DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

http://sociology.tamu.edu

Head: D. O'Hearn

Graduate Advisor: W. L. Moore

The Department of Sociology offers graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy. The Doctor of Philosophy degree prepares students for careers of teaching and research in higher education and for careers of research in the private and public sector.

Research and teaching in the department cover all major areas in sociology. The curriculum is constructed especially to support specialized training in the areas of culture; organizational, political and economic sociology; demography, crime, law and deviance; race, class and gender; and social psychology. The department helps students participate actively in these areas of scholarship by providing excellent research facilities and access to data, opportunities to collaborate in faculty research projects, and aid in seeking grants and fellowships to support their own work.

Faculty

Amaral, Ernesto, Assistant Professor
Sociology
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2007

Burk, James S, Professor Emeritus
Sociology
PHD, University of Chicago, 1982

Campbell, Mary E, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2004

Cohn, Samuel R, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Michigan, 1981

Dietrich, Katheryn A, Instructional Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1994

Eason, John M, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Chicago, 2008

Feagin, Joe R, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Harvard University, 1966

Fossett, Mark A, Professor
Sociology
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1983

Foster, Holly A, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Toronto, 2001

Gatson, Sarah N, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Northwestern University, 1999

Goldsmith, Patrick A, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University Of Arizona, 1999

Hernandez, Alexander A, Instructional Assistant Professor
Sociology
PHD, Boston College, 2014

Howard, Daniel L, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Vanderbilt University, 1992

Jewell, Joseph O, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of California, Los Angeles, 1998

Keith, Verna M, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1982

Lakkimsetti, Chaitanya, Assistant Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2010

Linneman, Judith A, Instructional Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Iowa State University, 1985

Mackin, Robert S, Instructional Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1998

May, Reuben A, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Chicago, 1996

McIntosh, William A, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Iowa State University, 1975

Mestrovic, Stjepan G, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Syracuse University, 1982

Moore, Wendy A, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2005

Morris, Theresa M, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2000

Murguia, Edward, Professor
Sociology
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1978

Pals, Heili, Assistant Professor
Sociology
PHD, Stanford University, 2006

Plankey Videla, Nancy B, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1998
Poston, Dudley L, Senior Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Oregon, 1968

Prechel, Harland N, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Kansas, 1986

Sakamoto, Arthur, Professor
Sociology
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1988

Sell, Jane A, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Washington State University, 1979

Suzuki, Kazuko, Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Princeton University, 2003

Thornton, Patricia H, Professor
Sociology
PHD, Stanford University, 1993

Waren, Warren P, Instructional Assistant Professor
Sociology
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2008

Woods, Timothy S, Instructional Associate Professor
Sociology
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2000

Masters
  • Master of Science in Sociology

Doctoral
  • Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Courses
SOCI 603/WGST 603 The Contemporary Family
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Review and criticism of theories developed for study of the family; family formation, dynamics, conflicts, power, dissolution; subcultural family forms and responses to social change.
Cross Listing: WGST 603/SOCI 603.

SOCI 604 Comparative Historical Methods
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Surveys key methodological issues, including the logic of comparative design and analysis of primary and secondary sources. Exemplars of important comparative historical research-both classics and more recent publications-will be reviewed.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 605 Social Movements
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Surveys the literature on social movements including the topics of movement emergence, movement outcomes, state repression, and revolutions; reviews contemporary debates in the theories of social movement and new developments in research.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 606 War and Democracy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Sociological approaches to the study of war's effects on democracy and democratic control of the military and the use of force, in comparative-historical context.

SOCI 607 Seminar in Social Organizations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Relevant conceptual and empirical approaches to the study of selected aspects of social organization. May be taken up to two times for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 608 Social Organization
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical and conceptual bases of patterned human behavior; structural, processual and functional aspects of human groups from simplest informal to the most complex formal types: small groups, associations, institutions, complex organizations, bureaucracies, societies.

SOCI 610/WGST 610 Reproduction, Birth, and Power
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
An examination of topics related to reproductive practices, experiences, and ideologies and of the constructed and contested meanings surrounding womanhood, motherhood, sexuality, reproductive freedom, and eugenics.
Prerequisites: Graduate classification.
Cross Listing: WGST 610/SOCI 610.

SOCI 611 Classical Sociological Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Critical analysis of the writings of the principal founders of modern sociology; Marx, Durkheim and Weber and their influence on current theoretical issues.
Prerequisite: SOCI 430 or equivalent or approval of instructor.

SOCI 615 Contemporary Sociological Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Critical analysis of current sociological perspectives, their logic of inquiry, substantive claims and application to empirical research.
Prerequisite: SOCI 611.

SOCI 616 Political Sociology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of the principal social and organizational bases of politics; the institutionalization of political power; explanation of political change and movements of social protest.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 617 Comparative Racial-Ethnic Relations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Cross-cultural variations in racial-ethnic relations and structures of inequality; assessment of systems and power-conflict frameworks in diverse settings such as South America, Mexico, South Africa, Caribbean Regions and United States.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

SOCI 618 Sociology of Education
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The school system and the democratic way of life; relationship of education to social organization, social change and social control. Role of education in society.
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.
SOCI 621 Social Psychology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Personality, social and cultural systems; development and interrelationships; cognitive activities, motivational determinants and selectivity; goals, structures, coordination and related factors influencing complex social groupings.
Prerequisites: SOCI 205; 12 additional hours of social science.

SOCI 622 Social Demography
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of methods, theories and problems of contemporary demographic phenomena.
Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

SOCI 623 Measurement of Sociological Parameters
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Sociological research including scaling, scale analysis and experimental design.
Prerequisites: Graduate classification; three hours of statistics.

