

Sociology

College of Social Sciences

Department of Sociology

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B.A. in Sociology

Minor in Sociology

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 using 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 survey 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 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 Hartung, *Chair*

Xuanning Fu

Deborah Helsel

Matthew A. Jendian

Timothy Kubal

Albert I. McLeod

Edward E. Nelson

Robert S. Palacio

John N. Tinker

Chandler Washburne



Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Sociology Major *Units*

Major requirements 39

Tier One: SOC 1, 3, 25, 130W
or Upper-Division Writing Exam
(See *Major Advising Note 2*) ... (9-12)

Tier Two: SOC 151, 153,
162, 175 (12)

Sociology Upper-division
electives (15-18)

General Education requirements 51

**Electives and remaining
degree requirements** 30-36*

(See *Degree Requirements*); may
be used toward a double major
or minor.

Total 120

* This total indicates that 6 units of SOC 3 in G.E. Foundation A3 and SOC 1 in G.E. Breadth D3 also may be applied to the sociology major. Consult the department chair or faculty adviser for additional details.

Major Advising Notes

1. Tier One courses must be completed before enrollment in Tier Two courses, generally before the second semester of the junior year. Tier One courses are all prerequisites for Tier Two. Upper division electives, however, may be taken in any sequence.
2. Students majoring in sociology are permitted to pass the Upper-Division Writing Examination (UDWE) in lieu of taking SOC 130W, thus having to complete only three courses for 9 units in Tier One. If the student requests 1 unit of ENGL 100W for passing the UDWE, that unit will be applied to the overall elective unit total for the B.A. degree.
3. *CR/NC* grading is not permitted in the sociology major, except for courses offered only under *CR/NC* grading.
4. General Education and elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (see *Double Major* or department minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty adviser for further information.
5. No General Education Integration or Multicultural/International course offered by the Sociology Department may be used to satisfy the General Education requirements for majors in the department.

Sociology Minor *Units*

Minor requirements 6

SOC 1, 25

Sociology upper-division electives 15

Total 21

Note: The Sociology Minor also requires a 2.0 GPA and 6 upper-division units in residence. *CR/NC* grading is not permitted in the Sociology Minor, except for courses offered only under *CR/NC* grading.

Certificate

The Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership is offered through American Humanities.

COURSES

Sociology (SOC)

SOC 1. Principles of Sociology (3)

Prerequisite: G.E. Foundation A2. 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)

SOC 2. Social Problems (3)

Prerequisite: G.E. Foundation A2. 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)

SOC 3. Critical Thinking about Society (3)

Prerequisite: grade of C or better in SOC 1 for sociology majors and minors. 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)

SOC 25. Introductory Statistics for the Social Sciences (3)

Prerequisites: completion of Math requirement in G.E. Foundation B4; grade of C or better in SOC 1 for sociology majors and minors. 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)

SOC 111. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3)

Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. 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.

SOC 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.

SOC 130W. Contemporary Social Issues (3)

Prerequisites: satisfactory completion (C or better) of the ENGL 1 graduation requirement; grade of C or better in SOC 1 for sociology majors and minors. 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.

SOC 131. Sociology of Sex and Gender (3)

Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. Introduces students to the sociological study of sex and gender. Looks at how men and women differently experience such social structures as work and the economy, family and courtship, and media. Examines the evidence for the persistence of gender differences and their importance. G.E. Integration ID.

SOC 132. Women and Work (3)

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

SOC 142. Sociology of Popular Culture (3)

Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. 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. G.E. Multicultural/International MI.

SOC 143. Deviance and Control (3)

Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. 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. G.E. Integration ID.

SOC 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.

SOC 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.

SOC 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.

SOC 148. Sociology of Education (3)

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

SOC 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.

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

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

SOC 151. Social Classes and Inequality (3)

Prerequisites: Tier One courses (SOC 1, 3, 25, and SOC 130W or UDWE). 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.

SOC 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 others.

SOC 153. Sociological Theory (3)

Prerequisites: Tier One courses (SOC 1, 3, 25, and SOC 130W or UDWE). Survey of classical and contemporary sociological theory. Major sociological theories presented include functionalism, conflict, rationalism-utilitarianism, and symbolic interactionism, as well as their origins in the thought of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Comte, Saint-Simon, and others.

SOC 157. Social Change (3)

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

SOC 161. Population Analysis (3)

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

SOC 162. Social Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Tier One courses (SOC 1, 3, 25, and SOC 130W or UDWE). 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.

SOC 163. Urban Sociology (3)

Prerequisites: G.E. Foundation and Breadth Area D. 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. G.E. Integration ID.

SOC 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.

SOC 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.

SOC 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.

SOC 168. Interpersonal Relationships (3)

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

SOC 169. Sociology of Religion (3)

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

SOC 170T. Research Topics (1-3; max total 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.

SOC 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)

SOC 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.

SOC 175. Sociological Research Methods (3)

Prerequisites: Tier One courses (SOC 1, 3, 25, and SOC 130W or UDWE). The research process with special emphasis on measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and report preparation. Basic assumptions and dilemmas of social science research.

SOC 185. Field Experience in Sociology (1-6; max total 6)

Prerequisites: 2.75 minimum cumulative GPA, junior/senior standing in sociology, and completion of Tier 1 courses. Individually-planned field experience relating sociology coursework with applied community-based experience. Hours to be announced. *CR/NC* grading only. (Minimum of 3 field hours per week per credit unit.)

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

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