Sociology
In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty
Chair: Zhang
Professors: Finch, Liu, Ojeda, Zhang
Associate Professors: Choi, Esbenshade, Johnston, Marcelli, McCall, Sargent
Assistant Professors: Greene, Roberts

Offered by the Department
Master of Arts degree in sociology.
Master of Science degree in criminal justice and criminology. (Jointly with the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts.)
Minor in sociology.

The Major
Sociology is the study of human social behavior. Among other things, it includes the study of intimate personal relationships to large-scale social institutions which constitute societies and world systems; the shared cultural beliefs which hold societies together and make life meaningful; the cleavages of race, class, gender, and ethnicity and the inequalities and conflicts associated with them; and the causes and consequences of crime and other forms of social deviance.

While the sociology department offers a wide variety of courses, the focus of its curriculum is community issues. Communities consist of networks of personal relationships that underlie the large scale organizational and institutional structures that constitute societies. These social ties constitute the power resources – or “social capital” – through which things get done. They provide a kind of interpersonal glue that holds societies together and makes large scale social institutions more functional.

A bachelor’s degree in sociology provides an excellent liberal arts foundation for embarking on a wide range of career paths. A major in sociology provides the graduate with the skills necessary to work effectively with groups of people. Some possible areas of employment are public and private agencies, college settings, publishing, businesses, research facilities, human resources, human services, corrections, local/state/federal governments, health facilities. The degree also prepares students to enter graduate programs in sociology, teaching, law, and public health, to name a few.

Impacted Program
The sociology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the sociology major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete with a grade of C or higher: Sociology 101, 102, 201, and 250. (12 units) Note: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215, will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201. These courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC).
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Advising
All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)
Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed to fulfill major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Sociology Major
With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 22081) (SIMS Code: 116901)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.” No more than 48 units in sociology courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Sociology 101, 102, 201, and 250. Note: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215 will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201. (12 units)

These prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher.

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. Complete 15 units of core requirements listed below and 12 units of upper division sociology electives. (27 units).

- Core requirements (15 units) should be completed before upper division sociology electives (12 units):
  - Sociology 401 and 403
  - Sociology 406 or 407 or 408
  - Sociology 410 or 412
  - Sociology 430 or 433

Sociology Minor
(SIMS Code: 116901)

The minor in sociology consists of a minimum of 18 units to include Sociology 101 and either 102, 201, or 250; three units selected from Sociology 401, 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 430, or 433; and nine units of electives from other upper division courses in the department. Note: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215 will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Sociology Honors Thesis
The Department of Sociology offers undergraduates of superior achievement the opportunity to write a sociology honors thesis leading to special recognition upon graduation. Sociology 490, Senior Honors Thesis, is open to students who rank in the top twenty percent of senior sociology majors and who have successfully satisfied the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Interested students should consult with the undergraduate adviser in the Sociology Department.
SOC 410. Social Psychology: Mind, Self, and Society (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Major theories, problems, and findings concerning the relationship of the individual and society. Topics include consciousness and construction of meaning, self-concept and social identity, socialization and interaction, group behavior and group membership.

SOC 412. Social Construction of Reality (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

SOC 420. Sexuality in Modern Society (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Current research on contemporary sexual attitudes and behaviors, including changing norms in premarital, marital, and extramarital relationships. Controversies and implications for the individual and society.

SOC 421. American Families (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Changes in intimacy in American family. Selection of mating partners, spousal and parenting relationships, and alternatives to traditional family forms. Changing functions of the family viewed in historical perspective. Present diverse family arrangements and future prospects.

SOC 422. Criminal Organizations (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Triads, and transnational drug traffickers and human smugglers. Major criminal organizations that operate in underworld across time, space, and socio-cultural context, including Mafia, Yakuza, and its distribution by transnational drug traffickers and human smugglers. Explore their social organizations, operations, roles, and identities.

SOC 424. Criminal Organizations (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Social change at the interpersonal, institutional, and societal levels of analysis. Major economic, political, technological, and demographic forces that have shaped the contemporary world. Topics may include modernization, industrialization, urbanization, revolution, and prospects of social change in rich and poor nations.

SOC 425. Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Processes of social behavior in masses and groups, including crowd behavior, mass hysteria, riots, mobs, fads, fashions, crazes, panics, rumors, and scapegoating. Sects and cults; social movement; the effects of mass communications and propaganda.

SOC 426. Sociology of Health and Illness (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Prerequisites: Sociology 250 with a grade of C (2.0) or better and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Social structure of societies. Historical examination of structure and development of social institutions, communities, and other large scale organizations.