SOCI 624 Qualitative Methodology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Exposure to and critical assessment of qualitative approaches to data gathering in social science; topics include naturalistic observation, field research skills, unobtrusive measures and grounded theory construction.

SOCI 627 Seminar in Law, Deviance and Social Control
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Relevant literature and research in selected aspects of law, deviance and social control. May be taken up to three times for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 628 Deviant Behavior
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Contemporary sociological approaches to deviance; theoretical and empirical studies of major types of deviant behavior.

SOCI 629 Sociology of Law
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Critical survey of the social sources of law, the role of law in social organizations and problems of law enforcement.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 631 Seminar in Sociological Research
Credits 3. 3 Other Hours.
Critical analysis of research procedures used by sociologists.
Prerequisite: SOCI 623.

SOCI 633 Demographic Methods
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Procedures and techniques for the collection, evaluation and analysis of demographic data; measures of population growth, composition, fertility, mortality and migration.
Prerequisite: SOCI 622.

SOCI 635 Sociology of Complex Organizations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Comparative structures; contingency models; micro- and macro-theoretical perspectives.

SOCI 640 Sociology of Development
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of sociology of development; review of major classical and contemporary approaches to development including but not limited to modernization theory, world systems theory, comparative nationalism, demographic theories, feminist approaches; contradictions of development including K-Cycles, social movements and ecological constraints.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 647 Seminar in Demography and Human Ecology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Relevant literature and research problems of a selected aspect of demography and human ecology, such as fertility and mortality, migration, international demography. May be taken up to three times for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 651 Sociology of Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical developments and methodological issues relevant to studying culture through classical, modern and postmodern sociological perspectives; includes background concerning the conditions under which theories develop and discussion of controversies in the definition of and research agendas within the sociology of culture.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 657 Seminar in Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Relevant literature and research in selected aspects of culture and cultural processes. May be taken up to three times for credit as content varies.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

SOCI 660 Theories of Race and Ethnic Group Relations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Sociological theories of intergroup assimilation, conflict and adaptation; includes examination and analysis of three major contemporary perspectives; assimilation and social fusion theory, conflict models and models of ethnic pluralism; theories of melioration of social discrimination also examined.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 661/WGST 661 Sociology of Gender
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Overview of the Sociology of Gender; historical development, primary concepts, contemporary issues, theory, methods, and applications.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
Cross Listing: WGST 661/SOCI 661.

SOCI 662 Racism and Anti-Racism
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
This seminar focuses on racism and anti-racism issues, including social science research on slavery, anti-Black discrimination and Black resistance, anti-Asian discrimination and Asian American resistance, anti-Latino discrimination and Latino resistance, and white anti-racist groups. We assess empirical research on these topics and explore important theoretical frameworks.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
SOCI 663 Black and Latino Americans  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
This seminar focuses social science theory and research about African Americans and Latinos. We will emphasize historical backgrounds, social science theories applied to these groups, patterns of immigration, cognitive framing, patterns of racial-ethnic discrimination, and racial/class/gender intersections. We will review critically important research books dealing with these and related U.S. racial-ethnic issues.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 664 Racial and Ethnic Identity and Identification Seminar  
Credits 3. 3 Other Hours.  
Seminar exploring social science research on racial and ethnic identification and identities; includes the construction of racial and ethnic identities, identity development, the measurement of racial and ethnic identities and identification, intersecting identities, debates about the future of racial and ethnic identities and categories.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 667 Seminar in Race and Ethnic Relations  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Origins, extent, consequences of racial and ethnic differences on key demographic variables such as fertility, mortality, migration and population size, growth, distribution and composition; how demographic variables affect and are affected by racial and ethnic differences in family structure, social mobility and socioeconomic stratification. May be taken up to three times for credit as content varies.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 676 Theory Construction  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Examination of issues on the philosophy of science and their relationship to the development of social science theory, particularly in sociology; students develop and apply theory construction principles to their own research agendas.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 677 Seminar in Social Psychology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Relevant literature and research problems of a selected aspect of social psychology. May be taken for credit up to three times as content varies.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 680 Teaching Undergraduate Sociology: Overview of Principles and Practices  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Basic understanding of the principles and practices of effective undergraduate teaching and learning, skills enhanced by experience and collaboration; preparation for teaching and documenting teaching philosophy, skills and experience in the form of a teaching portfolio.

SOCI 681 Professional Seminar in Sociology  
Credits 0-1, 0-1 Other Hours.  
Provides socialization to the profession of sociology; focuses on the role of the graduate student in sociology departments and other areas of professionalization; systematically introduces students to faculty members and their work; and provides instruction on how to write and publish research. Repeatable to 6 hours total.

SOCI 682 Grant Writing for the Social Sciences  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Professional proposal and grant writing; best writing practices, writing and developing competitive grant and fellowship proposals, and peer reviewing and editing; production of a well-written, competitive grant or fellowship proposal for submission.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 683 Professional Writing and Publication  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Instruction in professional writing skills, socialization in academic publishing and peer review. Must have a completed paper ready to be work-shopped and revised.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification in Sociology.

SOCI 685 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Directed individual study of selected problem in field of sociology.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

SOCI 687 Seminar in Rural Sociology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Develop sociological understanding of agriculture and natural resources; includes people involved in production, rural communities and agribusiness; focus on causes of social change and social organizations in agriculture and consequences. May be taken up to three times for credit as content varies.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

SOCI 689 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of sociology. May be repeated for credit.

SOCI 691 Research  
Credits 1 to 23. 1 to 23 Other Hours.  
Initiation and completion of research project of approved scope for an advanced degree.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.