

# Sociology

In the College of Arts and Letters

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## Faculty

Emeritus: Bloomberg, Buck, Chandler, Cottrell, El-Assal, Emerick, Gay, Gillette, Hohm, Hough, Ima, Kolody, Preston, Sandlin, Scheck, Schulze, Stephenson, Werner, Winslow, Zhang

Chair: Ojeda

Professors: Johnston, Liu, Ojeda

Associate Professors: Choi, Esbenshade, Marcelli, McCall, Roberts

Assistant Professors: Beck, Gibbons, Kim

## 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.)

Major in sociology with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

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 class, ethnicity, gender, and race, 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 creates social cohesion and enables people within organizations and institutions to form coalitions, initiate processes for social change, and consolidate power resources in seeking to change social structure.

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, law, public health, and teaching, 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 (2.0) or better: Sociology 101, 102, and 201. (9 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 better.

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 your major requirements. The MAPs website 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, and 201. (9 units)

**NOTE:** Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215 will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201.

These prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C (2.0) or better.

**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 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 18 units of core requirements listed below and 12 units of upper division sociology electives. (30 units)

Core requirements (18 units) should be completed before upper division sociology electives (12 units):

Sociology 301  
Sociology 401  
Sociology 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 301; three units selected from Sociology 401, 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 412, 430, or 433; and nine elective units 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. Interested students should consult with the undergraduate adviser in the Sociology Department.

## Courses (soc)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula* and *University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

### LOWER DIVISION COURSES

#### **SOC 101. Introductory Sociology: The Study of Society (3) [GE]**

This course is prerequisite to all upper division courses in sociology. Major ideas, concepts, and methods in the study of society to include socialization, culture, social structure, social stratification, deviance, social control, and social change.

#### **SOC 102. Introduction to Social Problems (3) [GE]**

Contemporary social problems. Topics may include poverty, inequality, unemployment, crime and deviance, population and ecological problems, health, family issues, and the role of ideology and interest groups in the definition of social problems.

#### **SOC 201. Elementary Social Statistics (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Course in intermediate algebra. Satisfaction of the Entry Level Mathematics requirement.

Basic statistical techniques in sociology. Tables and graphs, measures of central tendency and variability, correlations, cross-classification, and introduction to multivariate analysis, sampling and statistical inference. Computer applications may be included. Students with credit or concurrent registration in the following lower division statistics courses will be awarded a total of four units for the two (or more) courses: Sociology 201; Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education 201; Biology 215; Civil Engineering 160; Economics 201; Political Science 201; Psychology 280; Statistics 119, 250.

#### **SOC 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)**

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.

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

#### **SOC 301. Social Research Methods (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 201 and Sociology 101 or 102.

Methods in sociological research to include surveys, field experiments, observations, ethnography, comparative, historical, and content analysis. Methods are linked to sociological theory. (Formerly numbered Sociology 250.)

#### **SOC 310. Love, Jealousy, and Envy: The Sociology of Emotions (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Sociological understanding of human emotions developed through consideration of history of sex and love, social psychology of jealousy, and political implications of envy. Understanding and management of emotions analyzed in context of community and society.

#### **SOC 320. Sex and Gender in Contemporary 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.

Ways femininity and masculinity are constructed through social arrangements associated with interpersonal relations, family, education, occupations, and economic and political systems. How gender relations are portrayed in mass media and how they are accomplished in community life.

#### **SOC 330. Culture and History of Surfing (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Sociology 101 with a grade of C (2.0) or better. Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Surfing from Hawaiian origins to present. Class, gender, and racial intersectionality within surfing communities. Cultural differences between Polynesian and Western societies. Surfing subcultures and dominant cultures. (Formerly numbered Sociology 210.)

#### **SOC 335. Mass Communication and Popular Culture (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.

Development of popular culture as influenced by the growth of mass media of communication, including popular music, television, film, newspapers, and advertising. The power, functions, and effects of the mass media in society and in social change.

#### **SOC 338. Sociology of Religion (3) [GE]**

(Same course as Religious Studies 343)

Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Forms of religious belief, knowledge, practice, and experience tied to different social arrangements and historical periods. Consequences of religion for community and society. Secularization and conversion processes in modern industrial societies.

