Sociology

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Sociology is the systematic study of human social life, groups, and societies. Sociology can reveal how society works, what motivates individuals to behave in certain ways, how particular rules and norms get established, why people obey those rules and norms, how seemingly invisible social forces might govern our behavior, and how the outcome of our lives are frequently determined by forces largely outside of our control. It can even help us understand why we might sometimes act in ways that are contrary to our deeply held beliefs.

Sociologists study how societies form, change, and die out. They study how society affects you and vice versa. The department curriculum focuses on social institutions—the family, work, religion, and the economy; culture—the governing ideas and beliefs of a society; and social interactions—the way people behave as individuals and in groups. Taken together, they make up what sociologists call the social structure: enduring, patterned, orderly relationships among institutions, people, and other elements of a given society. Through a systematic study of society, sociology helps us understand social problems such as inequality, racism, environmental degradation, and poverty, to name a few, and aids in the development of creative solutions to solve them.

Faculty


Oluwakemi Balogun, assistant professor (gender, race and migration, African Studies). See Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.


Emeriti

Vallon L. Burris, professor emeritus. BA, 1969, Rice; PhD, 1976, Princeton. (1977)

Steven Deutsch, professor emeritus. BA, 1958, Oberlin; MA, 1959, PhD, 1964, Michigan State. (1966)


Donald R. Van Houten, professor emeritus. BA, 1958, Oberlin; PhD, 1967, Pittsburgh. (1968)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

- Sociology (BA, BS) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts_sciences/sociology/bsociology/)
- Minor in Sociology (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts_sciences/sociology/minorsociology/)

Undergraduate Studies

Sociology is the analytical study of the development, structure, and function of human groups and societies. It is concerned with the scientific understanding of human behavior as it relates to, and as a consequence of, interaction within groups. The undergraduate program in the Department of Sociology provides a broad understanding of human society for students in every field and integrated programs for majors in sociology.

Preparation

High school students planning to major in sociology should take courses in history and social studies; in addition, a course in statistics should be considered. Substantial work in English composition, mathematics, and second languages is also desirable. Two-year transfer students are advised to come with a year's work in introductory sociology courses as well as courses that fulfill university group requirements.

Careers

Recent graduates with bachelor's degrees in sociology are found in all the pursuits traditionally open to liberal-arts graduates—especially social service, management, marketing, teaching, library, and research—statistics occupations in industries related to health, education, business, government, and the environment. Some graduates seek additional training in graduate professional schools of social work, business administration, and law. A bachelor's degree alone is seldom sufficient to allow a person to enter a professional career as a sociologist. Students who seek careers as social scientists enter graduate programs in sociology or related fields.

Advising

Academic advising in sociology is provided Public Policy, Society and Identity Flight Path through Tykeson College and Career Advising. The advising office is located on the first and second floors of Willie and Donald Tykeson Hall. Advisors may be reached via Navigate, Microsoft Teams or by phone at 541-346-9200.

Internship advising and information is available through the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jessica Vasquez-Tokos. She can be reached at vasquezj@uoregon.edu.

Career Planning

With the help of advisors, each student should select courses that emphasize experiences most useful for the student's educational and career objectives. Career advising is available through the University Career Center, located in the Garden Level of Tykeson Hall. Appointments can be scheduled through Navigate. The career center may be contacted through Microsoft Teams or at 541-346-3235. Jobs and internships are listed in Handshake.

When planning a program, students should keep in mind the ways in which major requirements fit with career objectives.

Social Service Professions

Social service professions include social work, work in nonprofit organizations, counseling, community relations, housing, labor relations, and human resources. Sociology majors who want to enter a helping profession should take at least one course each in sociological methodology and social psychology and several courses dealing with social issues and problems.

Students may supplement their programs with courses in the psychology and political science departments and in the College of Education. Many of these occupations require graduate or field training. Students can get more detailed information from the University Career Center.

Business or Government Service

Business or government organizations typically require general human-relations skills, some awareness of organizations and the surrounding social environment, and an ability to analyze and understand basic social data.

