

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS

Sociology And Anthropology Major

The interdisciplinary Sociology/Anthropology major focuses on social and cultural aspects of humanity. Majors use a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods to explore from both a macro societal perspective and the micro personal level the causes and consequences of human actions and how those actions shape societal institutions and societal change. They explore societies locally and globally, and through time, so they can better understand both social diversity and social change. By critically exploring contemporary social issues, they learn the roots of those issues, but also how individual, group, and institutional actions can respond to today's challenges.

Students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core content of sociology and anthropology
- Use sociological and anthropological theory to understand the relationship between larger social forces and individual experiences.
- Analyze the complex problems via sociological and anthropological insights.
- Use research methods to suggest means to better comprehend the world and find solutions to complex social issues.

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 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.

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Sociology and Anthropology Degree Requirements:

General Education Requirements

University Minor Requirements

Sociology and Anthropology Major Requirements:

Sociology and Anthropology Major Required Courses:

ANTH 242	Principles of Anthropology	3
or ANTH 243	Honors: The Anthropology of Globalization	
SOC 251	Principles of Sociology	3
or SOC 253	Honors Sociology	
ANTH 389	Fieldwork in Local Communities	3
SOC 454	Social Theory: The Study of Isms and Phobias	3
SOC 491	Sociology Capstone I	3

Sociology and Anthropology Major Electives:

Students must pick 5 courses from the list below:

ANTH 301	Working for a Sustainable Future	3
ANTH 390	Exploring Culture through Photographs, Maps, and Media	3
SOC 351	Social Problems Social Solutions	3
SOC 352	Sociology of Gender, Illness, and Health	3
SOC 354	Globalization and Childhood	3
SOC 355	Social Determinants of Health	3
SOC 356	Sociology of Family	3
SOC 359	The Sociological Imagination What We See When We Watch T.V.	3
SOC 360	Sociology of Sport	3
SOC 362	Sociology of Innovation and Creativity	3
SOC 370	Crime and Justice	3
SOC 391	Sociology Internship	3
SOC 451	Population and Society	3
SOC 452	Sociology of Work	3
SOC 453	Race and Ethnicity	3
SOC 455	Urban Sociology	3
SOC 497	Directed Study in Sociology	3
SOC ST301	From Asylums to Zoloff: The Sociology of Mental Health	3

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required for the major.

A minimum of 120 credit hours is required for graduation.

Sociology Concentration Requirements

Required courses

SOC 251	Principles of Sociology	3
or SOC 253	Honors Sociology	
SOC 454	Social Theory: The Study of Isms and Phobias	3
ANTH 389	Fieldwork in Local Communities	3
Three additional Sociology courses, at least one at the 400 level		9

A minimum of 18 credit hours is required for the concentration.

Sociology Minor Requirements

SOC 251	Principles of Sociology	3
or SOC 253	Honors Sociology	
Two sociology courses		6
One - 400 level sociology course		3

A minimum of 12 credit hours is required for the minor.

Anthropology Courses

ANTH 242. Principles of Anthropology. 3 Credit Hours.

This course studies the consequences of globalization for human beings as they come to understand and value themselves, their relations to others, and their "place in the world." Students discuss a number of challenges to traditional concepts of "culture" important to understanding an anthropological approach to the concept of globalization. The course approaches "globalization," the movement of information, goods, services, capital and people throughout the global space, from a variety of perspectives, including discussion of global migration and diaspora and consideration of the globalization of media.

ANTH 243. Honors: The Anthropology of Globalization. 3 Credit Hours.

In this course, students interpret global transformations through studying anthropological texts and films that provide in-depth analysis of local-level instances of globalization. These ethnographic studies allow students to improve their specific knowledge of people and places throughout the world and also to develop more theoretically rigorous approaches toward explaining what is meant by the term globalization. To this end, students examine, among other themes, ethnicity to better comprehend issues of power, resources, and land in conflict situations; the movement of textiles to recognize post-Fordist social and economic practices; human trafficking to conceptualize commodification of the human body; and refugee migrations to understand transnationalism. In short, this course offers micro-level case studies, methods, and approaches toward learning about and explaining broad social and cultural processes.

Prerequisites: Honors Program.

ANTH 301. Working for a Sustainable Future. 3 Credit Hours.

Sustainability requires finding ways to meet our needs in the present without compromising those of future generations. It involves comprehending the connections between social, economic, and environmental factors, and finding ways to better use and manage resources. In this course students learn about important issues that impact the ability of humans to live sustainably, such as resource mining, deforestation, water pollution, fast fashion, and climate change. They then work on potential solutions to these problems, including formulating practical ideas that can be implemented on campus and in local communities.

