

SOCIOLOGY — (SOC)

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Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, communities, and societies, and how people interact in these contexts. Since human behavior is shaped by social factors, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the family to education; from crime to religion; from the divisions of race, social class, and gender to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from environment and sustainability to the sociology of sports. Few fields have such a broad scope and relevance for research, theory, service, and the application of knowledge. The Sociology Department emphasizes engaged pedagogy, critical thinking, theoretical and methodological understanding, service learning, and the application of theory to practice. Sociology majors have the opportunity to be involved in research, sustainable community development, and law enforcement, as well as local community service projects. Since many sociology majors continue their education in graduate school, the department seeks to prepare them for success at the graduate level. Others often utilize their sociology degree for work in community development, human and community services, the business world, and a wide variety of careers that involve problem-solving and gathering, organizing, and analyzing information (i.e., data). The department sponsors the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honors Society.

The Department of Sociology requires majors to:

- Describe and analyze the relationship between the individual and the social world;
- Define and apply key sociological concepts, theories, and research methods;
- Locate the causes and consequences of social inequality in an increasingly diverse society;
- Engage in community-based research; and
- Explain and apply sociological theories and methods to affect change and create a sustainable society.

Major in Sociology

(B.A. degree) **Thirty-three hours required** in Sociology, including: SOC111 or 118, 302, 395, 397 and 450. Choose eighteen additional hours from other coursework. The department recommends (but does not

require) the following courses for majors: SOC304, SOC373, HIS331, MAT111, PSY260, POS321, ENG356 and PHI335.

Major in Sociology with Social and Criminal Justice Emphasis

(B.A. degree) **Thirty-six hours required** in Sociology, including: SOC111 or 118, 302, 395, 397 and 450. The Social and Criminal Justice emphasis requires students to take the following twelve hours in Social and Criminal Justice: SOC121, 311, 328, and 403. The department recommends (but does not require) the following courses for majors with a Social and Criminal Justice emphasis: SOC220, 322, 324, 326, 373, 380, 390, and 460.

Major in Sociology with Sustainable Community Development Emphasis (B.A. degree) **Thirty-six hours required** in Sociology,

including: SOC111 or 118, 302, 395, 397 and 450. The Sustainable Community Development emphasis requires students to take twelve hours in Sustainable Community Development courses, including SOC400 and 408, and six additional hours from the following courses: SOC211, 220, 306, 335, 355, 365, 405, 415, 420, 435, and 460.

Minor

Eighteen semester hours required in Sociology, including SOC111 or 118.

For the description of the **Sustainable Community Development** minor, please see **Sustainable Community Development**.

For the description of the **Social and Criminal Justice** minor, please see **Social and Criminal Justice**.

111. Principles of Sociology. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to sociological concepts, theories, and principles.

Fall and Spring

113. Modern Social Problems. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer a description and analysis of selected social problems, their causes, effects, and social responses to these problems.

Spring

118. Cultural Diversity. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce the student to the diversity of human cultural experience in the contemporary world. Goals of the course include gaining an appreciation for the common humanity and uniqueness of all cultures; to gain a sensitivity toward stereotypes and ethnocentrism, and to understand the distinctions between “race,” ethnicity, and racism. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom.

Fall and Spring

121. Introduction to Social and Criminal Justice. (3 hours) This course is an introduction to the philosophical and historical background of law enforcement agencies, processes, purposes, and functions. It includes an evaluation of law enforcement today, including current trends in social and criminal justice. This course provides an overview of crime and the criminal justice system: Police, Courts, and Correction. Fall and Spring

211. Community. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to the role of communities in the creation of society. It will offer a critique of contemporary social mobility. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. As needed

213. Marriage and Family. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer a sociological and historical analysis of the institution of marriage in the United States, with an emphasis on the changing structure of marriage and family in a contemporary context. Fall

220. Equality and Social Justice. (3 hours) This course is designed to examine social justice in relation to the economy, racial paradigms, political structures, and past and present social welfare policies. A specific emphasis will be placed on government responses to inequities in American society. Fall

302. Classical Sociological Theory. (3 hours) The 19th and 20th centuries brought unprecedented change to our world, and many great thinkers sought to create theories to explain this change. This course will focus on the writings of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as Talcott Parsons and the structural functionalists, stopping short of the microsociological and the postmodern views of the social world (subjects that are covered in SOC304, Contemporary Sociological Theory). Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Fall