SOC 430. Social Organization (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 250 with a grade of C (2.0) or better and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Social structure of societies. Historical examination of structure and development of social institutions, communities, and other large scale organizations.

SOC 433. Wealth, Status, and Power (3)
Prerequisites: Sociology 250 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.
Social inequality as an institutional process. Patterns of unequal distribution of wealth, power, privilege and prestige, their causes, and impact this has on communities and societies.

SOC 434. Sociology of Health and Illness (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Prerequisites: Sociology 250 with a grade of C (2.0) or better and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Social, cultural, and political factors in definitions of health, disease, healing, and provision of services. Comparative study of medical practices and organizational structures in America and selected international settings. Emphasis on change, socialization of practitioners, relationships between health related occupations.

SOC 441. Sociology of Mental Illness (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Prerequisites: Sociology 250 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.
Social, cultural, historical, and political factors involved in definition of “madness” and theories of mental illness in various societies. Review of research about incidence, prevalence, and social epidemiology of mental illness, as a community problem, and its distribution by social class, gender, age, geographical region, and country.

SOC 442. Homicide in America (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Characteristics and distribution of murder, including historical and cross-cultural comparisons. Social psychological, structural, cultural and situational explanations of causes and consequences of juvenile, gang, domestic, mass, serial and sexual murders.

SOC 443. Crime and Society (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

SOC 444. Juvenile Delinquency (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Sociological theories about causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency. Social origins of juvenile justice system, with attention to methods of control and prevention at community and national levels.

SOC 445. Sociology of Deviance (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Conformity and nonconformity; the relationship between individual liberty and social control; stigma and the labeling of deviant behavior such as prostitution, alcoholism, drug addiction, and crime.

SOC 446. Sociology of Criminal Organizations (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Major criminal organizations that operate in underworld across time, space, and socio-cultural context, including Mafia, Yakuza, Triads, and transnational drug traffickers and human smugglers. Explore their social organizations, operations, roles, and identities.

SOC 450. Social Change (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.
Social change at the interpersonal, institutional, and societal levels of analysis. Major economic, political, technological, and demographic forces that have shaped the contemporary world. Topics may include modernization, industrialization, urbanization, revolution, and prospects of social change in rich and poor nations.

SOC 452. Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Processes of social behavior in masses and groups, including crowd behavior, mass hysteria, riots, mobs, fads, fashions, crazes, panics, rumors, and scapegoating. Sects and cults; social movement; the effects of mass communications and propaganda.

SOC 457. Protests, Reforms, and Revolutions (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Revolutionary and reform movements in relationship to the larger society. Conditions leading to development of social movements, emergence of leadership, ideologies, strategies, recruitment of members, and social consequences; case studies.

SOC 480. Field Internship (3-6)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Supervised field placement of students in community agencies. Practical experiences related to studies within the sociology curriculum. Maximum credit six units.

SOC 490. Senior Honors Thesis (3)
Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Open to sociology majors with senior standing and permission of the honors thesis adviser.
Directed research on a sociological topic chosen in consultation with the honors adviser, and completion of a senior honors thesis. Required of students wishing to graduate with a Certificate of Recognition in Sociology with Honors.

SOC 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)
Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.
Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

SOC 499. Special Study (1-6)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units.
UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

SOC 522. The Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101. Recommended: Sociology 421.
Comparative study of selected family systems in the past and present. Comparative analysis of major social and demographic changes in marriage and family in post-industrial nations and less developed countries. Cross-cultural comparisons of family arrangements in contemporary America by social classes and racial-ethnic groups.

SOC 537. Political Sociology (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Social organization of political processes. Power and authority, social class, primary groups, collective behavior, social change, and other sociological factors considered in their relationships to political processes.

SOC 539. Sociology of Education (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Social organization of educational institutions. Form and informal education. Class, ethnic, and other social factors affecting the educational process. Implications of educational decision making and testing.

SOC 543. Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

SOC 554. United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Globalization (3)
(Same course as Chicana and Chicano Studies 554)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101. Recommended: Chicana and Chicano Studies 355 and/or Sociology 350.

SOC 555. Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Contemporary migration to the United States, especially from Latin America and Asia. Political and economic migration. Immigrant and refugee adaptation. Theoretical controversies, research applications, and policy implications.

SOC 596. Current Topics in Sociology (1-3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101.
Selected specialized, controversial or currently relevant topics in sociology. Maximum opportunity provided for student initiative in determining course content and procedures. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

SOC 597. Investigation and Report (3)
Prerequisites: Fifteen units in sociology and consent of instructor.
Analysis of special topics in sociology. Maximum credit six units.

GRADUATE COURSES
Refer to the Graduate Bulletin.