SOCIOLOGY

http://www.as.miami.edu/sociology

Dept. Code: SOC

Overview

The Major in Sociology provides scientific training for understanding the organization and fluid nature of contemporary society, patterns of social change, and the mutual influence between macro structures and processes (society and culture) on one hand, and the micro level (individuals and groups) on the other. Increasingly, sociologists are also focused on understanding the processes of globalization that are currently transforming contemporary societies.

Courses for both majors are designated SOC; see course list below. For information on Criminology please see the Criminology (http://bulletin.miami.edu/undergraduate-academic-programs/arts-sciences/criminology) section of the Bulletin.

Educational Objectives

The undergraduate program in Sociology has as its main objective to provide students with:

1. A strong component of a social science education, training in analytical and statistical skills that are highly valued by potential employers;
2. A valuable undergraduate preparation for pursuing careers in such fields as environmental studies, public health, law, journalism, politics, public relations, business or public administration and in other fields that involve investigative or analytical skills or working with diverse groups;
3. An excellent and comprehensive training program for students wishing to pursue graduate work in programs leading to academic positions, research expertise, or work in the field of applied sociology.

Degree Programs

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. The Department of Sociology also offers graduate programs leading to a PhD. degree in the areas of:

- Criminology
- Medical Sociology
- Race, Ethnic Relations, and Immigration

Departmental Honors

Graduation with Departmental Honors is available to eligible students who fulfill the following:

1. Students desiring Departmental Honors in Sociology or Criminology must maintain an overall GPA of 3.3 and a GPA of 3.5 in Sociology or Criminology. They must also achieve a minimum of B in all Sociology/Criminology courses. For transfer students, the Department uses the cumulative, combined GPA calculated by the Office of the Registrar.
2. A student seeking Departmental Honors is required to write an independent research paper which is submitted to the Undergraduate Committee. The nature of the independent research project is determined by the faculty member(s) with whom the student works.

This project is done in SOC 498 & SOC 499. The student should have the same professor(s) for all six credit hours.

3. Recruitment of eligible students is by department invitation during a student’s junior year.

Advanced Writing and Communication Requirement

To satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences Advanced Writing and Communication requirement, all Sociology majors must take 4 writing-designated courses, including 1 writing-designated course in the SOC area. Writing courses are regularly offered within the department; however, it is the student’s responsibility to plan accordingly to incorporate a designated SOC writing-designated course into their graduation plans.

Alpha Kappa Delta

Majors, minors, and other students who meet certain academic criteria are eligible for membership in Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society. Alpha Kappa Delta sponsors events that enhance the academic and social life of the department.

SOC 101. Introduction to Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.

The scientific study of society and several sociological concepts, including, but not limited to: social theory, social research, social economy, social interaction, social class, social construction, gender stratification, race and ethnicity, family, and deviance. This course will help students to examine the social world around them using the sociological imagination. Students will learn how to connect research to concepts, deepening their understanding of the social world and social phenomena and develop critical thinking skills.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

SOC 103. Social Problems. 3 Credit Hours.

