DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology supports a diverse community of faculty, staff and students working together to research and address real world social issues and problems. Faculty offer courses in race and ethnicity, social class, gender, popular culture, social psychology, organizations, community, environment, criminology, religion, global sociology, medical sociology, demography, and gerontology, among others. Some courses include hands-on service-learning opportunities in which students connect service and/or research in the community with course material. To further complement our courses in these and other areas of sociology, students have opportunities to work one-on-one with professors engaged in sociological research. For sociology majors seeking to enter applied fields, we have a highly praised internship program that offers practical experience in community nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and businesses.

Sociological training prepares students for graduate school and/or employment in a variety of occupations. Employers increasingly look for job candidates to have the critical thinking, writing, and research skills students will develop in our program. Sociology coursework provides students with the ability to live and work effectively in a diverse and global society by better understanding social diversity, cultural trends, inequalities, organizational behavior, and community and world events. Sociology provides an excellent background for students wishing to enter into the helping professions like social services, ministry, nursing, teaching, and law enforcement, and it provides an outstanding foundation for law, marketing, human resources, journalism, government, business management, and entrepreneurialism.

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

Majors

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Master of Public Service and Administration, 5-Year Degree Program
- Bachelor of Science in Sociology
- Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Master of Public Service and Administration, 5-Year Degree Program

Minors

- Latino/a and Mexican-American Studies Minor
- Sociology Minor

Courses

- Latino/Mexican American Studies (LMAS)
- Sociology (SOCI)
SOCI 217 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to the sociological examination of race and ethnicity in U.S. society; overview of theories and methods in the study of race and ethnicity, an understanding of how they function as individual and group-level identities, and organizing principles in social institutions.

SOCI 220 Methods of Social Research
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Relationships between sociological theory, research, qualitative evaluation of data; construction and use of analytical procedures and research techniques, and participant observation.

SOCI 229 Qualitative Methods
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Methodologies in social research with emphasis on qualitative dimensions of inquiry; topics include in-depth interviewing, observation, unobtrusive measures, analysis of documents, fieldwork issues, ethics, note-taking, preliminary data analysis, and an overview of writing research reports based on qualitative research.

SOCI 230 Classical Sociological Theory
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Role of theory in sociological study; the development of classical theoretical perspectives providing the foundation for contemporary theory.

SOCI 285 Directed Studies
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Special problems not covered by other courses. Course depends upon needs and interest of the student and upon the number of credit hours.
Prerequisite: Sophomore classification in sociology.

SOCI 289 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of sociology. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

SOCI 291 Research
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of a chosen faculty member in sociology. May be taken for a maximum of three hours total credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

SOCI 302 Women and Religion
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of women's position in religious institutions historically and/or currently, religion's influence on women's roles and status, and women's attempts to define their own religious perspectives; draws on sociological and philosophical insights and methods.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: RELS 302 and WGST 302.

SOCI 304 Criminology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Criminal law and crime rates; explanations of criminal behavior; criminal careers, police, adult courts and prisons.
Prerequisite: Junior classification.

SOCI 306/ASIA 306 Society and Population of Modern China
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Major trends and current topics in social and demographic aspects of the society of modern China, including Taiwan.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: ASIA 306/SOCI 306.

SOCI 308 Community Issues in Aging
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Detailed exploration of social forces impacting the elderly and their families at the community level; the impact of demographic, cultural, organizational and social factors on a community's response to an increasingly aging population; and the application of this knowledge through volunteer collaboration with a community nonprofit organization serving the elderly.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 310/WGST 310 Motherhood in Society
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines expectations and/or practices relating to motherhood, with consideration of their cultural impact; taught from a social science perspective.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: WGST 310/SOCI 310.

SOCI 311 Social Change
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of major changes in American and Western society, the forces underlying change and tensions caused by social change.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 312 Population and Society
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The causes and implications of major population trends.

SOCI 313 Military, War and Society
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Major trends and current topics in military organization; the experience and conduct of war; civil-military relations.

SOCI 314 Social Problems
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey and exploration of causes and consequences of major social problems in American society such as poverty, unemployment, energy, alcohol, other drugs and sexual abuse.

