Gen Ed: Senior Experience
This course will involve an applied, on-site experience with an organization or group. The applied experience will be the basis for a thesis that will analyze the applied experience by incorporating theory, methods, and knowledge gained from previously-taken sociology classes. In addition, the practicum will include class meetings covering topics related to the applied experience and career paths for majors in Sociology.
Prereq: SOC 101.
SOC 465 Environmental Justice
3 credits
Cross-listed with ANTH 465, Joint-listed with ANTH 565.
This course surveys the history of environmental justice in the United States and globally, and it explores the different sociological perspectives surrounding environmental justice cases and movements. Courses will slightly differ in emphasis depending on the instructor, allowing opportunities to explore more deeply the social philosophies and policies that inform this course topic. Additional work required for graduate credit.
SOC 466 Climate Change and Society
3 credits
This course introduces students to social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of climate change. It considers the global nature of climate change, its causes and effects, and key issues related to climate change communication, adaptation, and mitigation. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to identify several key sociological issues related to climate change (e.g., human impact on climate change, institutional and political responses, public opinions and skepticism, impact on marginalized communities, challenges to communication, role of emotions in climate change, potential avenues for mitigating negative effects).

Prereq: SOC 101

SOC 498 (s) Internship
1-6 credits, max arranged
Supervised professional field experience in human service organizations. Graded P/F.
Prereq: SOC 101, major in Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Permission

SOC 499 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged
Intended to accommodate a wide variety of sociological topics.
Prereq: SOC 101 and Permission

SOC 501 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged
Subjects normally offered: sociological research, social problems, and social theory.
Prereq: Permission

SOC 502 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged
Subjects normally offered: sociological theory, human ecology, and race relations.
Prereq: Permission

SOC 504 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged

SOC 599 (s) Non-thesis Master's Research
Credit arranged