Causes, scope, and possible solutions of social problems in American society.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 210. Introduction to Social Research. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides students with an overview of the social science research process and introduces them to the various methodological strategies used by social scientists. The various steps by which research is conducted will be examined such as study design and implementation, data collection and interpretation of findings. Students will also be able to critique the strengths and limitations of difference research methodologies.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.
SOC 211. Quantitative Methods for Sociologists. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is designed to introduce students to descriptive and inferential statistics used in sociology, criminology, and other social sciences. We will cover measures of central tendency and variation, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and bivariate techniques such as correlation and an introduction to regression.
Prerequisite: SOC 101, 210. Corequisite: 212.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 212. Quantitative Methods Lab. 1 Credit Hour.
Statistical lab associated with SOC 211 introduces the use of computer statistical packages for analyzing quantitative data.
Prerequisite: SOC 101 and SOC 210 Corequisite: SOC 211 or PSY 291 or PSY 292.
Components: LAB.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 270. Deviant Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the study of deviant behaviors. We will examine the ways in which deviance is constructed and defined. Major sociological perspectives and theories will be applied in order to understand how they aid in the formation and development of social deviance. In addition, various forms of deviant behaviors will be discussed, including: drug use, sexual deviance, violence, suicide, LGBT issues, inequality and crime. The role of social control will also be examined in terms of how it impacts the way in which deviance is understood in society.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 271. Criminal Justice. 3 Credit Hours.
Provide students with both an introduction to the basics of the criminal justice system and a critical approach to contemporary issues in the field. We will focus on the nature of crime and how it is measured; issues in policing and law enforcement; the judicial system and legal process; sentencing; corrections; and prison life. Throughout the course we will focus on current controversies and debates, including such issues as the war on drugs, racism in the criminal justice system, violent crime rates, and incarceration rates.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 291. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Content will vary by semester.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 292. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 293. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 301. Social Organization. 3 Credit Hours.
The focus of this course is formal organizations, with an emphasis on the workplace. The topics that are discussed include theories of work, organizational paradigms, bureaucracy, impact of technology, unionization, and the new workplace. The fundamental theme is how organizational style influences productivity.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 302. Social Psychology: Sociological Perspective. 3 Credit Hours.
The influence of human groups and social processes on individual behavior, and personality.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 303. Social Inequalities. 3 Credit Hours.
An overview of the sociological approach to the analysis of structured socioeconomic inequality (a.k.a. "social stratification") in contemporary American society. In this regard, emphases are placed on identifying trends, causes, and consequences of the distribution of a wide range of material (e.g. income, wealth) and symbolic (status, prestige) rewards in American society.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 304. Dynamics of Poverty in the United States. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines trends in the incidence and causes of major types of poverty among the urban underclass, the homeless, migrant laborers, the working poor. Also explores policy-related solutions.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 305. Globalization And Society. 3 Credit Hours.
Concepts and theories that are currently in use to understand globalization both as a process and as a structure: social aspects and narratives of globalization, and theoretical sociological models as scaffolding for understanding many of the disparate characteristics of globalization. Globalization as it spans disciplinary division and its understanding: the emergence of novel economic forms and practices as a pivotal driving force for globalization. Human migrations and their consequences on cultural identity and diffusion, and the role of the technology in the creation and consolidation the global world. New and complex structures of socioeconomic inequality at national and at transnational levels, the disproportionately important roles that women play in these new structures of inequality, and the social forces and movements that have emerged to resist globalization or to alter it in important ways.
Prerequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<td>Social Epidemiology: Illness and Death in Society</td>
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<td>Sociology of Religion</td>
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**SOC 306. Wealth And Poverty In Contemporary America. 3 Credit Hours.**
The causes and consequences of rapidly changing patterns of concentration of socioeconomic resources, such as wealth and income in America. This changing concentration is associated with the proliferation of impoverishment and privilege in America. Analyzes macro-economic changes, demographic shifts, technological advances, and evolving ideological postures as sources of these trends.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

**SOC 320. Social Epidemiology: Illness and Death in Society. 3 Credit Hours.**
Social epidemiology and the sociological study of health and longevity. Specifically, this course examines the ways in which key sociological variables structure, shape, or patterns the health and longevity of the US population. This course covers several variables of sociological interest, including socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, sex/gender, age, family status, and religion.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

**SOC 321. Applied Health Policy. 3 Credit Hours.**
The role of public and private institutions in health promotion, health care delivery, and health insurance. We will explore the theoretical and practical reasons for intervention in health-related decisions and health care markets, the related empirical evidence, and the effects of these interventions on health outcomes and social welfare. Students will understand how and why government and society in general attempts to influence health-related behaviors and health insurance markets, and the resulting effects on individuals' choices, expenditures, health outcomes, and overall quality of life.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

**SOC 330. Collective Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.**
Classical theories, issues, and research on fads, fashions, riots, crowd behavior, social movements and other forms of collective behavior.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

**SOC 335. LGBTQ Communities. 3 Credit Hours.**
Gender, race, age and class differences in the experiences of gays and lesbians. A life-span perspective guides the course after the presentation of some background of biological, psychological, and sociological theories pertaining to homosexuality.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