SOCI 315/WGST 315 The Marriage Institution
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Courtship, engagement, marriage, family formation, personal adjustment, conflict, financing and child rearing.
Cross Listing: WGST 315/SOCI 315.

SOCI 316/WGST 316 Sociology of Gender
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Sociological explanations of status differences between men and women; cross-cultural comparisons; gender role socialization, cultural stereotypes, discrimination; gender roles and status in the family, economy, religion, science, other social institutions; deviance, victimization and gender; recent social changes.
Cross Listing: WGST 316/SOCI 316.

SOCI 317/AFST 317 Racial and Ethnic Relations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Status of racial and ethnic groups such as Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, and other groups in the political, economic, legal and social systems of the United States.
Cross Listing: AFST 317/SOCI 317.
SOCI 319/SPMT 319 Sociology of Sport
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Social institution of sport and its consequences for American society social organization from play to professional sport; violence, discrimination, women in sport; socialization implications from participation in sports.  
Cross Listing: SPMT 319/SOCI 319.

SOCI 320 Demographic Methods
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Procedures and techniques of demographic analysis; examination of demographic data; calculation of rates; construction of life tables; population estimates and projections.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 322 Industrial Sociology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Work relations in jobs; social relations of groups and occupations and the social organization of small work groups, bureaucracies and modern large corporations.

SOCI 323/AFST 323 Sociology of African Americans
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Major elements of the Afro-American subculture in relation to white American society and its major social institutions.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

SOCI 325/ASIA 325 International Business Behavior
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical models and practical protocols/behavior demands to conduct business and to work in France, Germany, Japan, China, Mexico and other countries; discussion of national character, managerial and negotiating styles.  
Cross Listing: ASIA 325/SOCI 325.

SOCI 326/RELS 326 Sociology of Religion
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Institution of religion and religious-related behavior; relationship between dynamic and structural religion and contemporary society.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

SOCI 327 Morality and Society
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of how moral beliefs arise, how they change, how the moral order is maintained, and how that order affects the social structure; use of case-study method.

SOCI 328 Environmental Sociology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
A comprehensive overview of environmental sociology, including major sociological theories, concepts and policy issues affecting our understanding of environmental changes; emphasizes social factors that impact environmental quality.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205 or approval of instructor.

SOCI 329/ASIA 329 Pacific Rim Business Behavior
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical models of Asian cultures and practical protocol/etiquette related to business and work in China, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and other Pacific Rim nations; discussions of national character, managerial behavior and values.  
Cross Listing: ASIA 329/SOCI 329.

SOCI 330 Sociology of Nutrition
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Social factors affecting the kind and amount of food consumed around the world; social consequences of nutritional status for family functioning and for international development.

SOCI 332/WGST 332 Alternative Genders
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of theories and case studies involving alternative genders and sexualities, studies in their cultural contexts and including the role of factors such as race, class, ethnicity, age, and physical characteristics.  
Prerequisites: 3 credits in SOCI or WGST; junior or senior classification.  
Cross Listing: WGST 332/SOCI 332.

SOCI 335 Sociology of Organizations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
How people act in organizations; structures in organizations; the relationship between organizations and their environments.

SOCI 337 International Migration
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of theories and trends in international migration.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification, or approval of instructor.

SOCI 338 Latino Immigration
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Theoretical and empirical examinations of the causes, processes, and impacts of Latin American immigration to the U.S.; Latino/a immigrant experience in the U.S.; effects of immigration on sending and receiving communities.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of the instructor.

SOCI 376 Entrepreneurial Perspectives
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Entrepreneurship as a career choice and its impact on society and economy; definitions of entrepreneurship; discovery of entrepreneurial opportunities and start-up funding; innovation and entrepreneurship theories for analyzing and predicting success of start-up and established entrepreneurial organizations.  
Prerequisite: Admission to upper division in Mays Business School.

SOCI 402 Sociology of Latin America
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Latin American society; integration of viewpoints from the humanities, arts and social sciences.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 403 Sociology of Latinos
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Exploration of social characteristics and acculturation problems of Mexican Americans in the United States; styles of life and cultural variability, social mobility, the struggle for advancement and identity through social movements.

