

Sociology (SOC)

Steinbart (chair), Nedilsky

Offerings in sociology are designed to provide the student with: 1) skills required to assemble and interpret data concerning social behavior, 2) comprehension of basic concepts and theories in sociology, and 3) awareness of human variability in different cultural contexts.

Basic courses required for the majors in sociology analyze patterns of human relationships in complex industrial societies including non-Western societies. Skills developed by the students will help prepare them for graduate study in these and related fields, employment in the business areas related to the analysis of social behavior, as well as, employment in international business, government, and service fields. North Park's urban location provides opportunities for students interested in urban sociology, the sociology of culture, and applied sociology.

Major requirements for the B.A. degree in Sociology

Required semester hours

36 sh

Prerequisites and supporting courses

STAT 1490

Required core courses

SOC 3010, 3500, 3930, 4010

Electives

One course from each area plus one additional course from any of the 4 areas to total 20 semester hours:

Social Identity: SOC 2090, 2150, 2500, 3100, 3410

Social Organization: SOC 2130, 2800, 2900, 3030, 3080, 3130

Social Deviance: SOC 2100, 3520

Social Change: SOC 2530, 3300, 3310, 3610, 3800

Notes and Restrictions

No more than two cross-listed courses taught outside the department may be counted toward the major. Cross listed courses are indicated in the course descriptions. A comprehensive examination is required and must be passed for graduation. A minimum of 16 credits at the 3000 level or higher in the major are to be taken at North Park.

Honors

Prospective students must submit a research proposal two weeks prior to the last day of classes of the spring semester of their third year. To graduate with Departmental Honors in Sociology students must successfully complete 8 semester hours of SOC 4000 in addition to their major requirements. For general Departmental Honors requirements and SOC 4000 course description, see appropriate sections of this catalog.

Minor requirements in Sociology

Required semester hours

20 sh

Required core courses

none

GE Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a General Education (G.E.) requirement; see the General Education Program section of the catalog for more information.

1910 Introduction to Sociology (4 sh) GE

Problems, fields, and methods of sociology. Emphasis on a theoretical frame of reference to explain basic social processes, the role of culture in social behavior, the nature of social organization, and social and cultural change. Intensive reading in descriptive studies from a wide range of societies.

2090 Race and Ethnicity (4 sh)

Characteristics and definitions of race and ethnicity in various cultures and societies. Significance for cultural pluralism.

2100 Social Problems (4 sh)

A variety of social issues have assumed enough prominence to be labeled problems. This course is intended to provide the student with a conceptual framework within which to examine social problems. Emphasis will be on issues such as poverty, crime and punishment, affordable housing, education and deviance.

2130 Mexican History and Culture (4 sh)

A multi-disciplinary approach to the study of Mexico from pre-Colombian societies to the present. Taught in English. Required for the Morelia program. Cross-listed with SPAN 2130.

2150 Gender Studies (4 sh)

Exploration of male and female gender roles in culture and society. Importance of gender in workplace, family, education, and belief systems. Analysis of power. Assessment of the contribution of feminist theories to study of gender. Cross-listed with WGS 2150.

2500 Introduction to African Studies (4 sh)

This course, utilizing the disciplines of history, sociology, and anthropology, will present, discuss, and analyze the African-American experience from pre-slavery West Africa to contemporary U.S., with particular emphasis on current cultural, theological, social, economic, and political issues that exist within the African-American community. Cross-listed with AS 2500.

2530 The Civil Rights Movement 1954-1970'S (4 sh)

Emphasizes the period from 1954 through the 1970s as a time of social turmoil and change in American society during which African-Americans insisted on inclusion in the nation's mainstream and power in their own right. Employs social movement theory in examining the history, progress, and effects of the Civil Rights Movement in general and in studying such organizations as the NAACP and such leaders as Martin Luther King in particular. Cross-listed with AS 3030.

2800 Marriage and Family (4 sh)

The family is an important social institution that profoundly affects us. This course is designed to study the diversity of families and explore the historical changes in marriage patterns. Topics covered include dating and mate selection, family structures, marital satisfaction, parenting, divorce and remarriage, alternative lifestyles, and the diversity of meaning that the institution has in the United States and cross-culturally.

2900 Community and Initiative (4 sh)

Initiatives to establish community are what make the United States what it is today. This class explores how voluntary association, the visions of utopian planners, and the networking of migrants and minorities have all contributed to this country's political and spatial peculiarities. It also asks students to consider whether community is still possible today, and, if so, at what cost? Through service learning excursions, students will get their own answers to these questions.

2930 Topics in Sociology (1-4 sh)

Intensive investigation of a selected topic of current interest in sociology. The specific subject matter may vary from year to year, reflecting the interests of both faculty and students. The courses are designed for all students and are taught at an introductory level.

