

Sociology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Sociology & Corrections
 113 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1561
 Website: <http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr>

Chair: Barbara Keating

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Sociology is the scientific study of society and culture examining patterns of human social behavior including both social structures and social dynamics. Sociologists research macro-level structures and processes that affect society such as globalization, social movements, or race, gender and social class stratification. They analyze social institutions such as family, religion, or economy. Meso-level analyses may focus on organizational functioning or voluntary associations. Sociologists also study micro-level processes such as interpersonal relationships, socialization, and the reciprocal influences of individuals and groups. Sociologists develop theory and provide research for resolving social problems, working for social justice and developing social policy.

The Sociology major includes two options. Option I: General Sociology provides a liberal arts curriculum enhanced with research skill development for students interested in a comprehensive education or preparation for graduate education. Option II: Applied Sociology prepares students for careers in a variety of applied settings. Please visit our website (<http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr>) for more information on careers in sociology.

The Sociology program uses a portfolio model of student professional development. Students planning to major in sociology should take Soc 200: Foundations of Sociology as soon as possible to start their portfolio. The Minnesota State Mankato Sociology Mission Statement calls for a shared faculty and student responsibility for the pursuit, transmission and application of sociological knowledge. Copies of the Mission Statement and Program Goals are available on our website and from the Department Office.

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.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. A minimum grade-point average of 2.0 is required for all coursework 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.

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 Qualitative Methods (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: Language (8 credits)

Required Minor. Yes. Any.

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: Language (8 credits)

Required Minor. Yes. Any

SOCIOLOGY MINOR

Required for Minor (3 credits)

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Required Electives (18 credits)

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

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

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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.

Fall, Spring
 Diverse Cultures - Purple
 GE-5, GE-8

SOCIOLOGY

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.

Variable

Diverse Cultures - Purple

GE-1C, GE-5, GE-8

SOC 150 (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.

Fall, Spring

Diverse Cultures - Purple

GE-5, GE-7

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 202 (3) Introductory Social Statistics

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

Fall, Spring

GE-4

SOC 208 (3) Courtship, Marriage & Family

Courtship, marriage and family are studied 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.

Diverse Cultures - Purple

GE-5, GE-7

SOC 209 (3) Sociology of Human Sexualities

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

Fall, Spring

Diverse Cultures - Purple

GE-5, GE-7

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-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

Fall, Spring

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 351 (3) Social Psychology

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

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 402 (3) Medical Sociology

Introduces students to central topics in medical sociology including: social factors responsible for people's health outcomes; social construction of health and illness; health inequalities; evolution of the social institution of medicine; and/or issues related to race/ethnicity, social class and gender.

Fall

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 or SOC 101W

Diverse Culture - Purple

Fall

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 or SOC 101W

Fall

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 201. Senior Standing; SOC 201 or equivalent with permission

Fall

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 or SOC 101W

Variable

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 or SOC 101W

Variable

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.

Fall

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.

Spring

SOC 420 (3) Identity Work in Women's Reentry Experiences

Applies sociological theories of identity to the experience of women being released from prison. Taught at the women's prison in Shakopee, Minnesota and integrates MSU students with students drawn from the educational program located within the women's prison in Shakopee.

Fall, Spring

Diverse Cultures - Gold

SOC 423 (3) Complex Organizations

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

Pre: SOC 101, SOC 101W

Fall

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 or SOC 101W

Spring

SOC 430 (3) Sociology of Globalization

Overview of the role of the United States in an increasingly globalized society with a focus on economic and political inequality, the class structure, the labor process, race and gender relations, the global dimensions of capitalism, and modern crisis tendencies.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Diverse Cultures - Purple

Variable

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

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 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

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 or SOC 101W

Diverse Cultures - Purple

Fall, Spring

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, SOC 101W and CORR 106

Variable

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 or SOC 101W

Spring

SOC 460 (3) Environmental Sociology

Examines the sociological relationship between people and the environment including: ways various societies view the environment, social changes from ecological degradation, and solutions to environmental problems. Topics may include a sociological analysis of climate change, agriculture, and resource extraction.

Diverse Cultures - Purple

Spring

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 or SOC 101W

Diverse Cultures - Purple

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 or SOC 101W

Diverse Cultures - Purple

Spring

SOC 465 (3) Law & Chemical Dependency

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

Fall

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 or SOC 101W

Spring

SOC 469 (3) Survey Research

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

Fall

SOC 470 (3) Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction

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

Spring

SOC 479 (3) Sociological Ethnography

Examination of ethnographic methodologies in sociology with emphasis on analytic, performance, and autoethnography. Exploration of ethics in ethnography, visual sociology, and first-hand experience in both crafting and presenting ethnographic works.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W; SOC 201 or similar science research course with instructor permission.

Spring

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 480 (3) Qualitative Methods

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

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W; SOC 201 or similar social science research course with instructor permission.

Fall

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 SOC 101W

Variable

SOC 483 (3) The Family and Society

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

Variable

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 or SOC 101W

Variable

SOC 485 (2-6) Selected Topics

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

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Variable

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

Fall, Spring

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

Fall, Spring

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

Fall, Spring