#### **SOC 350. Population and Contemporary Issues (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Sociology 201 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Population processes (fertility, mortality, and migration) as they affect and are affected by such contemporary issues as rapid world population growth, environment, urbanization, family, aging, US-Mexico border, and undocumented migration.

#### **SOC 352. Contemporary Social Problems (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.

Contemporary social problems in North America and other areas of the world.

#### **SOC 355. Minority Group Relations (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.

Historical and comparative analysis of race and ethnic relations. Origins and maintenance of ethnic stratification systems; discrimination and prejudice; the adaptation of minority communities; role of social movements and government policies in promoting civil rights and social change.

#### **SOC 401. Classical Social Theory (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Classical theories of society. Intellectual history of European and U.S. theoretical developments in functionalism, historical materialism, historicism, positivism, and symbolic interactionism. Theories of modernity and evolution of modern world system.

#### **SOC 403. Contemporary Social Theory (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Contemporary theories of society. Intellectual history of U.S. and European theoretical developments in critical race theory, critical theory, feminist theory, post-structuralism, structural functionalism, and structuralism. Theories of postmodernity and non-Western theories of cultural and economic hegemony.

#### **SOC 406. Intermediate Social Statistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 301 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Statistical techniques in the analysis of social research data and hypothesis testing, including analysis of variance, covariance, partial correlation, multiple and logistic regression, log and log-linear models, discriminant and factor analysis. Practical application with the use of statistical packages.

#### **SOC 407. Survey and Experimental Research Methods (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 301 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Research process from research design through data processing, analysis, and interpretation. Quantitative research techniques including universe enumeration, sampling, questionnaire construction, scaling techniques, structured interviews, and experimental designs.

#### **SOC 408. Qualitative Research Methods (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 101 and 301 with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Ethnographic research methods including interviewing, observation, participant observation, and case studies. Problems in research design; gaining and maintaining rapport; analysis, interpretation, and writing with qualitative data.

**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.

Analysis of reality as an ongoing social process. Creation and internalization of social worlds through language. Common sense and the multiple realities of everyday life. Dynamic emergence of social structure.

**SOC 420. Sexuality in Modern Society (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Social construction of sexualities. Sexual behaviors, desires, and practices. Changing norms of sexuality, morality and social control, non-normative sexualities, sexual identities, and social and political movements regarding sexuality.

**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 430. Social Organization (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 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)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

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 436. Sociology of Health and Illness (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, 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 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.

Social origins, forms, and functions of criminal law. Sociological theories about causes and consequences of crime. Measurement and distribution of violent crimes, property crimes, victimless crimes, white collar crime, and their impact on communities and society.

**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 447. Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: A Sociological Perspective (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or 102.

Examine complex phenomena of transporting, harboring, and employing human beings through use of force, fraud, or coercion for labor and sexual exploitation. Analyze root causes of this modern day slavery and explore possible solutions.

**SOC 448. Urban Sociology (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Cities and neighborhoods as they pertain to day-to-day life. Location importance for life outcomes and what social forces can shape location.

**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 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 460. Technology and Society (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Sociology 101 with a grade of C (2.0) or better. Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Social construction of technological systems. Emergent technologies within particular cultural forms, social structures, and political practices, and how these phenomena influence design and use of technology. Technology as a mode of social experience.

**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 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 531. Working and Society (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Structure and change in labor force, nationally and internationally. Social drama of work: self, roles, conflict, subcultures. Includes exploration of student work experiences, workers in the community, literacy, and film depictions of work worlds.

**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 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)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Historical sociology of the American criminal justice system. Development and functions of police, criminal courts, prisons, parole, and probation. Theories and ideologies of punishment and rehabilitation. Review of contemporary research.

**SOC 554. Sociology of the United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Globalization (3)**

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Sociology of the population at the United States-Mexico border region. Demographic dynamics and social change in border communities. International migration and transmigration. Transborder families and transnational families. Gender systems and women's reproductive health in border communities.

**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**  
Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.

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