

# SOCIOLOGY

## Sociology - Mission Statement

The Sociology Program aims to foster the sociological perspective in all students, from those taking just one course, to minors, to concentrators, and to majors. We are committed to our majors and concentrators learning the basics of the theories, methods, and core content of the discipline through coursework, research, and field experiences. We are further committed to our majors and concentrators being able to apply their sociological learning to the understanding and solution of complex problems. Finally, the program is committed to faculty development to encourage quality teaching, service, and research.

## Major in Sociology

Students completing the Sociology major (B.A.) will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core content of sociology.
- Use sociological theory to understand the relationship between larger social forces and individual experiences.
- Apply methods, both quantitative and qualitative.
- Apply sociological insights to complex problems.

Sociology provides students with a deep understanding of the sociological perspective, its theoretical foundations, and its methods. The sociology core is combined with a broad set of liberal arts courses and an array of business courses to produce a solid foundation for a rewarding career in a variety of profit and nonprofit settings. Because of this broad foundation in the liberal arts, sociology graduates are not limited to a narrow range of employment opportunities; they are able to apply the sociological perspective to a wide variety of jobs in such sectors as business, the health professions, the criminal justice system, social services, and government. Further, the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology program provides an excellent foundation for later graduate work in such areas as sociology, business, law, education, and public policy.

The Sociology program aims to foster the sociological perspective in all students, from those taking just one course, to minors, to concentrators, and to majors.

Students completing the Sociology concentration will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core content of sociology through the foundation courses, research methods and sociological theory.
- Use sociological theory to understand the relationship between larger social forces and individual experiences
- Analyze the complex problems via the sociological lens and insight
- Use research methods to connect questions about the sociological world to ways of studying the very same world.

## Sociology Concentration

The Sociology concentration creates a strong foundation for understanding the sociological perspective on human thought and behavior through required courses on the principles of sociology, research methods, and social theory. From this foundation, students solidify their understanding by taking a set of elective upper-division courses that can be drawn from a variety of sociological content areas.

## Sociology Minor

Students completing the Sociology minor will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core content of sociology
- Use sociological theory to understand the relationship between larger social forces and individual experiences.
- Demonstrate an understanding of sociological methods.

Students develop a sophisticated sense of the ways in which individual behavior is the product of social experience. Such study helps students gain insight into their own society and culture and provides a critical understanding of the global community. Students begin the minor by taking SOC 251 or SOC 253 and finish it with a Capstone course, which may be any of the 400 level offerings in sociology; in between, they are required to take two more sociology courses, which may be chosen from the wide range of 300 or 400 level courses offered in the Department.

## Majors

- Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Sociology - Social Research Content Track

## Concentrations

- Sociology Concentration

## Minor

- Sociology Minor

## Courses

### SOC 250SL. Community Engagement and Service Learning. 3 Credit Hours.

This course prepares students for service learning by introducing them to key tools for community engagement, including skills and strategies for working with community partners and critical reflection for deeper understanding and personal growth. Framed within the perspective of sociology, the course includes a service learning field experience and complements any area of University study. Service learning courses at Bryant require significant out-of-class community service done in partnership with community agencies.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### SOC 251. Principles of Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.

Students survey and appraise the basic concepts, including theory and method, social processes and structure, culture, groups, socialization, inequality and social institutions.

Session Cycle: Fall, Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

### SOC 253. Honors Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is a more advanced introduction to sociology, allowing students to explore social theory, research methods, social structure, culture, groups, socialization, social interaction, inequality, and social institutions more deeply than in the standard introductory course.

Prerequisites: Honors Program

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 351. Social Problems Social Solutions. 3 Credit Hours.**

An exploration of major contemporary social problems, examining the key explanations for them. These explanations are used to assess the likely success of current and proposed social solutions. Key problems studied include inequalities linked to race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, education, age, and criminal justice—as well as overpopulation and environmental degradation. U.S. problems and their possible solutions are illuminated with crossnational comparisons.

Prerequisites: SOC 250SL or SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**SOC 352. Sociology of Gender, Illness, and Health. 3 Credit Hours.**

Focusing on the role that gender plays in the opportunity for health and the likelihood of illness, this course explores the causes and consequences of different health outcomes for women and men and the myths and stereotypes about each group. For example, many believe that women have higher rates of mental illness than men but what, if any, is the evidence for this view? The course is U.S. based but it will cover some cross-cultural comparisons of gender, health and illness.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 or SOC 250SL

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**SOC 354. Globalization and Childhood. 3 Credit Hours.**

Globalization and Childhood examines the impacts of globalization on children and childhood across the globe. Issues include children as producers and consumers, as soldiers and victims of violence, and other topics.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 or SOC 250SL

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**SOC 356. Sociology of Family. 3 Credit Hours.**

The central goal of this course is to lead students to a deeper understanding of the ways in which American families are changing. Through an examination of the family in sociological and historical perspectives, students gain insight into the mythology of the "traditional American family" and its formation. We discuss the diversity of current family forms and the ways in which the family is tied into the larger structure of society. The course also examines hooking up, partnering, parenting, the division of household labor, and divorce.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 359. The Sociological Imagination What We See When We Watch T.V.. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course uses the Sociological Imagination as the lens through which to analyze of the content of television. We will apply "The sociological imagination" (C. Wright Mills famous concept) to episodes of "The Wire", an HBO series that ran for five years. We will examine the lives of the characters and "urban space" as chronicled in "The Wire" including the work, neighborhoods, the city, morality, sexuality, politics, "childhood," gender and gender expression, race and social justice. We will also consider the relationship between social structures, culture, structure and agency. This course is cross-listed with COM 359.

