

Sociology



Mary Ann Kanieski, Department Chair
260 Spes Unica Hall
574-284-4517

FACULTY

S. Alexander, K. Faust, M. Kanieski, L. Wang

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

Sociologists are interested in people's behaviors as social beings. The field of sociology ranges from the analyses of individual social behaviors, such as family relationships, criminal activities, shopping and consumption patterns or religious affiliation—to the study of global social processes—such as the impact of multinational mass media, colonialization, war, or immigration patterns. The Department of Sociology offers a major in Sociology, a major in Sociology with Criminology Concentration, and a minor in Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers a variety of courses, research opportunities, and internship experiences that foster each student's acquisition of a sociological perspective. A sociological perspective incorporates four central aspects:

- The link between an individual's experience and larger social groups and institutions.
- The impact of social structures on individuals and/or groups that includes both micro and macro-level social processes.
- The value of empirical evidence for understanding social phenomena.
- The ability to effectively communicate the sociological perspective to others.

The sociological perspective provides students with a solid background for understanding human behavior, particularly as it is shaped by social factors such as socioeconomic class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual identity, and/or age. Those enrolled in the Criminology concentration will apply the sociological perspective to the phenomenon of crime and the criminal justice system to gain an understanding of the impact of both crime and the institution of criminal justice on individuals, the family, the community, and larger society.

The Sociology curriculum prepares students for careers in which knowledge about social behavior is essential such as business, human services, non-profit organizations, education, or law. The Criminology concentration will prepare students for careers in the criminal justice system, criminal law, and related areas. Additionally, students interested in continuing their education in a graduate program in Sociology, Criminology, or a professional program are prepared for post-baccalaureate study.

TEACHERS PREPARATION

The Sociology Department in conjunction with the Education Department offers courses leading to state licensing for History/Social Studies.

ADVANCED WRITING PROFICIENCY

To fulfill the College's Advanced Writing Proficiency requirement, each student completing the senior seminar course submits her written senior comprehensive project for evaluation.

SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE

For the Senior Comprehensive, each student completes an original research study or theoretical analysis of a sociological topic and presents her work to the Sociology faculty. Successful completion of SOC 495 and the Senior Comprehensive project satisfies the senior comprehensive requirement.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students are able to articulate the connection between individuals' lives and larger social forces and/or social structural conditions.
- Students are able to articulate how social structures impact individuals or groups using various theoretical frameworks.
- Students are able to locate, interpret, analyze, and/or produce empirical data about social phenomenon.

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR WITH CRIMINOLOGY CONCENTRATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students are able to demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and findings within criminology.
- Students are able to articulate the impact of inequality on crime, victimhood, and the criminal justice system.
- Students are able to locate, interpret, analyze, and/or produce empirical data about crime and/or its impact.

PROGRAM IN SOCIOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Sociology—SOC (34 hours)

All of the following:

SOC 153	Sociological Imaginations	3 hours
SOC 203	Social Problems	3 hours
or SOC 204	Social Psychology	3 hours
SOC 319	Social Theories	3 hours
SOC 371	Applied Sociological Statistics	1 hour
SOC 372	Sociological Statistics	3 hours
SOC 384	Sociological Research Methods	3 hours
SOC 495	Senior Seminar	3 hours

Two of the following:

Category 1: Social Institutions within the Social Structures

SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3 hours
SOC 306	Consumer Society	3 hours
SOC 310	Social Inequalities in Health	3 hours
SOC 340	Juvenile Deviance	3 hours
SOC 382	Sociology of Popular Culture	3 hours

Two of the following:

Category 2: Social Relationships: Structures of Power and Oppression

SOC 220	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	3 hours
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SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 230	Social Inequalities in Education	3 hours
SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3 hours
SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 345	Sociology of Poverty	3 hours
SOC 350	Global Childhoods	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours

One of the following (3 hours):