Students interested in business should include in their programs courses in methodology, social psychology, and organizations and occupations. Programs may be supplemented with courses in the psychology and political science departments and in the College of Education. Many of these occupations require graduate or field training. Students can get more detailed information from the University Career Center.

Honors in Sociology

Motivated students may participate in the honors program in sociology. Qualified senior year students have the opportunity to write an honors thesis by working closely with faculty members and fellow honors students on a year-long empirical research project of their own design. The Sociology Department encourages students to apply for admission to the Honors Program in Sociology if they are planning to pursue advanced training in sociology, if they are interested in more direct applications of sociology, or if they simply desire a more challenging academic experience.

Students who successfully complete the honors program are awarded departmental honors. The honors distinction is noted on the student's official transcript and diploma.
Applicants to the honors program must demonstrate a high level of competence and motivation for advanced studies in sociology. A GPA of no less than 3.40 in at least 12 units of sociology courses or a nomination by two faculty members is required for admittance but does not guarantee acceptance. Students selected for the program are notified during spring term of their junior year. Application forms are available on the department’s web page. Students also receive an e-mail describing the application process in the spring term.

During fall and winter terms of the senior year, honors students take part in the two-credit honors thesis seminar, Seminar: [Topic] (SOC 407), and in all three terms of the senior year also enroll in Thesis (SOC 403).

In fall term, they work closely with the Honors Program advisor and other honors students to design a research proposal and identify a primary thesis advisor from among the UO Sociology faculty. By the end of the term, each student submits a thesis proposal for approval. During winter term, students proceed with data collection. In the spring term, students work independently with their individual thesis advisor and proceed with analysis and writing. Students are required to submit their thesis for presentation at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in spring quarter, and the final thesis is due in June.

Twelve credits of sociology degree requirements are earned through the honors program: 8 credits of SOC 403 and 4 credits of SOC 407. The SOC 407 credits count toward the 400-level requirement for the major.

Preparing for Graduate Study

Students planning graduate work in sociology should have a strong background in sociological theory and social research methods well beyond courses required for the major. Besides taking advanced courses in areas of special interest to them, students should take a substantial number of upper-division courses in other social sciences.

Applications to graduate school should be made in fall or winter the year before the student plans to enter a graduate program. Students considering graduate school should talk to their faculty advisors before their final year of school about programs at various schools, experiences that increase chances for admission, and requirements for students in graduate programs in sociology.

Kindergarten through Secondary Teaching Careers

Students who complete a degree with a major in sociology are eligible to apply to the College of Education’s fifth-year program for a license in middle-secondary teaching or the fifth-year program for a license in elementary teaching. Refer early to information in the College of Education section of this catalog.

- Sociology (MA, MS) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts_sciences/sociology/mamsociology/#mastersdegreetext)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts_sciences/sociology/mamsociology/#doctoraldegreetext)

Graduate Studies

The Department of Sociology offers graduate work leading to a doctor of philosophy (PhD) and is intended for students seeking a professional career in research and teaching in both academic and nonacademic settings. The department does not offer a terminal master’s degree, although students enrolled in the PhD program will also receive a master’s degree as part of their training.

Students receive training in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, sociological theory, and major substantive fields within sociology such as gender, sexuality, environment, race and ethnicity, culture, social networks, labor, immigration, and political economy. The department places a strong emphasis on research, and many students will find opportunities to participate in projects conducted by faculty members.

