

## Sociology

The mission of the Department of Sociology is to provide students with an understanding of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology, knowledge about and the ability to use sociological concepts in the analysis of social phenomena, opportunities to develop critical thinking as well as written and oral communication skills utilizing a sociological perspective, an understanding of sociocultural diversity within and among societies, and qualitative and quantitative research skills including the appropriate use of computer technology.

Sociology is the study of social life and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology's subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from crime to religion, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, from the sociology of work to the sociology of sport. Few fields have such broad scope and relevance.

Training in sociology provides students with a perspective on human development and social life that is an especially important part of a college education. Social theory and research methods provide the foundation for study in sociology. On this foundation, programs with electives can be built to meet the needs of students with different goals and interests. The research emphasis trains in data gathering, analysis, and report writing — these are valuable in many careers. In addition, an understanding of the relationships between individuals and groups can prove useful in everyday life as well as at work.

## Faculty and Facilities

All full-time faculty members hold Ph.D. degrees in sociology and share a commitment to excellence in teaching. Their areas of interest are diverse including social change, deviance, gender, social stratification, social psychology, social theory, and research methods. Most are actively involved in research. Recent faculty research has included studies of opinions on various issues, stereotypes and ethnic prejudice, the social organization of sport.

The department encourages students to obtain research experience as undergraduates. Some students conduct their own research projects; other assist faculty or work with the Social Research Laboratory. The laboratory conducts applied research on topics of regional interest. It regularly conducts the Fresno Area Society and examines the quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley. Other projects have studied suspected cancer clusters, residents' perceptions of community problems and solutions, taxes for local projects, and local issues. The opportunity to gain practical experience while working closely with faculty adds a special dimension to education in sociology at California State University, Fresno. Students often apply their sociological training through service learning experiences in local social service agencies.

## Career Opportunities

Students trained in sociology at California State University, Fresno have entered a wide variety of occupations. A few have become professional sociologists. While most professional sociologists teach at colleges and universities, an increasing number hold research, administration, or policy

College of Social Sciences

## Department of Sociology

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[sociology/socio.htm](http://www.csufresno.edu/socialsciences/sociology/socio.htm)

## B.A. in Sociology

## Minor in Sociology

positions in a variety of settings. Many students have used sociology as a preparation for law or other professions such as social work, counseling, public health, library science, criminology, and public administration. Students who begin work immediately after completing a bachelor's degree in sociology usually enter careers in human services, administration/management in public or private agencies, or research in a variety of organizations.



## Faculty

Elizabeth N. Nelson, *Chair*  
 Alfred J. Claassen     Edward E. Nelson  
 Robert D. Fischer     Robert S. Palacio  
 Beth Hartung     John N. Tinker  
     Freimuth     Chandler  
 Albert I. McLeod     Washburne

## Bachelor of Arts

### Degree Requirements

<i>Sociology Major</i>	<i>Units</i>
<b>Major requirements</b> .....	<b>39</b>
Core: SOC 1, 25, 153, 175 ....	(12)
Select two: SOC 151, 152, 162	(6)
Sociology upper-division	
electives .....	(21)
<b>General Education</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>Electives and remaining</b>	
<b>degree requirements*</b> .....	<b>34-37</b>
<i>(See Degree Requirements); may be used toward a dual major or minor.</i>	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>124</b>

\*This figure takes into consideration that an estimated 3 lower-division units may be available for G.E. credit as well. Courses in the major which are in Foundation and Breadth of General Education and Integration and Multicultural/International courses *taught outside the department of the major* may be counted toward both requirements. Consult the sociology department chair or faculty adviser for additional details.

### Major Advising Notes

1. **CR/NC** grading is not permitted in the sociology major, except for courses offered only under **CR/NC** grading.
2. General Education and elective units may be used toward a dual major or minor (see *Dual Major* or department minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty adviser for further information.

## Sociology Minor

	<i>Units</i>
Minor requirements .....	<b>6</b>
SOC 1, 25	
Sociology upper-division electives .....	<b>15</b>
Students may substitute	
SOC 3 and/or S SCI 185.	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>21</b>

### Minor Advising Note

**CR/NC** grading is not permitted in the sociology minor, except for courses offered only under **CR/NC** grading.

## Certificate

The Department of Sociology anticipates offering a certificate in applied social research and a certificate in the leadership and management of nonprofit organizations.

## COURSES

### *Sociology (SOC)*

#### 1. Principles of Sociology (3)

Introduction to the principles and theoretical perspectives of sociology and their application to the fundamental problems of social life. Discussion of sociological methods and findings in such areas as family, race relations, deviance. G.E. Breadth D3. (CAN SOC 2)

#### 2. Social Problems (3)

Introduction to basic principles underlying human social behavior via a sociological analysis of social problems. Analysis of the development of major problems and possible solutions in American society and the world, such as inequality, family disorganization, discrimination, deviance, war, tyranny, ethnic conflict, and pollution. G.E. Breadth D3. (CAN SOC 4)

#### 3. Analysis of Social Life (3)

Theory and practice in basic skills of critical thinking and sociological analysis. Skills demonstrated by oral and written performance including analysis of computerized data sets. Topics covered and assignments vary with instructor. G.E. Foundation A3. (2 lecture, 2 lab hours)

#### 25. Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (3)

Introduction to quantitative methods as an aid to the understanding of research in the social sciences. Application of basic descriptive and inductive statistics to the social sciences. (2 lecture, 2 lab hours)

#### 111. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3)

Dominant and minority group relations historically, cross-culturally, and in contemporary American society. Primarily, the bases examined are in terms of ethnicity-race, religion, nationality, country-of-origin, nativity, and language. G.E. Multicultural/International MI.

