Sociology

Department: Sociology
Department Chair: J. Jimerson
Department Members: J. Jimerson

Major: Sociology (Optional Track: Criminal Justice)
Minors: Sociology

Sociology students study how people interact. They also learn how social interactions influence individual actions and vice versa. By learning to scientifically analyze, evaluate, and interpret social phenomena, students gain skills that benefit themselves and others.

The Franklin College Sociology Department teaches students the fundamentals. First, in Introduction to Sociology, students develop their sociological imagination, an ability to imagine or create images of how people interact. Next, intermediate courses teach students to analyze social processes, stratification, and institutions. Sociology majors will also gain useful research skills, such as the ability to do statistical analysis, accumulate quantitative data, and assess qualitative research. In Sociology's capstone courses, which include Sociological Theory and Research Methods, students integrate and apply what they have learned. These three levels of courses prepare sociology students for careers and citizenship by giving them deep and broad ways of thinking.

Sociology students may also focus on Criminal Justice. To emphasize Criminal Justice, students must take Criminal Justice, Criminology, Corrections, and related courses.

Finally, sociology majors must participate in professional development activities, internships, and other co-curricular and community-based experiences. Sociology prepares students for life after college.

All courses must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

Sociology Major

Core requirements

SOC 118 Introduction to Sociology
SOC 224 Basic Applied Statistics
SOC 227 Inquiry in the Social Sciences
SOC 422 Sociological Theory
SOC 425 Research Methods I
SOC 427 Research Methods II
SOC 499 Senior Competency Exam

One course from each of the following categories

Category A

SOC 319 Gender and Sexuality
SOC 325 Power, Wealth, and Poverty
SOC 330 Globalization
SOC 358 Personal Finance and Public Policy

Category B

SOC 230 Introduction to Nonprofits
SOC 221 Marriage and Family
SOC 323 Organizations
SOC 340 Corrections

Category C

ENG 224 Introduction to Linguistics
SOC 220 Gerontology
SOC 222 Social Problems and Nonprofit Responses
SOC 321 Criminology

Senior Year Experience

PDP 200 Preparing for Your Internship
SNT 489 Senior Year Internship
SOC 482 Sociology Senior Seminar

Related Field requirements

Note: Students who declare a minor OR the Criminal Justice Track do NOT need additional related field requirements. Students who do NOT declare one of these options must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours 200-level or above from a related field defined in consultation with his/her advisor and approved by the Registrar. A grade of C- or better is required for all related field courses.

Sociology Major: Criminal Justice Track

Core requirements

Same as for the sociology major listed on preceding page minus the related field requirements

All of the following courses

POL 110 American National Government
POL 420 American Constitutional Law II
SOC 210 Criminal Justice
SOC 321 Criminology
SOC 340 Corrections

One of the following courses

POL 225 State and Local Government
POL 275 Law and Politics in American Society
PSY 240 Psychological Disorders and Mental Wellness
PSY 320 Social Psychology
SOC 323 Organizations

Sociology Minor

Core Requirements

SOC 118 Introduction to Sociology

Four additional SOC courses, two of which must be 300-level or higher

Sociology Course Descriptions

SOC 118 Introduction to Sociology		4 credit hours
Fall and Spring	Human Behavior exploratory	

Methods, theories, principles, and concepts that have resulted from the scientific analysis of human interaction. Emphasis is given to the structural and cultural aspects of society and to the complex ways in which various environments influence human development and behavior. Not an appropriate exploratory course for junior and senior non-majors. Prerequisite for most other courses in sociology.

SOC 210 Criminal Justice		4 credit hours
Fall	Comparative Perspectives & Civic Learning exploratories	

This course introduces students to this history, philosophy, structure, functions, and operation of the U.S. criminal justice system. This course also examines how that criminal justice system interacts with race, class, gender, and other forms of social stratification.

SOC 220 Gerontology		4 credit hours
Spring, odd academic years		Prereq: PSY 117 or SOC 118

An analysis of the process of aging, which will utilize social, psychological, and structural approaches to gain an understanding of the unique problems which confront the elderly in modern society. Course goals also include the development or refinement of specific skills and techniques for studying or working with older adults through a substantive experiential learning component. Same as PSY 220.

SOC 221 Marriage and the Family		4 credit hours
Fall, odd academic years		Prereq: SOC 118

The institutions of marriage and family are explored. Special consideration is given to the social, cultural, and economic forces that influence trends in family structure and family functioning. Cross-cultural and subcultural comparisons are often made to show the socially constructed aspects of family.

SOC 222 Social Problems and Nonprofit Responses		4 credit hours
Spring, even academic years		

An analysis of the nature, causes, and responses to social and cultural problems such as hunger, homeless, illiteracy, drug addiction, or domestic violence. Attention will be paid to framing of these phenomena as problems. Will also address major role of the nonprofit sector in alleviating these problems with attention to effectiveness of service programs. Same as NPL 222.