Category 3: Sociology Electives

SOC 220	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 230	Social Inequalities in Education	3 hours
SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3 hours
SOC 306	Consumer Society	3 hours
SOC 310	Social Inequalities in Health	3 hours
SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 340	Juvenile Deviance	3 hours
SOC 345	Sociology of Poverty	3 hours
SOC 350	Global Childhoods	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours
SOC 380	Applied Sociology	3 hours
SOC 382	Sociology of Popular Culture	3 hours
SOC 390	Special Topics	3 hours
SOC 485	Research Tutorial	3 hours
SOC 497	Independent Study in Sociology	1–3 hours
SOC 499	Sociological Internship	1–6 hours

Minor in Sociology—SOC (15 hours)

One of the following:

SOC 153	Sociological Imaginations	3 hours
SOC 203	Social Problems	3 hours

One of the following:

Category 1: Social Institutions within the Social Structures

SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3 hours
SOC 306	Consumer Society	3 hours
SOC 310	Social Inequalities in Health	3 hours
SOC 340	Juvenile Deviance	3 hours
SOC 382	Sociology of Popular Culture	3 hours

One of the following:

Category 2: Social Relationships: Structures of Power and Oppression

SOC 204	Social Psychology	3 hours
SOC 220	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 230	Social Inequalities in Education	3 hours
SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3 hours

SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 345	Sociology of Poverty	3 hours
SOC 350	Global Childhoods	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours

Two of the following (if not used above):

Category 3: Sociology Electives

SOC 153	Sociological Imaginations	3 hours
SOC 203	Social Problems	3 hours
SOC 204	Social Psychology	3 hours
SOC 220	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	3 hours
SOC 222	Contested Masculinities	3 hours
SOC 230	Social Inequalities in Education	3 hours
SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3 hours
SOC 257	Sociology of Families	3 hours
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3 hours
SOC 306	Consumer Society	3 hours
SOC 310	Social Inequalities in Health	3 hours
SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 340	Juvenile Deviance	3 hours
SOC 345	Sociology of Poverty	3 hours
SOC 350	Global Childhoods	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours
SOC 380	Applied Sociology	3 hours
SOC 382	Sociology of Popular Culture	3 hours
SOC 390	Special Topics	3 hours
SOC 485	Research Tutorial	3 hours
SOC 497	Independent Study in Sociology	1–3 hours
SOC 499	Sociological Internship	1–6 hours

Major in Sociology with Criminology Concentration—CRIM (34 hours)

All of the following Core Courses (19 hours):

SOC 153	Sociological Imaginations	3 hours
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3 hours
SOC 319	Social Theories	3 hours
SOC 372	Sociological Statistics	3 hours
SOC 371	Sociological Statistics Lab	1 hour
SOC 384	Sociological Research Methods	3 hours
SOC 495	Senior Seminar	3 hours

Social Relationships in Criminology: Structures of Power and Oppression. Select two of the following (6 hours):

SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3 hours
SOC 345	Sociology of Poverty	3 hours
SOC 350	Global Childhoods	3 hours
SOC 360	Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Race	3 hours
SOC 365	Social Construction of Gender	3 hours

Electives: Select three of the following (9 hours):

SOC 330	Gender and Law	3 hours
SOC 340	Juvenile Deviance	3 hours
SOC 499	Sociological Internship	3 hours

SOCIOLOGY COURSES (SOC)

153 Sociological Imaginations (3)

A general survey of the basic concepts and processes necessary for an understanding of society, culture, groups, institutions, and social behavior. The applications of the discipline are emphasized to encourage the student to appreciate the utility of the sociological approach.

203 Social Problems (3)

This course focuses on some of the phenomena which have been identified as social problems in the United States. Among the issues discussed are poverty, gender and racial stratification, hyper-consumerism, changing family structures, inequality in the educational system, health care issues, the work environment, drug abuse, and crime. Particular attention will be given to the role of the social structure in the creation and perpetuation of social problems, and how social problems are interrelated.

204 Social Psychology (3)

Social psychology seeks to understand and explain human behavior in its social context. It is concerned with how people, and the social forces that impinge upon them, affect one another's thoughts, feelings, and behavior. The course consists of an overview of major theories and research studies in modern social psychology, and an exploration of specialties in the field.