Courses

SOC 196. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-2 Credits. Repeatable.
SOC 198. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-2 Credits. Repeatable.
SOC 199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits. Repeatable.
SOC 204. Introduction to Sociology. 4 Credits. The sociological perspective with emphasis on fundamental concepts, theories, and methods of research.
SOC 207. Social Inequality. 4 Credits. Overview of social inequality, cross-culturally and within the United States. Examines relationship of social inequality based on social class, race, and gender to social change, social institutions, and self-identity.
SOC 301. American Society. 4 Credits. Selected aspects of American culture and institutions and the ways in which they are changing. Prereq: SOC 204 recommended.
SOC 310. Social Theory. 4 Credits. Analysis of the major writers and ideas that have shaped contemporary sociology. Focus on recurrent concepts and issues that continue to challenge sociological inquiry.
SOC 311. Research Methods. 4 Credits. The development of social research; the nature of scientific inquiry and basic methods and techniques; examination of representative sociological studies from the standpoint of methodology. Prereq: SOC 204 or SOC 207.
SOC 312. Statistical Analysis in Sociology. 4 Credits. Construction and interpretation of tables and graphs, descriptive statistics, measures of association and contingency relationships, basic ideas of probability, and elementary statistical inference applied to nonexperimential research.
SOC 313. Social Issues and Movements. 4 Credits. Contemporary social issues viewed in relation to the social structure of American society. Social movements and ideologies related to these issues.
SOC 317. Sociology of the Mass Media. 4 Credits. Analysis of media events: advertisements, news broadcasts, documentaries, popular music, and television. Perspectives include content analysis, semiotics, functionalist and structuralist paradigms, and power system analysis.
SOC 328. Self and Society. 4 Credits.
How the thought, feeling, and behavior of individuals influence and are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

SOC 330. Sociology of the Family. 4 Credits.
Introduction to and historical perspective of the family as a social institution and small-group association.
Prereq: SOC 204 or SOC 207.

SOC 345. Race and Ethnicity. 4 Credits.
Examines the major racial and ethnic groups in the United States with special attention to social interactions and inequalities.

SOC 346. Work and Occupations. 4 Credits.
Characteristics of work and occupational careers in modern societies; relationships of those to family, the economy, bureaucracy, technology, and alienation.

SOC 355. Sociology of Gender. 4 Credits.
Position of women in contemporary society; women and work, politics, families, the economy; intersection of gender, race, and class; women's movements.

SOC 370. Urban Sociology. 4 Credits.
Examines the growth of cities; urban inequalities, politics, and social movements; built environment, ecology, and sustainability of cities and identity; global cities and immigration.

SOC 380. Introduction: Deviance, Control, and Crime. 4 Credits.
Origins of rules and laws, patterns of reactions to their violation, emphasis on causal theories of deviance and of crime, data sources for study of crime.

SOC 385. Medical Sociology. 4 Credits.
This course is designed as an introduction to the broad field of medical sociology and the sociology of health and illness.

SOC 399. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 400M. Temporary Multilisted Course. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 401. Research: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 403. Thesis. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 404. Internship: [Topic]. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 405. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 406. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 407. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Offerings vary from year to year depending on student needs and faculty interests.
Prereq: SOC 204 or SOC 207.

SOC 408. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 409. Terminal Project. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 410. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 412. Sociological Research Methods. 4 Credits.
Descriptive and inferential statistics, including multiple regression.

SOC 413. Sociological Research Methods. 4 Credits.
Advanced statistical techniques focusing on generalized linear models.
Prereq: SOC 412.

SOC 416. Issues in Environmental Sociology [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Analysis of selected topics in environmental sociology. Topics include environmental movement, impacts of technological change, environmental policy and the state, environmental values, attitudes, and behaviors. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 420. Political Economy. 4 Credits.
Survey of the fundamentals of political economy. Readings from Marxist and mainstream traditions introduce contemporary debates on socioeconomic crisis.

SOC 425. Issues in Sociology of Family: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Analysis of selected topics in the sociology of the family. Topics include the sociology of parenthood, feminist perspectives on the family, and the family in cross-cultural perspective. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credits when topic changes.
Prereq: SOC 330.

SOC 442. Issues in Urban Sociology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Determinants and consequences of urbanization under different conditions; the city as a social and ecological system. Repeatable twice when topic changes for a maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 445. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Advanced analysis of selected topics in sociology of race/ethnicity. Topics vary. Examples include Asian Americans, Latinos, mixed race, racial oppression, residential segregation, and the post-civil rights era. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credits.
Prereq: SOC 310, SOC 311.