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 360. Sociology of Sport. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides an overview of the discipline of sociology of sport. The course focuses on the global aspects of sport, with an emphasis on the relationship between sport and race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and national identity. It provides students with the theories, concepts and perspectives that allow them to better understand the relationships between sport, society and culture.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 or SOC 250SL

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 362. Sociology of Innovation and Creativity. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course takes a sociological perspective on creativity and innovation exploring the sociological context of each. Combining readings and lectures, class activities and a community-based project, students will learn about the social context of creativity and innovation and also understand more deeply their own creative processes and strengthen these through projects and portfolio building.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 250SL or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**SOC 366. Race in America. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines major issues in race relations from the perspective of both black and white Americans from the onset of slavery to the present. The course examines the origins and functioning of American slavery, with consideration to the Atlantic slave trade and the role of U.S. slavery within the context of New World slavery; the relationship between European immigrants and African-Americans in terms of the formation of whiteness and the historical meaning of white skin privilege; abolitionism and antislavery; the development and functioning of Jim Crow segregation; 2nd Reconstruction; the civil rights movement; and the significance of race during the post-civil rights era. This course is cross-listed with HIS 366, Race in America.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 370. Crime and Justice. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course applies sociological theory and research to the study of crime and social control. Students engage in policy debates and research projects focused on the philosophy, design and operations of the criminal justice systems in education, immigration, drug control, and other areas.

Prerequisites: SOC 250SL or SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 391. Sociology Internship. 3 Credit Hours.**

Students engage in individually supervised work-study arrangements and learn to apply social science theory and principles in their work environment. Students must work at least ten hours per week on the job, meet periodically with a supervising faculty member, research literature related to the field of the internship, and prepare a substantive report on their internship experience and the studies involved.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253, Junior/Senior standing; approval of a supervising faculty member and department chair.

**SOC 400. Research Methods in Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.**

In this course students learn the systematic strategies commonly used to gather, analyze, and interpret social science data via survey research. Students use SPSS statistical analysis software to learn the art, logic, and science of data analysis and interpretation—including establishing causality with observational data.

Prerequisites: ECO 214, GLOB 241, POLS 241, GLOB 290, POLS 290, PSY 260, PSY 263, SOC 251, or SOC 253 and MATH 201 or 200 level or higher course in statistics.

**SOC 451. Population and Society. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the determinants and consequences of population processes and structures. Students explore the relevance of population to several social policy issues, including economic development, gender equality, immigration, civil discord, poverty, social security, health care, and the environment. The course uses illustrations from the United States and a variety of developed and developing countries.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**SOC 452. Sociology of Work. 3 Credit Hours.**

The sociology of work is an exploration of the meaning of work in our lives and in our culture. The course is organized in a seminar format in which students read and discuss a series of important books in the field. In addition to guiding students toward developing their own sociological insight, the course will challenge some of their basic assumptions about the social organization of work and about the relationship between the economic and the non-economic spheres of our lives.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 or SOC 250SL

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**SOC 453. Race and Ethnicity. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines and uses theories to understand the treatment and life chances of racial and ethnic subpopulations, with an emphasis on U.S. society. Students explore the many ways stereotypes, prejudice, racism, and privilege become part of our everyday interaction and reinforce institutional discrimination.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 454. Social Theory: The Study of Isms and Phobias. 3 Credit Hours.**

This seminar is first and foremost a study of classical and contemporary social theory. It also examines the ways in which a variety of these theories, both classical and contemporary, view and explain social inequalities. More specifically, we will use theories, theorists, and concepts from theories to help us better understand "isms and phobias" including racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, homophobia, transphobia, ethnocentrism and xenophobia.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 455. Urban Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.**

Because most of us have urban or suburban backgrounds, and because of the huge cities all over the globe, we assume that most of the world's population have urban experiences. This has not the case- at least until now. The world of the future will be urban. It is important that we understand how and why cities come into being, and how urbanism affects people's lives and behavior. Students will use urban theory to analyze the relationship between larger social forces and individual experiences in selected substantive areas of urban sociology.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Winter

Yearly Cycle: Varies.

**SOC 460SL. Applied Seminar in Social Entrepreneurship. 3 Credit Hours.**

Social entrepreneurs create innovated solutions to the world's most vexing problems. This course provides students background knowledge in the emerging field and hands on experience in social entrepreneurship.

Prerequisites: SOC 250SL or SOC 251 or SOC 253 and Sophomore standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 491. Sociology Capstone I. 3 Credit Hours.**

Designed for student majoring in Sociology and Social Research, this senior-level capstone seminar asks students to explore, either as an individual directed-study or as part of a weekly seminar, some aspect of an important social issue as it relates to the operation of a social institution: marriage and family; religion; work; politics; urbanization; or sports.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 and Junior standing

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

**SOC 492. Sociology Capstone II. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course may follow SOC 491—offering the student a chance to tackle a large, in-depth study by providing a second semester to research their topic of interest.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253 and SOC 491 and Junior standing

Session Cycle: Varies

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

**SOC 497. Directed Study in Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an opportunity for students to do independent, in-depth study or research for academic credit. The student works on an individual basis under the direction of a member of the sociology faculty. The main requirement of the course is the development of a substantial paper or project.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253.

**SOC ST300. Special Topics in Sociology From Womb to Tomb A Sociological Perspective on Sexuality. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines how sexuality is defined throughout the life cycle.

This course will use a sociological perspective to examine the cultural, political and legal aspects of human sexuality. Recent studies on human sexuality have highlighted that sexual aspects are of major importance in building up personal identity, social interaction and the social evolution of individuals.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or SOC 253.