220 Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies (3)

This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) studies. The course will investigate the academic foundations of LGBTQ studies and the emergence and transformation of LGBTQ identities, cultural practices, and political movements, and the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and class have shaped same-sex sexuality in different historical periods, with an emphasis on the United States. Cross-listed with GWS 220.

222 Contested Masculinities (3)

This course is an introduction to various forms of masculinity, how masculinities are constructed and performed by individuals, and how individual performativities create larger social and cultural understandings of masculinity in specific historical, social, and cultural settings.

230 Social Inequalities in Education (3)

The social processes of education and schooling as an agent of socialization will be examined and critiqued. Both the structural and cultural barriers that lead to unequal access and opportunities into this social institution as experienced by different subcultures will be explored and analyzed.

255 Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the U.S. (3)

This course assesses the social, political, historical, and demographic outcomes of intergroup relations in the United States. Dominant-minority relations are analyzed in relation to the other. Particular focus is given to past and current social policy and dimensions of social inequality.

257 Sociology of Families (3)

This course will examine family life through the lens of the sociological perspective. Students will study topics such as family roles, mate selection, marriage, and divorce. Contemporary issues facing families such as balancing work and family, parenting, aging, and abuse will be explored. Additionally, students will examine how families are shaped by economics, politics, and culture. Finally, students will consider how families reflect inequalities of gender, sexuality, race, and class.

273 Introduction to Crime and Society (3)

As an introduction to the topic of criminology, this course examines crime as a social problem within American society. Particular attention is given to the nature and function of law in society, theoretical perspectives on crime, victimology, sources of crime data, the social meaning of criminological data, and the various societal responses to crime. These topics are addressed through specialized readings, discussion, and analysis.

306 Consumer Society (3)

This course covers readings by both classic and contemporary sociologists and other social critics who have analyzed consumer society. The goal is to deepen the students' critical analyses of the reasons for and impacts of consumerism on a personal, societal, cultural, and global level. Additionally, students will learn about the strategies to resist consumerism and how social activists are working to reconceptualize the ways in which Americans shop, produce and buy food, use energy and transportation, and view mass media. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

310 Social Inequalities in Health (3)

The course focuses on a sociological approach to the study health issues in the U.S. Health as both a social institution and agent of socialization will be explored. Social factors that relate to health, illness, and health care will be the focus of the course, including structural and cultural opportunities and barriers for various groups. Global demographic trends relating to health and illness will also be examined and analyzed. Prerequisite: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

319 Social Theories (3)

This course focuses on various theoretical perspectives offered by classical and contemporary social theorists. Covering the period from classical European social thought of the late 1800s to contemporary theory, students will acquire a fundamental understanding of social theory. By focusing on how differences in socioeconomic background, race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, etc., shape the types of theories one develops about society, students will have a greater appreciation of the diversity of social theory in conceptualizing society(ies) and culture(s). Prerequisites: SOC 153 and a 200 level SOC course.

330 Gender and Law (3)

The goal of this course is to explore the intersection of gender and the construction, application, and outcomes of laws and policies (both civil and criminal) in our society, including a historical and prospective application of the sociological perspective on gendered legal systems. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

340 Juvenile Deviance (3)

This course provides an examination of the changing definitions of deviance and then applies those definitions to children and adolescents. Different models of dealing with juvenile delinquency are also examined in the context of differing definition and culturally variant power distributions. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

345 Sociology of Poverty (3)

Poverty is a significant social problem in our world today. Students will be introduced to the leading debates within the sociology of poverty. In this course, we will consider the measurement of poverty, competing explanations for poverty, and possible solutions to poverty. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course or SW 202.

350 Global Childhoods (3)

This course explores the sociology of childhood with an emphasis on globalization. The social construction of children and childhood will be examined. Topics considered include the globalization of childhood, historical constructions of childhood, sociological approaches to childhood, class, race and gender diversity, and contemporary issues such as child poverty, child labor, and children's rights. Prerequisites: a 100 or 200 level Sociology course or Permission of the Instructor.