SOC 446. Issues in Sociology of Work: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Selected topics in sociology of work: occupational structures and careers, industrial democracy; technological change and work reform, politics of work. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 447. Issues in Sociology of Organizations: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Analysis of selected topics in the sociology of organizations. Topics include industrial sociology, organizational change; organizational democracy; corporate deviance; bureaucracy, power, and society. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 451. Social Stratification. 4 Credits.
The interrelations among class, race, and sex. Historical origins and development of class and class systems including slavery.
Prereq: SOC 310, SOC 311, SOC 312.

SOC 452. Issues of Migration: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Sociological analysis of migration, including dynamics of race and ethnicity, social structure, and social policy. Examines assimilation, marginalization, multiculturalism, postcolonialism, and social cohesion. Repeatable twice when the topic changes for a maximum of 12 credits. Offered alternate years.
Prereq: SOC 310.

SOC 455. Issues in Sociology of Gender: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Advanced analysis of gender and social relations of power in contemporary society. Variable topics include Women and Health: Violence against Women. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.
SOC 456. Feminist Theory. 4 Credits.
Examines major sociological theories that elucidate the position of women and gender as part of the configuration of social relations of power in contemporary societies.

SOC 457. Sex and Society. 4 Credits.
Examines alternative sociological perspectives on sexual behavior, the social construction and regulation of sexuality, contemporary social and political issues pertaining to sexuality.
Prereq: SOC 310.

SOC 458. Issues in Cultural Sociology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics include the examination of sociological literature, research, and perspectives on a range of important themes core to cultural sociology, including production and consumption of culture, semiotics, community and networks, and popular culture. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credit when topic changes.

SOC 459. Issues in Science, Technology & Society: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics include the examination of sociological literature, research, and perspectives on a range of themes core to understanding science, technology and society, including the public understanding of science, science and social movements, and social inequalities in science.

SOC 465. Political Sociology. 4 Credits.
Analysis of political theory and behavior, social bases of power and policy determination, institutional interrelationships, intellectuals and ideologies, political trends and change, political participation and membership.

SOC 467. Economic Sociology. 4 Credits.
Applies the sociological perspective to basic economic phenomena such as markets, exchange, prices, money and rationality.
Prereq: SOC 310.

SOC 475. Marxist Sociological Theory. 4 Credits.
Basic concepts, theory, and social analysis in the works of Marx and Engels. Topics include dialectical and historical materialism, class, historical development, political economy, and imperialism.

SOC 484. Issues in Deviance, Control, and Crime: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics vary. Examples are modern policing, juvenile delinquency, correction, emerging forms of social control. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 491. Sociology of Education. 4 Credits.
The relationship between education and other social institutions, the school and the community, the school as a social system, social change and education.

SOC 503. Thesis. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 507. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Offerings vary from year to year depending on student needs and faculty interests.

SOC 508. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 510. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 512. Sociological Research Methods. 4 Credits.
Descriptive and inferential statistics, including multiple regression.

SOC 513. Sociological Research Methods. 4 Credits.
Advanced statistical techniques focusing on generalized linear models.
Prereq: SOC 512.

SOC 516. Issues in Environmental Sociology [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Analysis of selected topics in environmental sociology. Topics include environmental movement, impacts of technological change, environmental policy and the state, environmental values, attitudes, and behaviors. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 520. Political Economy. 4 Credits.
Survey of the fundamentals of political economy. Readings from Marxian and mainstream traditions introduce contemporary debates on socioeconomic crisis.

SOC 542. Issues in Urban Sociology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Determinants and consequences of urbanization under different conditions; the city as a social and ecological system. Repeatable twice when topic changes for a maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 545. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Advanced analysis of selected topics in sociology of race/ethnicity. Topics vary. Examples include Asian Americans, Latinos, mixed race, racial oppression, residential segregation, and the post-civil rights era. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 551. Social Stratification. 4 Credits.
The interrelations among class, race, and sex. Historical origins and development of class and class systems including slavery.

