Sociology
In the College of Arts and Letters

OFFICE: Adams Humanities 4231
TELEPHONE: 619-594-4826 / FAX: 619-594-1325
E-MAIL: sociology@sdsu.edu
http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsusoci/sociology.html

Faculty
Sheldon X. Zhang, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Chair of Department
Brian K. Finch, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology
Henry E. Johnston, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology
Ruth Xiaoru Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology
Norma Ojeda, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Dean of the
College of Arts and Letters
Paul Wong, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Dean of the
College of Arts and Letters
Jung Min Choi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Jill Esbenshade, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
(Graduate Adviser)
Enrico A. Marcelli, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Michael A. McCall, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Michael J. Roberts, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Paul W. Sargent, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Kyra R. Greene, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology

Associateships and Assistantships
Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships in
sociology are available to a limited number of qualified sociology
students. Application blanks and further information may be obtained
from the department office.

General Information
The Department of Sociology offers graduate work leading to the
Master of Arts degree in Sociology. Research facilities provided by the
Department of Sociology include a well-equipped Social Science
Research Laboratory for use by the faculty and graduate students.
Faculty in the Department of Sociology are involved in a wide range of
research activities. Regular opportunities exist for participation in
these projects by graduate students within the department. The
program also prepares students for teaching careers.

Admission to Graduate Study
All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the
university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part
Two of this bulletin. The graduate advisory committee may consider
conditionally classified standing for students whose preparation is
deemed insufficient. They will be required to complete specified
courses in addition to the minimum of 30 units required for the degree.
Applicants should obtain a current information brochure from the
department office for detailed information.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the
university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along
with the $55 application fee.
All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to
SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Sociology.

Graduate Admissions
The following materials should be submitted as a complete
package directly to:

Department of Sociology
(Attention: Graduate Adviser)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4423

(1) One official transcript (in sealed envelopes) from each
postsecondary institutions attended;
Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit tran-
scripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both
the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents
are in a language other than English, they must be
accompanied by a certified English translation.
(2) GRE scores (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);
(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a
language other than English (http://www.ets.org, SDSU
institution code 4682).

Department of Sociology
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(1) Three letters of recommendation (at least two must be from
persons who can speak to academic ability);
(2) A personal statement;
(3) A writing sample (preferably an academic paper). If this is not
available, send an extended, three to five page personal
statement;
(4) Copy of transcript;
(5) See application information on the Department of Sociology
home page at

Advancement to Candidacy
All students must satisfy the general requirements for
advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin.
Students must have taken the first three courses of the core course
series (Sociology 600, 601, 607). Students must have a 3.0 in their
program courses and no less than a B– grade in each core course.
Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 22081) (SIMS Code: 116901)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master’s degree, as described in Part Four of this bulletin, students must complete 30 units in the master’s program. Students must complete the program of study courses with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The 30 units to include the following courses:

1. Five core courses: Sociology 600, 601, 605, 607, 608.
2. Two 700-level seminars in the Department of Sociology.
3. Two electives: 500- to 700-level courses in the Department of Sociology or another department with approval of the graduate adviser.
4. Sociology 799A for Plan A (Thesis) OR if completing Plan B (Comprehensive Examination) an additional 700-level sociology seminar or Sociology 710 or 796 is required. Students who are interested in applied sociology (SIMS Code: 116903) are encouraged to take Sociology 796 (Field Practicum).

Before the student proceeds with the thesis (Sociology 799A), approval from the thesis chair and second committee member must be obtained based on a detailed proposal. The proposal may be developed through enrollment in Sociology 797 (which cannot count as a seminar but may be used to fulfill the elective units). Once the thesis is complete, an oral defense is required to complete the program.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Sociology (SOC)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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 539. Sociology of Education (3)
Prerequisite: Sociology 101. Social organization of education in the United States and other societies. Structure and functions of educational institutions. Formal 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)

SOC 554. United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Globalization (3)
(Same course as Chicana and Chicano Studies 554)

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. Maximum credit of six units of 596 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

SOC 600. Proseminar in Sociology: Core Course (3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Elements of profession of sociology and sociological research procedures. Connection between theoretical perspectives and appropriate research methods. Practice in scientific sociological writing style to develop a master’s thesis proposal.

SOC 601. Advanced Classical Social Theory: Core Course (3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Systematic treatment of original European and American classic sociological writings.

SOC 605. Advanced Contemporary Social Theory: Core Course (3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Examination and analysis of original works in modern/postmodern sociological theory.

SOC 607. Advanced Quantitative Methods: Core Course (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and Sociology 201. Research methods appropriate to particular types of sociological projects with emphasis on analysis of descriptive statistics and use of linear and non-linear regression methods. Methods of evaluating reported findings in sociological research. (Formerly numbered Sociology 760.)

SOC 608. Advanced Qualitative Methods: Core Course (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and credit or concurrent registration in Sociology 600. Qualitative methods for data collection, analysis, and reporting in contemporary sociological research and related disciplines. Study, practice, critiques of techniques; ethnography, interviews, archival research, content analysis.
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SOC 695. Topics in Directed Readings (3)
Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent registration in at least one core course or one seminar.
Selected reading providing coverage of social theory, social disorganization, social organization, social institutions, social psychology (sociological approaches), community research methods, population and demography, or special topics. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 696. Experimental Topics (3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
Intensive study in specific areas of sociology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

SOC 700. Seminar in Social Theory (3)
Prerequisites: Sociology 401 and 407.
Classics of sociology, American social theory, theory construction, application of theory to research, theoretical models, sociology of knowledge, special topics. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 710. Teaching Sociology (3)
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
Techniques of lecturing, leading student-centered exercises, evaluation, teaching from a multicultural perspective, and other pedagogical skills related to teaching sociology at the college level. Development of teaching portfolios and course materials including syllabi, examinations, and writing assignments.

SOC 730. Seminar in Social Institutions (3)
Prerequisites: Sociology 401 and 430.
The family and kinship, political organization, economic organization, religion, education, industry, occupations and professions, social stratification, special topics. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 740. Seminar in Social Psychology: Sociological Approaches (3)
Prerequisites: Sociology 407 and 410.
Socialization, role theory, motivation, perception, self, social context of personality, attitude theory, interaction, language and symbolic process, social types, collective behavior, small groups, special topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 743. Seminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice Theory (3)
Prerequisites: Graduate standing, 12 graduate units, Sociology 401.
History of criminological theory and review of leading contemporary theories of crime and criminal justice with focus on interconnection among social context, policy making, and methodological implications of theories.

SOC 790. Directed Readings in Sociology (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy.
Preparation for the comprehensive examination for students in Plan B.

SOC 796. Field Practicum (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisites: Sociology 601, 607, 608.
Supervised field placement in community agency. Application of sociological theories and methods to policy and research needs of agency. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 797. Research (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Sociology 407.
Independent investigation of special topics. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Consent of staff, to be arranged with department chair and instructor.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

SOC 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.
Preparation of a project or thesis for the master’s degree.

SOC 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

SOC 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.