

## Sociology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
 Department of Sociology & Corrections  
 113 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1561  
 Website: [www2.mnsu.edu/soc\\_corr/soc\\_corr\\_home.htm](http://www2.mnsu.edu/soc_corr/soc_corr_home.htm)

Chair: William Wagner

Afroza Anwar, Steven Buechler, Barbara Carson, Joe W. Davis, H. Diane Graham, Kim Greer, Barbara Keating, Leland McCormick, Luis Posas, Robert Redhead, James Robertson, Leah Rogne, Thomas Schmid, Pedro Thomas, Sherrise Truesdale, Steve Vassar, William Wagner, Dennis Waskul

Sociology is the scientific study of contemporary society, social structures, human social behavior, and the organization and functioning of groups.

The Department of Sociology operates under a mission statement that calls for shared faculty and student responsibility for the pursuit, transmission and application of sociological knowledge. Copies of the mission statement and specific academic goals are available through the Department office. As part of this shared responsibility, students majoring in Sociology are expected to integrate the various facets of their education through a series of reflexive essays and other contributions to a student portfolio.

The Sociology major is designed to provide a comprehensive undergraduate education in Sociology. It is appropriate for students who wish to apply sociological knowledge and skills in a variety of settings, for liberal arts students with an interest in Sociology and for students who wish to prepare for graduate education in Sociology. Departmental requirements for BA and BS are identical.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Minimum University admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 (C).

### SOCIOLOGY BA, BS

Required General Education:

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

#### OPTION I, GENERAL SOCIOLOGY

Required for Major (24 credits):

SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)  
 SOC 201 Social Research I (3)  
 SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)  
 SOC 351 Social Psychology (3)  
 SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)  
 SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)  
 SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)

Choose one of the following:

SOC 469 Survey Research (3)  
 SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)  
 SOC 480 Social Observation (3)

Required for Major (Electives, 15 credits):

Must be upper division and taken with the approval of an advisor  
 SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400

Required for BA only:

8 credits Language

Required Minor. Yes.

#### OPTION II, APPLIED SOCIOLOGY

Required for Major (30-33 credits):

SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)  
 SOC 201 Social Research I (3)  
 SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)  
 SOC 351 Social Psychology (3)  
 SOC 406 Applied Sociology (3)  
 SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)  
 SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)  
 SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)  
 SOC 497 Internship: Sociology (3-6 credits)

Choose one of the following:

SOC 469 Survey Research (3)  
 SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)  
 SOC 480 Social Observation (3)

Required for Major (Electives, 6-9 credits):

Must be upper division and taken with the approval of an advisor to total 39 credits for major.

SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400 SOC 300/400

Required for BA only:

8 credits Language

Required Minor. Yes.

#### SOCIOLOGY MINOR

Required for Minor (6 credits):

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)  
 SOC 102 Introduction to Social Thought (3)

Required Electives (15 credits):

At least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level.

SOC Any Level  
 SOC 300-400 Level  
 SOC 300-400 Level  
 SOC 300-400 Level  
 SOC 300-400 Level

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**GPA Policy.** A minimum grade-point average of 2.0 is required for all course-work in the major. A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 is required for graduation. In addition, students must earn a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 for courses taken in the major to be eligible for field practice or internship.

**P/N Grading Policy.** Courses leading to a major or minor in sociology may not be taken on a P/N basis, except where P/N grading is mandatory.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOC 100 (3) Social Problems

A critical description and analysis of selected social problems, with an emphasis on the sociological perspective, critical thinking, roots of group inequality, and exploration of solutions and alternatives to existing social problems.

F, S

GE-5, 7 CD-Core

SOC 101 (3) Introduction to Sociology

Overview of the nature and characteristics of human societies; the structure and processes of social life; impact of social forces on individuals and groups; interdependence of society and the individual; emphasis on cultural diversity and globalism.

F, S

GE 5, 8 CD-Related

## SOC 101w (3) Introduction to Sociology

Overview of the nature and characteristics of human societies; the structure and processes of social life; impact of social forces on individuals and groups; interdependence of society and the individual; emphasis on cultural diversity and globalism. This is a writing intensive course.

F, S

GE-1C, 5, 8 CD-Related

## SOC 102 (3) Introduction to Social Thought

An exploration of the ideas and theories of major social thinkers of the twentieth century.

F, S

GE-5

## SOC 200 (3) Foundations of Sociology

Elements of the sociological perspective; overview of theoretical and methodological orientations; sociological practice and application; initial development of student portfolio.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

## SOC 201 (3) Social Research I

Fundamentals of research methods focusing on the research process and research design and including hypothesis testing, basic analysis and interpretation; students will develop and practice research skills.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

## SOC 202 (3) Introductory Social Statistics

Basic descriptive and inferential statistics used in the analysis of sociological data.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

GE-4

## SOC 208 (3) Courtship, Marriage & Family

Courtship, marriage and family are studies as social and cultural phenomena. Focuses on the relationships between society, culture, social institutions, families and individuals especially as they are affected by social change.