SOC 555. Issues in Sociology of Gender: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Advanced analysis of gender and social relations of power in contemporary society. Variable topics include Women and Health; Violence against Women. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 556. Feminist Theory. 4 Credits.
Examines major sociological theories that elucidate the position of women and gender as part of the configuration of social relations of power in contemporary societies.
Prereq: SOC 555.

SOC 557. Sex and Society. 4 Credits.
Examines alternative sociological perspectives on sexual behavior, the social construction and regulation of sexuality, contemporary social and political issues pertaining to sexuality.

SOC 558. Issues in Cultural Sociology: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics include the examination of sociological literature, research, and perspectives on a range of important themes core to cultural sociology, including production and consumption of culture, semiotics, community and networks, and popular culture. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credit when topic changes.
SOC 559. Issues in Science, Technology & Society: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics include the examination of sociological literature, research, and perspectives on a range of themes core to understanding science, technology and society, including the public understanding of science, science and social movements, and social inequalities in science. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 12 credits when topic changes.

SOC 565. Political Sociology. 4 Credits.
Analysis of political theory and behavior, social bases of power and policy determination, institutional interrelationships, intellectuals and ideologies, political trends and change, political participation and membership.

SOC 567. Economic Sociology. 4 Credits.
Applies the sociological perspective to basic economic phenomena such as markets, exchange, prices, money and rationality.

SOC 575. Marxist Sociological Theory. 4 Credits.
Basic concepts, theory, and social analysis in the works of Marx and Engels. Topics include dialectical and historical materialism, class, historical development, political economy, and imperialism.

SOC 584. Issues in Deviance, Control, and Crime: [Topic]. 4 Credits.
Topics vary. Examples are modern policing, juvenile delinquency, correction, emerging forms of social control. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 601. Research: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 602. Supervised Tutoring. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 603. Dissertation. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 604. Internship: [Topic]. 1-6 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 605. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 606. Field Studies: [Topic]. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 607. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Proseminar required for all incoming Sociology graduate students. Professional socialization and preparation for the discipline. Repeatable.

SOC 608. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable. A current topic is Master's Project.

SOC 609. Terminal Project. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 610. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

SOC 612. Overview of Sociological Methods. 5 Credits.
Examines the research process--framing research questions, qualitative and quantitative design, relationships between methods and theory, deductive and inductive investigation logic, research ethics, sampling procedures, explanatory power.

SOC 613. Advanced Sociological Methods: [Topic]. 5 Credits.
Major methodological topics such as comparative, demographic, experimental, field, historical, and survey methods. Other possible topics include time-series analysis. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

SOC 615. Advanced Sociological Theory: [Topic]. 5 Credits.
Major sociological theories such as modern functionalism, contemporary Marxism, phenomenology, postmodernism, feminist and organizational theory. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

SOC 616. Environment and Resource Issues: [Topic]. 5 Credits.
Explores issues of environmental sociology and resource policy, including ecological crisis; environmental justice as it pertains to race, gender, class, and international inequality. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

SOC 617. Sociological Theory I. 5 Credits.
Sociological theories of the 19th century (especially Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) and 20th century (e.g., modern functionalism, feminist, neo-Marxism, neo-Weberian, poststructuralist theories).

SOC 618. Sociological Theory II. 5 Credits.
Major themes and historical foundation of contemporary sociological theory. Prereq: SOC 617.

SOC 621. Teaching in the Social Sciences. 4 Credits.
Prepares graduate students to teach their own classes. Covers pedagogy and develops practical skills. Offered alternate years.

SOC 644. Race and Ethnicity Issues: [Topic]. 5 Credits.
Explores current research and theoretical debates, such as Chicano-Chicana and Latino-Latina studies, in the sociology of race and ethnicity. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

SOC 656. Issues in Sociology of Gender: [Topic]. 5 Credits.
Examines sociological theories of gender, focusing on a particular substantive area such as health, work, family, or sexuality. Explores gender in relation to race, ethnicity, and class. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.