**SOC 340. Sociology of Religion. 3 Credit Hours.**
Social foundations of religion, growth and change within religious institutions and relationships of religion to other institutions.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.
**SOC 352. Sport and Society. 3 Credit Hours.**
The status position and role of sport in society. Our primary focus will be upon delineating and analyzing sport as a major social institution in American society. Thus our perspective will be that of the sociologist (i.e., critical more in analysis than in judgement) rather than that of a sports journalist or sports fan. We shall examine both amateur and professional sports in terms of their interlocking relationships with each other and with other major social institutions (e.g., education, economics, and politics) as well as their significance for promoting and maintaining cultural values such as competition, fair play, teamwork, gender roles, and the like. The objective is to provide students with critical assessment and analytical skills for examining and understanding the impact of sports on both individuals and society.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.
Grading: GRD.

**SOC 359. The Sociology of Human Sexuality. 3 Credit Hours.**
A socio-historical survey of sexual ideologies, attitudes and behavior in human societies, with emphasis on social and biological factors.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.
Grading: GRD.

**SOC 365. Internship. 3 Credit Hours.**
Exposure to and insight into the operations of community non-profit or government based social service agencies. The course involves prearranged study and supervised work in a variety of organizations and institutions, affording students the opportunity to use their sociological imagination while providing a "hands-on" sociological experience in the local community.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: DIS.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

**SOC 368. Violence in America. 3 Credit Hours.**
Issues relevant to the study of violence in the United States will be covered. While the emphasis throughout will be on street violence (i.e., homicide, robbery, rape, and aggravated assault), other forms (e.g., corporate violence, intimate partner violence) will also be covered. In particular, we will: Examine violence in historical, international, and situational contexts, examine the major explanations of violence, and examine the factors associated with violent crime. We will also consider how we seek to control violence in the U.S.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

**SOC 369. Crime & Public Policy. 3 Credit Hours.**
The dimensions and causes of the crime problem in America, and the uses and limits of the criminal justice system in dealing with it. We will examine the enormous expansion of the American prison system in recent years, and ask how much it has affected the crime rate. Additionally, we will consider a variety of possible strategies for preventing or controlling so-called "street" crime, both within the criminal justice system and beyond it-including prevention and rehabilitation programs as well as expanding social and economic opportunities. Along the way, we will pay particular attention to several controversial issues, including the death penalty, drugs, and gun control.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

**SOC 370. Juvenile Delinquency. 3 Credit Hours.**
Application of sociological perspectives and concepts to examine juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice system. The course takes into account the various social factors that shape juvenile delinquency and its control, such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and sexuality. In addition, students will take a critical view of the policies developed to control such behavior.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

**SOC 371. Criminology. 3 Credit Hours.**
The concepts of crime and criminal law, reviews several theoretical approaches to studying crime and criminal behavior, and focuses on several types of crime. In particular, it includes such topics as definitions of crime, sources of crime statistics, correlates and causes of crime, terrorism, genocide, corporate crime, and cybercrime.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