ANTH 302. Global Perspectives on Community Development. 3 Credit Hours.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are just one example in a long history of global collaboration aimed to improve the lives of the world's most marginalized communities. This course examines this global development project from an anthropological, people-centered lens. It focuses on three aspects of the project. First, it evaluates the achievements and shortcomings of the project from the perspectives of the everyday people they are intended to serve. Second, it examines how everyday people have challenged and redefined development. And third, it examines models for working in partnership and solidarity with people as they seek to improve their lives.

Prerequisites: ANTH 242, Principles of Anthropology or SOC 251, Principles of Sociology or ECO 367, Economic Development, or by permission

Session Cycle: Every Fall Semester.

ANTH 389. Fieldwork in Local Communities. 3 Credit Hours.

This course uses qualitative research methods to document and understand local communities. Students learn to conduct interviews, surveys, participant-observation, and other methods to interpret and understand complex social issues. Students also attain skills in taking photographs; capturing high quality audio recordings of live performances; and producing short documentary films. During the course students have the option of creating an academic research paper, a policy proposal intended for government agencies or nonprofit institutions, or a documentary film. The course provides valuable skills in research methods that can be applied to a number of social science and humanities disciplines.

ANTH 390. Exploring Culture through Photographs, Maps, and Media. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to visual anthropology, focusing on the use of visual media to study and represent culture, society, and human behavior. Students will explore research methods such as photovoice, auto-photography, photoelicitation, photojournalism, and GIS mapping. Through hands-on assignments and weekly readings, they will learn to document, analyze, and communicate anthropological insights using visual data. The course also addresses the ethical challenges of using visual media in research, with attention to issues of representation, authenticity, and manipulation, including the use of AI-generated images and deepfakes. Students will develop the ability to critically assess visual content and apply visual methods to complex social and cultural problems.

Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing

Session Cycle: Alternate Spring Semesters.

ANTH ST400. Special Topic in Culture, Rights and Reproduction. 3 Credit Hours.

Sexuality and reproduction are deeply personal. They shape how we understand ourselves and connect with others, and the possibilities and patterns of our lives. At the same time, they are often the focus of strict social and cultural rules, legal controls, and programs aimed to shape our behavior. This course examines sexuality and reproduction in global perspective, with a focus on the varied efforts that communities, official bodies, and organizations take to shape them. Key topics include sexual and reproductive health; abortion rights; population control; infertility; and poverty and family planning.

Prerequisites: SOC 251 or ANTH 242

Session Cycle: Varies.

Sociology Courses

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 cross national comparisons.

Prerequisites: 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

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

SOC 355. Social Determinants of Health. 3 Credit Hours.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are conditions, forces, and systems that influence health outcomes. Structural determinants include economic and social policies that impact food security and early childhood development; governing processes that influence the funding and support for equitable education and fair housing; legal policies that shape access to medical resources and safe working conditions; and forms of discrimination that unjustly favor some populations over others. In this course, we examine SDOH in different global contexts and draw on the field of medical anthropology to explore policies and approaches to solving public health issues. During the semester, we learn broadly about human behavior and health through drawing on an interdisciplinary source of readings, films, and ethnographies. Students work on both comprehending the sources of health problems and designing solutions that can foster more equitable health outcomes.

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

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 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

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 253

Session Cycle: Fall

Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

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 251 or SOC 253

Session Cycle: Spring

Yearly Cycle: Annual.

SOC 390. Research Methods in Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to systematic strategies to gather, analyze, and interpret sociological data via survey research. Students learn the basics of SPSS statistical analysis software to learn the art and science of data analysis and interpretation.

Prerequisites: 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 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

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, Junior standing or permission of the instructor

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 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.

SOC ST301. From Asylums to Zoloft: The Sociology of Mental Health. 3 Credit Hours.

We often think of mental health and illness as personal experiences that affect an individual and require individual resolution (e.g., therapy, medication, etc.). However, there are social dimensions to mental health that warrant exploration as well, such as: How have definitions and treatments of mental illness changed over time and across cultures? How do sociodemographic differences (e.g., gender, race, socioeconomic status) inform how people experience mental healthcare, both historically and in modern times? What effects do recent events and trends, like COVID-19 and social media use, have on people's mental wellbeing? To begin addressing these and other sociological questions, students will review of-the-moment research, engage in critical discussions, and reflect on their own views regarding mental health; participation in this course will culminate with an experiential "deep dive" into a current mental health-related issue.

Prerequisites: SOC 251

Session Cycle: Varies.