3010 Social Thought (4 sh)

Critical examination of the theoretical foundations of the study of society and culture. Historical evolution of social and anthropological thought as well as contemporary analysis. Required of all students majoring in sociology.

3030 Urban Sociology (4 sh)

90% of urbanization taking place today is in the developing world-Latin America, Africa, and Asia. How can Western classical theories of urbanization developed in the 19th and 20th Centuries inform contemporary experiences of migration, individualism, social control, social movements and redevelopment in non-Western countries in the 21st Century Lectures, reading and case studies from local authors provide ample opportunity for cross-cultural comparisons.

3080 Social Stratification (4 sh)

Examination of class, status, and power; their origin, change, and interrelationship with other aspects of society; societal distribution of resources and rewards. Analysis of forces influencing individual and group mobility.

3100 Sociology of Religion (4 sh)

Relationship of culture and society to religion. Analysis of social, political, and economic forces with religious belief, expression, and practice.

3130 Justice in Education (4 sh)

Applied to America's system of schooling, justice as an ideal has inspired a meritocratic system, and justice as a goal has offered up education as the great equalizer. Yet these related pursuits have, arguably, proven illusory. Sociologists, educators, students, and other concerned citizens continue to tweak our existing systems, to correct for past disadvantages, to achieve new notions of justice. Through lectures, readings, fieldtrips, and service-learning, this course follows developments in education, with an eye on what are our ideals, and what it means to fail at achieving them.

3300 Modernizing China and Japan (4 sh)

What does it mean to be modern? This course explores the political and social dynamics of creating a modern state in China and Japan in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Focusing on historic initiatives that led to each society's transformation, we examine the push for industrialization, nationhood and the ideal citizen. Readings draw on the perspectives of ordinary people responding to state-sponsored social change.

3310 Movements for Change (4 sh)

Who fights for change? Why? And how? Answers tend to vary with historical circumstance. Increasingly today we find trans-border problem solving to deal with problems that cross borders-problems like environmental degradation, migrant rights, and criminal or health issues. This course looks at the transformation of old and the emergence of new institutions as people try not only to cope but realize their vision of a just society.

3410 Migration and Identity (4 sh)

Study of dynamics of immigrants, adaptation, intercultural acculturation, education of next generations, family life, interracial marriage, ethnic conflict with business, religion, economic, and political functions. Special emphasis on Asian communities and Korea.

3500 Methods in Social Research (4 sh)

An introduction to the logic of scientific inquiry and its implication for social research. Research strategy, definition of research goals, methods of data collection and analysis. Required of all students majoring in sociology. Prerequisite: STAT 1490.

3520 Criminal Justice (4 sh)

An overview of the criminal justice system in the United States emphasizing key issues in the process of arrest through trial and sentencing and imprisonment, an analysis of the roles of the police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and courts, and the various theories of punishment and crime causation. Representative Supreme Court decisions in the law of arrest, right to counsel, capital punishment, search and seizure, and self-incrimination will be analyzed. Cross-listed with POGO 3520. Student must be of third-year standing. Prerequisite: POGO 1600.

3610 Modern Korea (4 sh)

Study of the dynamics of Korean modernization. The processes of social, economic, and political development. Topics include the demographic transition, social change and its effect on family and organization, economics, and political development, and the issues on the re-unification process of South and North Korea. Cross-listed with KS 3610.

3800 Globalization: Transforming Economy and Culture (4 sh)

Global Village or Global Pillage? Focusing on the experiences of the United States and China, this class provides a theoretical framework and historical perspective to understanding globalization as both an economic and cultural process. Lectures, reading and case studies of local responses to globalization illustrate how this process reorders, integrates and transforms societies.

3930 Practicum in Sociology (4 sh)

Hands-on and practical, this class introduces students to the qualitative methods of research such as observation and interview as students support Chicago institutions through service learning. Team work around common interests, learning outside the classroom, and application of existing talents and skills sets this course apart. Required of all students majoring in sociology, but not limited to sociology majors.

4000 Departmental Honors in Sociology (8 sh)

Prospective students must submit a research proposal two weeks prior to the last day of the spring semester of their third year. To graduate with Departmental Honors in Sociology a student must

successfully complete 8 semester hours of SOC 4000 in addition to their major requirements.

4010 Seminar in Sociology (4 sh)

Directed research which will integrate student's knowledge in sociology. Research project will facilitate use of skills and insights of student's discipline. Required of all students majoring in sociology. Prerequisite: SOC 3010, 3500, 3930 and fourth year standing.

4910 Independent Study in Sociology (1-4 sh)

Self-directed study of material not covered in an existing course. Requires pre-approval by faculty of proposed course topic, reading list, learning activities, and tools of evaluation.

4970 Internship in Sociology (4 sh)

Please refer to the internship section of the catalog for internship requirements and guidelines.