304. Contemporary Sociological Theory. (3 hours) This seminar is designed to examine the contributions of contemporary sociological theory to the understanding of the main structures, processes, and contradictions of modern societies. Whereas classical theory courses primarily focus on the works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, this course will offer a broader range of theorists, beginning with the microsociological thought of Schutz and Blumer, and ending up with many of the postmodern questions being asked by theorists like Immanuel Wallerstein. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Even Springs

306. Social Movements and Social Change. (3 hours) This course is designed to examine the origins, dynamics, and consequences of social

movements through both sociological theory and empirical case studies.
Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Odd Springs

309. Sociology of Religion. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer students a classical understanding of the sociology of religion and a contemporary look at ways in which religion is used in society.
Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Odd Springs

311. Ethics in Social and Criminal Justice. (3 hours) This course examines the many difficult decisions that social and criminal justice professionals make in an environment of competing interests. The decision-making of criminal justice professionals is often impacted by their ethical dilemmas. Emphasis is placed on addressing moral issues and concerns of our justice process in personal, social, and criminal justice contexts. Prerequisite: SOC121. Odd Falls

319. Work and Organizational Sociology. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to the societal assumptions of work and organizations and the role of work and organizations in perpetuating or solving social inequalities. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. As needed

322. Juvenile Delinquency. (3 hours) This course provides an introduction of the origins and theories associated with juvenile delinquency, and a comprehensive analysis of social issues that influence delinquency, plus a thorough overview of the juvenile justice system processes.
Prerequisite: SOC121. Even Falls

324. Deviance & Social Control. (3 hours) This course examines why individuals and groups violate social norms. Typically, when we think of deviance, we think of one individual engaging in one specific deviant act. The adoption of a sociological perspective, however, reminds us that there are many others involved in the creation of deviance and the enforcement of society's norms. In this class, we will ask the question: "Who breaks society's rules, and why?" Further, we'll explore who makes the rules in the first place, who benefits, and who is most likely to follow the rules.
Prerequisite: SOC121. Odd Falls

326. Restorative Justice. (3 hours) Provides an in-depth study of the history and current processes and procedures of probation, parole, and intermediate sanctions that makes up community corrections. Specifically, this course will highlight critical issues and trends in community-based corrections, as well as evaluate the practice of community corrections nationwide. Special emphasis will be placed on exploring the development of community corrections, including probation, parole, intermediate punishments, special offenders in the community, and juvenile offenders in the community. Prerequisite: SOC121. Even Falls

328. Criminological Theory. (3 hours) This course will focus on examining sociological explanations of crime and how these theories relate to empirical evidence and social policy. We will begin by asking the question, “What is crime?” From there, we will look at how crime is measured and what general patterns emerge from previous surveys of criminal behavior. Next, we will dive into the heart of the course: investigation of the various explanations of crime and the implications these theories have for crime control policies and social change. Finally, we will conclude with a discussion about what the future holds for crime and social control in American society. Prerequisite: SOC121.

Odd Springs

330. Sociology of Sport. (3 hours) This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the role of sport in human life through social theories, methods, and research findings of sociological inquiry. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.

Even Falls

335. Sociology of Appalachia. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to the culture, economics, politics, families, literature, and religions of the Appalachian region. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.

Spring

355. Environment and Sustainability. (3 hours) This course is designed to help the student think about the environment, sustainability, and the role of society and culture in determining how we will survive and prosper on this planet. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.

Even Springs

365. Education for Social Change. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer students sociological explanations of the racial and ethnic, class, and gender inequalities that are reproduced within education and focuses on critical pedagogical theories and practices that promote social justice and social change.

Fall and Spring

373. Class and Stratification. (3 hours) This course is designed to provide a survey of major sociological theories and research on inequality in modern societies, with emphasis on the contemporary United States. We will examine: the distribution of wealth, status, political power, and other valued resources; the structure and effects of class, race, gender, and other modes of social differentiation; social mobility; and the reproduction of inequality. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.