360 Social Stratification: Class, Gender, Race (3)

This course will identify and investigate the following topics: general principles of stratification, theoretical explanations by which inequality emerges and is maintained, the relationship between class and other forms of inequality in the United States especially gender, race, and social hierarchy changes over time. Particular attention is given to the role of women in various socioeconomic locations. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

365 Social Construction of Gender (3)

Drawing upon sociological and feminist perspectives, this course examines the ways in which gender, as a social construct, shapes the lives of women and men, and how larger social institutions influence one's gendered experiences. Included is an examination of the diversity of gendered experiences due to social and cultural factors such as class, race, ethnicity, sexual identity, nationality, and historical period. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

371 Sociological Statistics Lab (1)

Students will learn to create a dataset, work with secondary data, and use a computerized statistical package such as SPSS to analyze data. Pre- or corequisite: SOC 372.

372 Sociological Statistics (3)

Statistics deals with the quantitative methods used for measurement and description of social variables, building up to the analysis of associations between variables. The place of statistics in research and

theory testing is emphasized. The class includes training in the use of computerized statistical packages such as SPSS. Prerequisite: Completion of Sophia LO1: Mathematical Arts or permission of the instructor.

380 Applied Sociology (3)

This course explores the various applications of sociological theory, concepts, and methods to contemporary social behavior and issues. Students will be introduced to aspects of applied sociology, including, but not limited to: program evaluation, needs assessment, policy analysis, focus group research, and action research. Students will come to appreciate the uses of the discipline of sociology with the specific intention of yielding practical applications for human behavior and formal organization. Prerequisite: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

382 Sociology of Popular Culture (3)

This course examines contemporary theories about popular culture. Particular attention is given to the symbiotic relationship between popular culture and political economy, and to the impact of American popular culture on both American society and on the emerging global culture. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

384 Sociological Research Methods (3)

The course is designed as an analysis of the process of social research, in terms of problem definition, research design, data sources, and methods of data analysis. Specifically, students are exposed to several types of research methods: survey, content analysis, field research, and historical comparative research. In addition, students will be developing their own research projects. Pre or corequisites: SOC 372 and 12 hours in SOC, or permission of the instructor.

390 Special Topics in Sociology (1-3)

A seminar focusing upon a selected area of interest in sociology. Topics may include such areas as sociology through film, feminist theory, women in society, political sociology, death and dying, poverty, mental illness, social psychiatry, peace studies, sociology of law, criminal justice, juvenile delinquency, etc. This course may be repeated for credit with a different topic and the consent of the advisor. Prerequisite: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course.

485 Research Tutorial (1-3)

The research tutorial program is designed to permit students to learn various aspects of research by working with a faculty member on his/her current research. Projects will entail exposure to a variety of research forms and procedures. All participants must have a 3.0 average, a minimum of 12 hours completed in the department, and must have been selected by a faculty member. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of six credit hours, only three of which apply to the hours required for a major in the department. Graded S/U. Prerequisites: 12 hours in SOC, junior or senior status and permission of both the instructor and the department chair.

495 Senior Seminar (3)

As the capstone course for Sociology majors, this seminar requires students to build upon previous work in sociology, especially its central themes, theoretical perspectives, research methods, and substantive findings by conducting an original project to fulfill the requirement for the senior comprehensive. The project can be an original research study, or a theoretical analysis. A major paper is completed and presentation/defense of the work occurs at the end of the term. Prerequisites: 12 hours in SOC, junior or senior status and permission of both the instructor and the department chair.

497 Advanced Independent Study in Sociology (1-3)

Independent readings and seminar discussions in selected areas of interest. Readings are generally intended as a supplement or complement to regular course offerings. This course is not intended as a substitute for an existing course. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of six credit hours. Only six credits of independent study may be earned in the department. Prerequisite: 12 hours in SOC, junior or senior status, and permission of the instructor and the department chair.

499 Sociology Internship (1-6)

A service learning experience in an approved sociological setting under professional supervision. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: 12 hours in SOC.