SOC 224 Basic Applied Statistics		3 credit hours
Fall and Spring	Fulfills LA 103 requirement	Prereq: one of the following: CMP 130, LA 103, MAT 131, MAT 135, MAT 181, or placement in MAT 135/181

An introduction to statistical reasoning for students in life and social sciences using the computer as a tool to analyze data. Data reduction, probability concepts, sampling theory, hypothesis testing, estimation, chi-square, t-test, analysis of variance, correlation and regression, and some non-parametric tests are included. Does not count towards a mathematics major. Same as MAT 224. Students cannot receive credit for both.

SOC 227 Inquiry in the Social Sciences		3 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: POL 110, POL 120, POL 130 or SOC 118 or consent of instructor

This course will introduce students to qualitative and quantitative research. Students will learn to ask and answer questions as a social scientist and apply these skills to explore a contemporary topic. Students will also learn how to format research papers and analyze data. Students should take this course before taking advanced social science research courses.

SOC 230 Introduction to Nonprofits		4 credit hours
Fall		

This course provides an overview of the nonprofit sector in American society. Attention will be given to the widely varied roles that nonprofit organizations play in responding to social issues and the interplay between nonprofits, business, and government in this broad mission. Students will be introduced to the functions and operation of a nonprofit organization including program development and measurement, fundraising, volunteer management, board governance and management of staff and finances. Same as NPL 230.

SOC 240 Sociology of Sport		4 credit hours
On demand		

In this course, students will: (1) study the history of sports; (2) examine how people use sports to socialize adults and children; (3) investigate corruption in sports (e.g., cheating, gambling, and winning at all costs); and (4) study stratification in sports, particularly racial, class, and gender inequalities in American athletics. By taking this critical approach, students will learn about progress, inside and outside of sports.

SOC 300 Topics in Sociology		1-3 credit hours
		Prereq: SOC 118

A topic of current interest in sociology will be taught. Topics will vary depending on faculty interest. Course will be offered upon the request of a faculty member and with approval of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

SOC 315 Leadership Capstone		4 credit hours
Spring, odd academic years	Civic Learning exploratory	Prereq: NPL/SOC 230

This course provides an integrative experience linking the student's leadership skills and liberal arts preparation to the learning in her/his major field of study. Specifically, the capstone experience will involve direct student participation working with a non-profit organization and that organization's board. Students in the course must develop a project(s) to be carried out with the non-profit. The project will culminate with a public event or presentation. The capstone project must be reviewed and approved by the course instructor and at least one representative of the Engaged Learning Team. Total course experience brings opportunity to think independently, lead responsibly, and serve with integrity. Same as NPL/LEA 315.

SOC 319 Gender and Sexuality		4 credit hours
Fall, even academic years		Prereq: SOC 118

This course provides an overview of theoretical and empirical work in the sociology of sex, gender, and sexuality. The course will also address various facets of the subject including ways that social, cultural, and legal status influence individual experiences and outcomes. Attention is paid to the social construction/control of gender, transgender, and multiple sexualities. Same as WST 319.

SOC 321 Criminology		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: SOC 118 or consent of instructor

A study of the social, cultural, and psychological process involved in the creation of deviance; attention is given to the nature of criminal law, to the various forms of social control which society uses in its attempts to cope with and prevent crime, and to the consequences of social typing on those so typed.

SOC 323 Organizations		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: SOC 118 or consent of instructor

An introduction to the study of formal or complex organizations; the variables which affect the structure of formal organizations; types of organizations, the relationship between formal and informal organization and alternative organizations.

SOC 325 Power, Wealth, and Poverty		4 credit hours
Spring, even academic years		Prereq: SOC 118

An examination and analysis of major concepts, theories, methods, and research findings in the field of social stratification. Stratification is presented as a result of unequal distribution of everyday life necessities such as social and political power, land, food, and shelter.

SOC 330 Globalization		4 credit hours
Spring, odd academic years	International exploratory	Prereq: SOC 118

This course examines the historical, political, and economic factors contributing to globalization, as well as the social consequences of recent political, economics, and environmental change. It focuses in particular on how new forms of global production and networking are transforming the traditional role of the nation-state, creating new dynamics of wealth distribution in the global economy, influencing international migration patterns. Additionally, it examines the way in which globalization processes are generating new sources of social conflict and collective action, including transnational social movements.

SOC 340 Corrections		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: SOC 118 & either SOC 210 or SOC 321

History, philosophy, practice, and evaluation of noncustodial and custodial sanctions in formal social control systems. This course studies a wide range of correctional treatments such as diversion programs and restorative justice, probation/parole and intermediate sanctions, incarceration, and the death penalty. Special attention will be given to juvenile corrections and cross-cultural perspectives.