F, S

GE-5, 7 CD-Core

## SOC 209 (3) Human Sexuality

Explores the social construction of sex and sexuality, including the organization of human bodies and activities into particular categories such as female and male or homosexual and heterosexual. How this is done in specific institutional settings like the law, media, and science is a primary focus. The effects of such practices and their associated meanings, as well as resistance to them, are also investigated.

Variable

## SOC 240 (3) Rural Studies

Students will explore some of the major variables that impact the lives of rural populations. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the diversity in experiences and history in both national and international rural communities, as well as on understanding which public policies can maximize the success of rural environments.

F, S

## SOC 255 (3) Juvenile Delinquency

A critical consideration of definitions of juvenile delinquency, emphasis on micro and macro level of struggle in which delinquent behavior takes place, critique of current theories on delinquency, and the juvenile justice response to delinquency.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

GE-5, 9

## SOC 291 (1-3) Exploratory Studies

May be used to explore areas of interest to students which are not covered in regular courses. A maximum of three hours applicable toward a major or

minor in the department with consent of an advisor.

Pre: Consent F, S

## SOC 307 (3) Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society

Description and analysis of sex/gender systems, interpersonal power, language and communication, the role of gender in social institutions such as the family, work, and politics, and the role of social movements in creating change in gender relations.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

CD-Core

## SOC 351 (3) Social Psychology

The study of symbolic interaction as the basis of the mind, the self, and society.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

## SOC 352 (3) Humanistic Sociology

An examination of the relationships between society and the myths and illusions expressed in art and the humanities as socially constructed realities and reified symbols.

Pre: SOC 101 S

## SOC 401 (3) American Society: Comparative Perspectives

A comparative view of American Society, comparing and contrasting social, cultural, and demographic aspects of life in the United States across regions and states.

Pre: SOC 101 Variable

## SOC 404 (3) Sociology of Aging

Social and social-psychological focus in later life. Problems and prospects of growing old in the United States.

Pre: SOC 101 F

## SOC 405 (3) Sociology of Death

Study of the structure of human response to death, dying, and bereavement in their socio-cultural, interpersonal, and personal context. Formation of children's perception of death, functions of the funeral, euthanasia, and suicide are among the topics to be discussed.

Pre: SOC 101 F

CD-Related

## SOC 406 (3) Applied Sociology

Focuses on ways sociological theories, perspectives, and methods can be applied to address human concerns; how sociologists make a better world. Participants learn to use sociological methods and concepts (such as theories about social structure, social organization, and social movements) to identify, investigate, and implement solutions to problems of social organization, social process, and social change. Potential applications include issues encountered in various workplace and social situations including community agencies and organizations, government, business, health care, and other social institutions.

Pre: SOC 101 F

## SOC 407 (3) Population Dynamics

The course will acquaint students with dynamic forces operating in the field of population and development. Includes an introduction to basic theories and techniques of population analysis, with coverage of global economic forces: fertility, mortality, and migration. The causes and consequences of over-population are discussed with special attention to resource depletion and food shortages.

Pre: SOC 101 S

## SOC 408 (3) Family Life Dynamics

An overview and analysis of major aspects and issues facing the American

family, including cohabitation, mate selection, parenting, and changes in marriage, family and sex role dynamics. Ethnicity, race, social class, and cultural aspects of family are highlighted.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

#### SOC 409 (3) Family Violence

Various forms of family violence including dating violence, spouse abuse, and child abuse; social theory, empirical research and social policy on family violence; social context, responses and solutions.

F

#### SOC 410 (3) Black American Families

To review the sociology and other literature about Black Families. To enable all students to better understand the sub-culture of the Black population in the U.S. To examine some of the problems encountered by the sociologists attempting to do good research on Black Families. To enable all students to gain insights into how the various types of Black Family social systems are organized and how they function.

Variable

CD-Core

#### SOC 411 (3) The Family Across Cultures

Utilizes the comparative perspective to examine marriage and family in numerous international cultures. Focuses upon similarities and differences across cultures and how different family systems deal with universal aspects of family.

Pre: SOC 101 Variable

#### SOC 417 (3) Program Administration

Implications of sociological knowledge for the administration of Human Services programs. Theoretical and practical aspects of administration within social service systems.

S

#### SOC 423 (3) Complex Organizations

Analysis of the development, structure, and functioning of social processes in large-scale, formal organizations.

Pre: SOC 101 or 102 F

#### SOC 425 (3) Social Movements

Survey of major sociological perspectives on social movements, including theoretical approaches and empirical research on the causes, processes, and outcomes of social movements.

Pre: SOC 101 S

#### SOC 430 (3) Sociology of Capitalism

Overview of the political economy of the United States as an advanced capitalist society with a focus on economic and political inequality, the class structure, the labor process, race and gender relations, the welfare state, the global dimensions of capitalism, and modern crisis tendencies.

Pre: SOC 101 Variable

#### SOC 435 (3) Marital Conflict: Causes & Consequences

Socio-cultural and interpersonal factors contributing to marital conflict and separation; consequences for spouses and children; effective conflict resolution; single parenting; remarriage and step-parenting; legal and social resources.

