SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

SOC 101. Introduction to Sociology. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the discipline of sociology with special emphasis on the unique perspective this science utilizes to examine the social world. Sociology is distinguished by its focus on understanding patterns of human behavior and emphasizing the social forces that shape and influence these patterns. Primary course focus is on culture, inequality, race and gender, and social institutions. This course serves as a 'gateway' course for all Sociology majors and minors, and must be passed with a minimum grade of "C" to be used as a prerequisite. Prerequisite for all 200-, 300-, and 400-level Sociology courses.

SOC 150. Environmental Sociology. (3 Credits)
The sociological perspective is utilized to examine a variety of issues addressing the human-environment interface. In particular, this course examines how social organization and culture both shape and are shaped by the natural environment. The course focuses on issues of sustainability, the rights of the natural world, and environmental justice.

SOC 168. Social Problems. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the field of sociology through an analysis of social problems in the United States and in the world. Course focus is on topics such as drugs and alcohol abuse, crime and prisons, health and illness, hunger and poverty, resource depletion and pollution, and the effects of globalization.

SOC 197. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)
An introduction to the history and contemporary issues of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) in the United States. Topics surveyed include the system's history, constitutional limitations, philosophical background, and the system's process. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 259. Introduction to Criminal Justice. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the field of criminology with special emphasis on theories of crime, types of criminals, victimology, and the criminal justice system. Special topics examined include gangs, white collar crimes, property crimes, victimless crimes, and organized crime. Prerequisites: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of "C" and SOC 259 with a minimum grade of "C".

SOC 297. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)

SOC 302. Sociological Theory. (3 Credits)
A formal introduction to classical sociological theories relevant to the discipline. Students learn about the history of the discipline, identify major sociological theorists and their theories, learn how these theories can be applied to various historical and contemporary social issues, and discover the relationship between theory, research, ideology and everyday life. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 303. Contemporary Sociological Theory. (3 Credits)
A formal introduction to sociological theories developed since World War II. Students are able to identify and describe recent sociological theories and apply theory to contemporary social phenomena as well as their individual experiences. Students recognize the relationship between theory, ideology, and daily life. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 310. Qualitative Research Methods. (3 Credits)
An examination of qualitative approaches to understanding social life. In particular, the course covers selecting a topic suitable for qualitative investigation, participant observation 220 Sociology and in depth interviewing techniques, the ethics and politics associated with doing qualitative research, writing up field notes, formulating topics, reviewing the literature around the topic, the analysis of field notes, and the writing of research reports. Prerequisite: ENG 102 with a grade of "C-" or above; SOC 101 with a minimum grade of "C-".

SOC 320. The Family. (3 Credits)
An analysis of the family as a social group and institution. Students consider the ways in which the family is influenced by demographic changes and by the changes in other social institutions, such as the economy, education, the state and religion. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 322. Medical Sociology. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the health care system and comparison of various components of this system with that of others. The allopathic (Western) medical model is also examined. The course emphasizes the mortality and morbidity trends and patterns which exist in the U.S., the problems facing our health care system (high costs, unequal access), and alternative models of health and disease. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 323. Cultural Studies. (3 Credits)
A foundation in the sociology of culture as well as extensive analysis of selected regional, national and/or global (sub) cultures and their environments. Issues covered include the social organization of culture, institutions and narratives, material and non-material culture, and cultural identity and the self. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 340. Social Movements. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the study of social movements with two goals in mind. First, is to expose students to the beliefs, practices, and consequences of a number of important historical, and contemporary movements. Second, the course familiarizes students with the theoretical perspectives, conceptual issues, focal questions, and empirical research that animate the study of social movements. This includes such issues as movement emergence, movement participation, mobilization dynamics, movement strategies and tactics, and movement outcomes. Prerequisite: SOC 101 or ENVS 100 with a minimum grade of C.
SOC 349. Law Enforcement. (3 Credits)
An examination of issues affecting American law enforcement. Students are exposed to the historical underpinnings of the American policing experience, police operations and applications at the local, state, federal, and international levels, law enforcement subculture, police structure and organization, ethics, selection and training, and career opportunities. Prerequisite: SOC 259 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 350. Deviance. (3 Credits)
Students examine various forms of nonconformity-criminal and otherwise. To do so, they study the major theoretical perspectives addressing deviance and its control. Students explore how ordinary rituals, agents of social control, and ideology interact to maintain the existing social order. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 351. Juvenile Delinquency. (3 Credits)
Biological, psychological, and sociological factors in juvenile delinquency are examined, as are modern trends in prevention and treatment. The course also addresses the procedural and substantive aspects of the juvenile justice system. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 355. Drugs and Society. (3 Credits)
An examination of trends and patterns in American drug use, drug classifications, the relationship between drugs and crime, and drug education and prevention strategies. The use of hallucinogenic plants in other cultures is also explored. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of C.

SOC 367. Corrections. (3 Credits)
An in-depth look at corrections in the United States. Topics include history of corrections, jails, prisons, community corrections, offenders and inmates, women in corrections, juvenile corrections, correctional officers and treatment professionals, and special inmate populations. Prerequisites: SOC 101, SOC 259 and SOC 285 all with a minimum grade of “C.”

SOC 380. Social Inequalities. (3 Credits)
An examination of major theories and concepts associated with social inequality as well as the causes and consequence of social inequality. The historical and contemporary aspects of social inequality in the United States are explored. Forms of resistance to social inequality are also considered. Prerequisite: SOC 101 with a minimum grade of “C.”

SOC 392. Independent Study. (1-6 Credits)

SOC 397. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)

SOC 399. Internship in Sociology. (1-6 Credits)
Sociology internships provide Sociology majors of junior and senior status with opportunities to work on sites off campus in the areas of law enforcement and social services. The experience must meet standards set by the College and by the sociology faculty. Up to three hours of internship credit may be counted toward the major. Graded Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory only.

SOC 492. Independent Study. (1-6 Credits)
Independent studies are available to seniors as a Capstone option. Enrollment is contingent upon developing a proposal with a faculty sponsor and requires a variable credit form. Prerequisite: minimum GPA of 3.50 in Sociology courses or instructor permission.

SOC 497. Special Topics. (1-6 Credits)

SOC 498. Capstone. (3 Credits)
Provides Sociology majors with a culminating activity for the senior year. Students summarize and integrate their coursework, apply their emerging sociological perspective to real world events, and prepare for future careers, jobs, and/or graduate work. Prerequisites: SOC 101 and SOC 310 with minimum grades of C; and one of the following: SOC 211, PSY 200, ECON 216, or MATH 213 with minimum grade of C; senior standing, or instructor permission.