SOC 358 Personal Finance and Public Policy		4 credit hours
Fall and Spring	Civic Learning exploratory	Prereq: MAT 131, MAT 135, MAT 224, LA 103, or consent of instructor

This course will introduce students to the basics of personal finance, including spending, saving, borrowing, investing, planning, and more. Of course, the personal is political. The government collects sales tax, polices credit, insures banks, guarantees student loans and mortgages, and regulates securities, while taxing income and savings in diverse ways. This micro-macro analysis will teach students to understand how they and the government influence each other monetarily. The goal of this course is to provide students with a financial education that they can use to make better financial decisions and become prosperous citizens. Same as BUS/PDP 358.

SOC 422 Sociological Theory		4 credit hours
Fall		*Prereq: SOC 118*

A consideration of the nature and purpose of sociological theory and its relationship to empirical research. The course will consider the theories of major sociological thinkers, past and present. Students should take this course during the junior year.

SOC 425 Research Methods I		4 credit hours
Fall		Prereq: SOC 118 & SOC 227

An introduction to the design and methods employed in modern sociological research. Students are required to plan a research project and to conduct an intensive review of the literature on that topic.

SOC 427 Research Methods II		4 credit hours
Spring		Prereq: SOC 224, SOC 227 & SOC 425

Continued consideration of the design and methods employed in modern sociological research begun in SOC 425. Students are required to carry out the research project proposed in SOC 425, under the supervision of the instructor.

SOC 482 Sociology Senior Seminar		1 credit hour
Spring		

A thoughtful reflection on an internship experience. Designed to provide students the opportunity to communicate their sociological interpretations of their real-world learning. This course meets the senior year portfolio requirement for graduation.

SOC 490 Independent Study		1-2 credit hours
		Prereq: departmental consent

Courses are designed to encourage student initiative and to provide a degree of flexibility in the departmental program. Normally the subject is not sufficiently or appropriately covered in departmental course offerings.

SOC 499 Senior Competency Exam		No credit

Students are required to develop a written report which requires the application of sociological concepts, sociological theory, and social methods to a current social issue. A grade of C- or better is required for graduation.

SNR/SNT 489 (SOC) Senior Project/Internship		3-12 credit hours

This course provides professional development, usually off-campus. Students gain practical experience by performing edifying tasks in specialized settings. Students must obtain approval prior to beginning an internship, keep a written record of observations and activities for each day at the internship, and write an analysis of the internship that must be given to his or her advisor. Students may receive one-hour of credit for every thirty hours of work at the internship site.

GEO 220 Human World Geography		3 credit hours
Fall and spring	Comparative Perspectives & Human Behavior exploratories	

Explores the nature of human social behaviors through the study of “diverse focus countries” recognizing recurring patterns in behavior and the forces that shape them. Students will understand how people as well as countries communicate ideas and attempt to solve problems. This course is taught through a lens of current events in the 21st century examining various diverse regions around the globe and how the cultures within those regions live and interact. Human elements of population, cultural inheritance, and accomplishments are studied as these interrelate with the physical elements. Education majors will create a project using the five themes of geography (location, place, human/environmental interaction, movement, and regions).

Nonprofit Leadership Courses

NPL 222 Social Problems and Nonprofit Responses		4 credit hours
Spring, even academic years		

An analysis of the nature, causes, and responses to social and cultural problems such as hunger, homeless, illiteracy, drug addiction, or domestic violence. Attention will be paid to framing of these phenomena as problems. Will also address major role of the nonprofit sector in alleviating these problems with attention to effectiveness of service programs. Same as SOC 222.

NPL 230 Introduction to Nonprofits		4 credit hours
Fall		

This course provides an overview of the nonprofit sector in American society. Attention will be given to the widely varied roles that nonprofit organizations play in responding to social issues and the interplay between nonprofits, business, and government in this broad mission. Students will be introduced to the functions and operation of a nonprofit organization including program development and measurement, fundraising, volunteer management, board governance and management of staff and finances. Same as SOC 230.

NPL 315 Leadership Capstone		4 credit hours
Spring, odd academic years.	Civic Learning exploratory	Prereq: NPL/SOC 230 & LA 101, 102, 103, 111, & 201

This course provides an integrative experience linking the student's leadership skills and liberal arts preparation to the learning in her/his major field of study. Specifically, the capstone experience will involve direct student participation working with a non-profit organization and that organization's board. Students in the course must develop a project(s) to be carried out with the non-profit. The project will culminate with a public event or presentation. The capstone project must be reviewed and approved by the course instructor and at least one representative of the Engaged Learning Team. Total course experience brings opportunity to think independently, lead responsibly, and serve with integrity. Same as SOC/LEA 315.

NPL 485 Communications Consulting Project		3 credit hours
Fall, senior year	Civic Learning exploratory	Prereq: LA 201 & senior standing, or instructor permission

An examination of the ways in which students can apply their skills in the workplace and serve their communities. Students will work in teams on communications projects for a local nonprofit or similar organization. Special emphasis given to professional development skills, particularly communication, project management, and consulting. Same as ENG 485.