Pre: SOC 101 S

CD-Related

#### SOC 441 (3) Social Deviance

Sociological perspectives on social deviance; overview of theoretical approaches; emphasis on symbolic interactionism; issues of social control; research examples and policy implications.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

#### SOC 442 (3) Criminology

A critical consideration of myths concerning crime, perspectives on crime and

their assumptions, current criminology theory, and construction of alternative explanations related to crime.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

#### SOC 446 (3) Race, Culture & Ethnicity

Study of minority racial and cultural groups in U.S. society. An examination of how the lives of the members of these groups are affected by racism, prejudice, and discrimination.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

CD-Core

#### SOC 451 (3) Law & Social Justice in Society

A critical look at the construction of the concepts of law and justice as it operates in the United States and an application of the principles of justice to community issues.

Pre: SOC 101 and CORR 106 S

#### SOC 456 (3) History of Social Thought

A survey of ideas about the nature of society from the past to the present.

Pre: SOC 101 F

#### SOC 457 (3) Classical Sociological Theory

A study of the 18th century forerunners and the 19th century founders of sociology.

Pre: SOC 101 F

#### SOC 458 (3) Sociological Theory

An overview of sociological theory that surveys the classical tradition and emphasizes contemporary theories including functionalism, conflict theory, rational choice theory, and symbolic interactionism as well as recent trends in theoretical developments.

Pre: SOC 101 S

#### SOC 461 (3) Urban Sociology

A survey of sociological theory and research on the ecology, demography, and social organization of the urban community. Presents a sociological interpretation of the development of urban society and how the process of urbanization affects the basic societal institutions and individual behavior.

Pre: SOC 101 Variable

#### SOC 463 (3) Social Stratification

An overview of the causes, processes and consequences of social stratification in society. Includes an overview of classical statements about stratification and focuses on social inequalities rooted in social class structures, the organization of political power, and social hierarchies based on race and gender differences in society.

Pre: SOC 101 S

#### SOC 465 (3) Law & Chemical Dependency

Addresses aspects of criminal and civil law pertinent to substance abuse.

F

#### SOC 466 (3) Program Planning

Theoretical and practical aspects of the planning process within social service systems. Examines the social context of planning and the use of a sociological knowledge base for planning in Human Services.

Pre: SOC 101 S

#### SOC 469 (3) Survey Research

Techniques of survey research, interview, and questionnaire construction, field administration, and sampling methodology.

F

#### SOC 470 (3) Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction

Parent-child relationships in societal context; socialization theories; classic and contemporary research; parenting applications; current issues.

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## Sociology

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### SOC 479 (3) Sociological Ethnography

Exploration of the methodological and theoretical issues in sociological ethnography; examination of ethnic, deviant, and other constructed social worlds and the means by which sociologists study these worlds.

Pre: SOC 101 S

### SOC 480 (3) Social Observation

Participant observation, focused interviews, and qualitative analysis; students actively participate in a field research project.

Pre: SOC 101 F

### SOC 482 (3) Social Change

Analysis of social forces and processes involved in changing norms, values, and structures in traditional and modern societies. Examines both planned and unplanned change.

Pre: SOC 101 or 102 Variable

### SOC 483 (3) The Family: A Sociological Analysis

Theory development and research findings about family systems with a special emphasis on societal influences (social, economic, political) on the changing family.

F

### SOC 484 (3) Sociology of Religion

Analysis of the structures, functions, and origins of religion, its relationship to other social institutions, and its role in modern secular society. Examines processes of individual religiosity and explores current religious movements and trends.

Pre: SOC 101 S

### SOC 485 (2-6) Selected Topics

Topics vary as announced in class schedule. May be retaken for credit if topic varies.

Pre: SOC 101 Variable

### SOC 486 (3) Modifying Behavior in Social Settings

Principles and techniques of changing people's behavior in social, group, and agency environments.

Pre: SOC 101 F, S

### SOC 490 (1-3) Workshop

Workshop topics vary as announced in class schedule. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

### SOC 491 (1-6) In-Service

Topics vary as arranged by students and instructor. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

### SOC 492 (1) Honors Reading

For Honors students only.

Variable

### SOC 495 (3) Senior Seminar

Review of central ideas, concepts, and controversies in sociology; detailed examination of the sociological perspective and its implications for vocational or other social action; preparation of integrative essay based on portfolio materials. Students must have completed or be currently enrolled in all other required courses for the sociology major.

Pre: SOC 200 F, S

### SOC 497 (1-12) Internship: Sociology

The internship in sociology is designed to provide opportunity to apply classroom learning, to practice and enhance skills, to experience professional socialization, and to explore a career. It also serves as a vehicle for the student to become more aware of personal strengths and identify areas in which further growth is needed.

Pre: Consent F, S

### SOC 499 (1-6) Individual Study

A maximum of six credits is applicable toward a single major in the department; three credits toward a minor.

Pre: Consent F, S

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