

# Sociology

IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

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## Faculty

**Minjeong Kim**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology,  
Chair of Department

**Jill Esbenshade**, 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

**Michael J. Roberts**, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology

**Jung Min Choi**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

**Joseph R. Gibbons**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

**Enrico A. Marcelli**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

(Graduate Adviser)

**Michael A. McCall**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

**Erika M. Robb Larkins**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology  
and Sociology

**Audrey N. Beck**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Timothy C. Brown**, 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 forms and further information are sent out to enrolled graduate students each semester for consideration.

## 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

Students will be admitted for the fall semester only. Application packages must be received and complete by the deadline. Deadlines are available on the university Graduate Division website. All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Admission and Registration. 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 31 units required for the degree.

Meeting all the indicated criteria does not guarantee admission to the program, since admission is also dependent on the facilities and resources available in the department.

There are two parts to the application process. Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the application fee, and then go to the department website at <http://sociology.sdsu.edu/graduate/application.html> and follow the steps. 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:

### Graduate Admissions

Enrollment Services  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

1. One official transcript (in sealed envelopes) from each post-secondary institutions attended;
  - Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts 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

The following admissions materials must be submitted electronically:

1. Three letters of recommendation (at least two must be from persons who can speak to academic ability);
2. Personal statement;
3. Writing sample (preferably an academic paper). If this is not available, send an extended, three to five page personal statement;
4. Copy of transcript (these do not need to be sent directly from the colleges; photocopies are acceptable).

For information regarding the admissions process, visit the department website at <http://sociology.sdsu.edu/graduate/application.html>.

## Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees. 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 Requirements for Master's Degrees, students must complete 31 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 31 units to include the following courses:

1. Five core courses: Sociology 600, 601, 605, 607, 608.
2. Nine units selected from Sociology 700 (maximum credit six units), 730 (maximum credit six units), 743.
3. Two electives: 500- to 700-level courses in the Department of Sociology or another department with approval of the graduate adviser. No more than one elective course can be independent study.
4. Sociology 799A for Plan A (Thesis) OR if completing Plan B (Comprehensive Examination) an additional 700-level sociology seminar or Sociology 796 is required.

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 for 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 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

#### **SOC 600. Proseminar in Sociology: Core Course (1) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Orientation to the profession of sociology and the department. Introduction to the skills and knowledge necessary for a professional sociologist.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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 three 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.

## Sociology

### **SOC 730. Seminar in Social Institutions (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 407 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 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 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 three 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 three 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.

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