SOCI 404/RPTS 404 Sociology of the Community
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Organization of American communities examining the bases of community, types of communities and the changes faced by communities.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

Cross Listing: RPTS 404/SOCI 404.
SOCI 408 Death and Dying  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Exploration of interdisciplinary social issues surrounding death and dying: the interactions among professionals, families, and dying individuals; the development and functioning of death norms and institutions (e.g., hospitals, funeral homes, hospice, capital punishment); the critical analysis of social-cultural inequalities affecting when and how we die.  
Prerequisite: Junior of senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 410/WGST 410 Reproduction, Birth and Power  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
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: SOCI 205; junior or senior classification.  
Cross Listing: WGST 410/SOCI 410.

SOCI 411 Social Psychology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Effects of social experience and groups on the development of personality, attitudes, values and behavior.  
Prerequisite: 3 hours of sociology or psychology.

SOCI 412 Political Sociology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Survey of social bases of power; state formation in advanced industrial societies; origins of welfare state; interrelation of nationalism; culture and class formation.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 413 Social Movements  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Survey of social movements; emphasis on social movement participation, emergence and outcomes; analysis of revolutions and movements in the developing world; theory and methods of social movement research.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 415 Sociology of Education  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Relationship of social structure and change to education; social background and student performance; teachers and their careers; bureaucracy and change in education.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

SOCI 419 Social Class in Contemporary Society  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Composition and consequences of social class structure; social class explanations for lifestyle patterns, educational and occupational achievements.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

SOCI 420 Advanced Methods of Social Research  
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.  
Philosophy and methods of social research, including research design; methods of observation; questionnaires, interviews and other sources of social data; qualitative and quantitative techniques of inference, analysis and research report writing.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 220.

SOCI 423 Globalization and Social Change  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Examines the effects of globalization on social structure including politics, governments, corporations, work and inequality.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 424/WGST 424 Women and Work in Society  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Social context of women’s work; work patterns, labor force participation, occupational destinations and occupational mobility; alternatives to the conventional division of labor by sex in society.  
Cross Listing: WGST 424/SOCI 424.

SOCI 425 Medical Sociology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Organization, value systems and practice of medicine and the provision of health care in the U.S.; role of physicians, health occupations and patients; marginal and folk medicine.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 205.

SOCI 426 Sociology of Work  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Overview of classical and contemporary theories of work, changes in labor market structure; contemporary work place organization; occupational stratification by race, class, and gender.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

SOCI 430 Contemporary Sociological Theory  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Basic ideas of contemporary sociological theory: structuralism, functionalism, conflict, symbolic interaction, exchange and their application to current research.  
Prerequisite: SOCI 230.

SOCI 445 Sociology of Law  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Introduction to the sociology of law; the relation of law to general social control and to organizational dynamics.

SOCI 463 Gender in Asia  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Gender dynamics in Asia; changes in gender roles; women's movements; women and the economy; women and politics; men's and women's private lives.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: ASIA 463 and WGST 463.

SOCI 478 Professional Development in Sociology I  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Career fields available to sociology majors, including the nature of the work, professional expectations, and the credentials for entry in the fields.  
Prerequisite: Sociology major; junior or senior classification.

SOCI 479 Professional Development in Sociology II  
Credits 2. 2 Lecture Hours.  
Preparation for careers in sociology-related professionals by in-depth research of prospective career fields, development of oral, written, and media skills, formation of professional networks, and training in professional ethics, cultural diversity, and leadership.  
Prerequisite: Sociology major; junior or senior classification.

SOCI 484 Field Practicum  
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.  
Field Experiences. Participation in an approved agency. Field experience will be supervised by selected agency personnel and appropriate faculty. Experiences and requirements will vary slightly according to placement and student interests.  
Prerequisites: Major in sociology; 12 hours of sociology; approval of undergraduate advisor.
SO CI 485 Directed Studies
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Special problems not covered by other courses. Course depends upon needs and interest of the student and upon the number of credit hours.
Prerequisite: Senior classification in sociology.

SO CI 489 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.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

SO CI 491 Research
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of a chosen faculty member in sociology. May be taken four times for credit.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.