#### 122. Social Movements (3)

Theory of nonviolent direct action in the pursuit of social justice and social change. Discussion of goals, ideology, norms, organizational structure, leadership, strategy, tactics, and social roots of social movements.

#### 130W. Contemporary Social Issues (3)

Prerequisite: satisfactory completion (*C* or better) of the ENGL 1 graduation requirement. A sociological perspective is used to examine currently debated public issues. Often, public issues involve present or proposed public policies; the impact of these policies on different segments of society is assessed. Meets the upper-division writing skills requirement for graduation.

#### 131. Sociology of Sex Roles (3)

(Same as W S 131.) The roles of women and men in contemporary social life, socialization, and adult life — work roles, nuclear family, and other roles.

#### 132. Women and Work (3)

(Same as W S 132.) An examination of women and work in contemporary society, including housework, labor force participation, employment in various occupations, and career planning.

#### 142. Sociology of Popular Culture (3)

Impact of popular culture on modern society. Includes movies, television, fiction, and other forms of popular culture. The meaning, the creation and production, and the future of popular culture.

#### 143. Deviance and Control (3)

Rule-breaking behavior (such as crime, delinquency, mental illness) and responses to it. Examines deviance as a social phenomenon, its causes and consequences, and formal and informal social control activities.

#### 144. Social Policy Analysis (3)

Interdisciplinary social science methods for approaching local and national social problems. Analysis of selected public issues emphasizing evaluation of social costs and benefits of alternative policies.

#### 145. Social Organization (3)

Prerequisite: SOC 1. Study of the nature of social organizations, their types and varieties, and the factors producing their different forms. Causes of the growth and decline of social organizations. Problems of centralization, authority, communication, and conflict in organizations.

**147. Medical Sociology (3)**

Political and economic organization of American medical health care system and cross-cultural comparisons. Analysis of social relations and interactions among members of the health professions affecting designations of persons as ill and their subsequent treatment.

**148. Sociology of Education (3)**

A sociological examination of education as an institution, including its social determinants, functions, and consequences.

**149. Sociology of Business (3)**

The social origins and development of business as an institution. Comparative studies of diverse impacts of business on society. Analysis of resulting ideological, political, and regulatory reactions to business.

**150T. Special Topics Seminar (1-3; max total 9)**

Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Topics include those areas of advanced theoretical and empirical studies that will orient the student to contemporary sociological endeavors.

**151. Social Classes and Inequality (3)**

Prerequisite: SOC 1. Analysis of evaluational differentiation leading to social stratification. Criteria for differentiation, bases for evaluation, types of stratification, composition of strata and status systems, mobility, consequences of stratifications, and methods of studying stratification.

**152. Classical Sociological Theory (3)**

Prerequisite: SOC 1. Evolution of classical sociological theories. Consideration of their origins in society and culture. Examination of such theorists as Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Comte, St. Simon, and Simmel.

**153. Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)**

Prerequisite: SOC 1. Processes of theory construction. Major current sociological theories such as functionalist and conflict, interaction and interpretive, and behaviorist and exchange theories.

**157. Social Change (3)**

Analysis of directions, patterns, and processes of social and cultural change.

**161. Population Analysis (3)**

Population theories and history; demographic processes and variables in contemporary society. Analysis of census data.

**162. Social Psychology (3)**

Social factors affecting the development of social personality, attitudes and behavior. Basic social processes involved in interpersonal interaction. Demonstrations and student observations to increase an understanding of social processes in everyday life.

**163. Urban Sociology (3)**

The urban concept; form and development of urban areas; scientific study of urban places and populations; effect of urbanization on social institutions and social relations.

**164. Political Sociology (3)**

The social causes and effects of political phenomena. The roles of social classes, movements, and institutions in shaping the political process; examination of political behavior and attitudes.

**165. The Family (3)**

The family in historic and contemporary society, theoretical frameworks for analyzing the family, family dynamics; changes in family functions, structures, and roles.

**166. Social Gerontology (3)**

(Same as GERON 166.) Aging and the aged with special emphasis on urban American society; demographic dynamics; problems of the aged; gerontological research methodology.

**168. Interpersonal Relationships (3)**

Exploration of the basic elements of interpersonal relationships including listening, disclosure, feedback, empathy.

**169. Sociology of Religion (3)**

Major sects, denominations, and churches; integrative and disintegrative processes in the United States; contemporary religious phenomena.

**170T. Research Topics (1-3; max 6)**

Content of course will vary from semester to semester. Topics include an introduction to computer data analysis, a more in-depth discussion of computer data analysis, survey research, observational techniques, measurement, sampling.

**172. Computer Applications (3)**

No prior knowledge of computers is necessary. Introduction to computer applications in the social sciences, spreadsheets, database management, statistical applications, e-mail, data archives, Internet, Lexis-Nexis. (2 lecture, 2 lab hours) (Formerly SOC 170T section)

**174. Computer Data Analysis (1)**

An introduction to the use of one of the most widely utilized computer packages in the social sciences — SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). No prior knowledge of computers is necessary. *CR/NC* grading only.

**175. Sociological Research Methods (3)**

Prerequisite: SOC 25. The research process with special emphasis on measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and report preparation. Basic assumptions and dilemmas of social science research.

**185. Service Learning (1-6; max total 6)**

Prerequisite: permission of instructor and sponsoring agency. Individually-planned service learning experience relating classroom studies in sociology with practical experience in community service. Hours to be arranged. *CR/NC* grading only. (Minimum of 3 field hours per week per credit unit.)

**190. Independent Study (1-3; max total 6)**

See *Academic Placement — Independent Study*. Approved for *SP* grading.