**SOC 372. Criminology: Police and Community. 3 Credit Hours.**
A study of policing in U.S. society. Interaction with groups and institutions. The overall objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the role of the police in American society. The source will focus on the sociological study of policing, not professional training to become a police officer. Students will gain a better understanding of the history of the police, their role in American society and in the American system of criminal justice. In addition, students will discuss and critique important issues and trends in modern policing.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Summer.
SOC 373. Criminology: Courts and Society. 3 Credit Hours.
The importance of the criminal courts and the impact that the criminal
courts have on society. You will gain a realistic sense of what it is like
to work in and be a part of the criminal justice system. The roles and
responsibilities of the major courthouse players will be discussed. You
will discover the challenging situations that judges must navigate as well
as the difficulties that confront prosecutors and defense attorneys as
they deal with victims, defendants and crushing caseloads.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 374. Criminology: Corrections. 3 Credit Hours.
Corrections in the U.S. society; philosophies of rehabilitation,
punishment, and incapacitation.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 375. Sociology of Mental Health and Illness. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to sociological theories and research regarding the
definition, experience, and treatment of mental illness.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 376. Medical Sociology. 3 Credit Hours.
A brief early history, methods, theory and concepts of social science
research on health and health care mainly from the last half of the
previous century to the present. We will explore gender, race, class, age,
social and cultural differences in the experiences of individuals as they
deal with health and illness across the life course. The course will provide
students with a sociological analysis of a broad array of health/illness
issues and the health services industry.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 377. Sociology of Drug Abuse. 3 Credit Hours.
Application of sociological perspectives and concepts to examine drug
use and abuse. The course examines the historical and theoretical
understanding of the social causes and consequences of drug use, as
well as the correlates of use and abuse. The course also takes a critical
perspective of the policies developed to reduce the harms associated
with drug use and abuse.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 378. Criminology: Law and Society. 3 Credit Hours.
How law, crime, and justice systems in the United States relate to social
structure. The course covers two major themes: lawmaking (and how it
relates to lawbreaking) and the justice system.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 379. Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations. 3 Credit Hours.
The nature and dynamics of race and ethnic relations with particular
emphasis on racial and ethnic groups in the United States. We examine
basic concepts and major theories in the analysis of race and ethnic
relations, racial and ethnic inequality, past and recent immigration
experiences, and the historical and current status of specific racial and
ethnic groups. Students will also be engaged in a variety of exercises
designed to develop critical assessment and analytical skills for
examining and understanding issues related to race and ethnicity.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 380. Sociology of Gender. 3 Credit Hours.
Social and historical construction of gender. Discussion of gender and
various social institutions and categories.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 381. Aging in Society. 3 Credit Hours.
The aging processes, the aged and social institutions; special issues.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.
SOC 388. The Black Ghetto in Urban Society. 3 Credit Hours.
The origin and development of the concept of "ghetto" and application of this concept to both past and contemporary views of black life in America. Students are introduced to the historical and social significance of the black ghetto in the context of the larger body of literature on the ghetto phenomenon. Emphasis is placed on gaining an understanding and developing critical insight into issues and prospects for the resolution of issues related to black ghettoization.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

SOC 389. The Black Athlete in White America. 3 Credit Hours.
The impact of racism on sport in the United States with a specific focus on the Black athlete. Drawing upon the literature on race and sport in America, the course takes a historical view of the social context in which black athletes have competed and excelled in their craft against tremendous odds both inside and outside of sport competition.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 390. Directed Studies. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Individually supervised readings or research on special topics offered by arrangement with instructor.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 391. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Content will vary by semester.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 390. Directed Studies. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Individually supervised readings or research on special topics offered by arrangement with instructor.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 391. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Content will vary by semester.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 401. Sociological Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
The work of theorists such as Comte, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Parsons, and symbolic interactionists. The epistemology, methodology, and social ontology is each theory is discussed, along with the social context and chief concerns of each theorist.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 401. Sociological Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
The work of theorists such as Comte, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Parsons, and symbolic interactionists. The epistemology, methodology, and social ontology is each theory is discussed, along with the social context and chief concerns of each theorist.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 402. Race, Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice. 3 Credit Hours.
An in-depth examination of the relationships involving race, ethnicity, immigration, crime, and the criminal justice system. We will consider why these are important issues to study, how and what we know about these relationships, and how we might explain them. We will direct attention to research on defining race and ethnicity, racial and ethnic variations in criminal victimization and offending, population distributions, policing, the court system and sentencing, corrections, and the death penalty. Our approach will primarily be sociological, although where appropriate we will draw from other disciplines (e.g., political science, history, etc.) as well. Prerequisite: Six credits in Sociology.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

SOC 407. Gender and Crime. 3 Credit Hours.
Examination of gender, power, and crime, including feminist theories and the criminal justice system.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

SOC 408. Gender and Crime. 3 Credit Hours.
Examination of gender, power, and crime, including feminist theories and the criminal justice system.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 409. Directed Studies in Sociology. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Supervised independent study on special topics. Arrangement with individual faculty.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.
SOC 491. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 492. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 493. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
Prequisite: SOC 101.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

SOC 498. Senior Honors Thesis in Sociology or Criminology I. 3-6 Credit Hours.
Independent research project.
Prerequisites: SOC 101, SOC 210, SOC 211, SOC 212.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

SOC 499. Senior Honors Thesis in Sociology or Criminology II. 3-6 Credit Hours.
Independent research project.
Prerequisites: SOC 101, SOC 210, SOC 211, SOC 212.
Components: THI.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.