Odd Falls

375. Tutorial Topics. (3 hours) The study of a special topic in sociology. Required as preparation for students interested in pursuing study through

the Oxford Program at Georgetown College. Please consult department chair for current offerings. Prerequisites: one course in sociology and permission of the instructor. As needed

380. Race and Ethnicity. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to a sociological overview of issues pertaining to race and ethnicity in the United States. Even Falls

390. Gender and Society. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer an explanation of the social construction of gender. The central themes of the course will be changes and continuities in gender roles within the United States, social processes that influence our lives and our gender identities, and the connections between gender, power, and inequality. Odd Falls

395. Qualitative Research Methods. (3 hours) This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the methodological approaches we commonly think of as qualitative, with special emphasis on interview-based research, ethnography, and comparative research. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Fall

397. Statistical Methods in Sociology. (3 hours) This course provides a basic introduction to statistical analysis in the social sciences. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on understanding and interpreting statistics that are used to describe and to generalize about the characteristics of groups. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Spring

400. Community Development. (3 hours) This course is designed to explore the challenges of empowering the poor in a world marked by marginalization, disempowerment, and injustice. Topics to be covered include worldview issues that influence our understanding of poverty and development; a framework for transformational development; an overview of contemporary development theory; and the development practitioner. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Fall

403. Criminal Procedure. (3 hours) This course focuses primarily on the constitutional issues confronting law enforcement and suspects during a criminal investigation as a result of the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It covers the law of search and seizure, self-incrimination, and the right to counsel as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court. Attention will also be given to differences in these areas between the U.S. Supreme Court and the law of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It covers important selected procedural issues that arise during the prosecution of a criminal case, including double jeopardy, discovery, pretrial hearings, jury selection, confronta-

tion, and the ethical responsibilities of a prosecutor. Prerequisite: SOC121.
Even Springs

405. Development and Globalization. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce the student to how sociologists approach the study and practice of development. It explores cross-culturally how local populations have responded to development; the different topics of development, such as agriculture and rural development; and the ways sociological knowledge is applied in addressing development problems. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.
Odd Springs

408. Applied Sociology. (3 hours) Applied sociology is simply “sociology put to use.” It involves the application of sociological and anthropological knowledge, theories, and methods to address social problems and issues. This class focuses on the social scientific approach to informing policy and initiating action that alleviates some of the most pressing social, economic, health, environmental, and technological problems facing communities and organizations. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118.
Spring

415. Food and Society. (3 hours) This course is designed to look at the food we eat; the way we think about food; the role of neo-liberal and capitalist values, as well as the role of agribusiness marketing, in shaping our understanding of food and its role in society; and, finally, of the need for reform in our overall societal understanding of food. Particular attention will be paid to concerns such as food insecurity, food safety, and the role of food systems in perpetuating systemic inequality. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. Even Falls

420. Research Methods for Community Change. (3 hours) This course is designed to provide an overview of the history, theory, and methods of participatory community-based research for social change. Community-based research (CBR) is a collaborative, change-oriented approach to research that equitably engages all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBR is research that is conducted with and for, not on, members of a community. CBR begins with a research topic based in the needs of communities, and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change on behalf of disadvantaged communities or groups. Please note that this course employs service learning and therefore involves significant work outside of the classroom. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. As needed

425. Aging in Mass Society. (3 hours) This course is designed to offer a comprehensive study of the dimensions of aging from young adulthood

through the senior years. Particular emphasis will be placed on the analysis of problems related to aging with exploration of possible solutions, including social services. As needed

427. Social Network Analysis. (3 hours) This course is designed to provide an introduction to social network analysis. Special attention will be paid to the theories behind this research, but this class will also provide an introduction to the theoretical concepts and methodology of social network analysis from a research perspective. Although technical in a certain sense, the course will not require any mathematical background. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. As needed

435. Social Justice Through Folk Music. (3 hours) This course is designed to explore stories of injustice, social action, social movements, and social change through the perspective of folk music. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. As needed

440. Independent Study. (1-3 hours) Emphasis on independent research. Prerequisites: one course in sociology and permission of the instructor. As needed

450. Senior Seminar. (3 hours) Capstone course in sociology. Spring

460. Internship in Applied Sociology. (3-6 hours) Supervised internship experiences in the application of sociological concepts in selected organizations. Prerequisites: one course in sociology and permission of the instructor. As needed

470. Topics. (1-3 hours) The study of special topics in sociology. Prerequisite: SOC111 or 118. As needed