

SOCIOLOGY

sociology.northwestern.edu

The Department of Sociology offers preparation for careers in a wide range of fields requiring strong research and analytical skills and knowledge of social institutions and diverse cultures. It provides an excellent background for careers in business, advertising, nonprofits, the arts, public administration, law, medicine and health, journalism and communications, and planning, among others. The department also emphasizes the sociological perspective as a fundamental part of a liberal education and a complex understanding of the world.

The department is particularly strong in the areas of organizations and economic sociology; the sociology of law, health, science, and education; urban studies; international, comparative and historical sociology; the sociology of art and culture; and criminology. It offers a wide variety of approaches to social inequality and its origins and consequences, including class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

To benefit from the department's strengths, sociology majors may concentrate in one of seven areas:

- economic sociology and global development
- environment and society
- law and society
- social data research
- social inequality: class, gender, and race
- sociology of health, medicine, and science
- urban sociology

Concentrations guide the selection of both sociology and related courses. The department website lists approved courses by concentration. Majors may instead concentrate in general sociology, for which all sociology and related courses fulfill the concentration requirement, or design a concentration area. All concentrations require an adviser's approval.

Unusually good opportunities are available for independent study, field internships, and the use of quantitative and qualitative methods of research. In addition to the courses listed below, the department offers quarterly seminars on special topics of interest.

Minor Concentrations in Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers minor concentrations in sociological research and in sociological studies. Students seeking a minor in sociology must consult with the director of undergraduate studies or an undergraduate sociology advisor.

The Teaching of Sociology

Weinberg College students pursuing a major in sociology who also wish to be certified for secondary teaching of sociology with history must be admitted to the Secondary Teaching Program (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/education-social-policy/secondary-teaching>) in the School of Education and Social Policy and complete all requirements as outlined in the SESP chapter of this catalog. Students are urged to contact the Office of Student Affairs in SESP at the earliest opportunity.

Programs of Study

- Sociology Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-major>)
- Sociological Research Minor (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociological-research-minor>)
- Sociological Studies Minor (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociological-studies-minor>)

SOCIOL 101-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit) *WCAS First-Year Seminar*

SOCIOL 110-0 Introduction to Sociology (1 Unit) Broad overview of a wide range of social issues and ways of sociological thinking. Characteristics of group life. Interrelations of society, culture, and personality; major social institutions and processes. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 201-0 Social Inequality: Race, Class, and Power (1 Unit) Origins and functions of stratification. Class, prestige, and esteem. Interaction of racial and cultural groups. Inequality in workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, families, media, and other settings. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 202-0 Social Problems (1 Unit) Emergence of social problems. How the media, politicians, lawmakers, and others define social issues. How lives and self-images are shaped when people are connected to a social problem. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 206-0 Law and Society (1 Unit) Introduction to the role of law in American society. Relationship of law, inequality, and social change. Changes in legal institutions: the courts, the legal profession, and legal services for the poor. SOCIOL 206-0 is taught with LEGAL_ST 206-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 207-0 Cities in Society (1 Unit) Introduction to issues of cities and metropolitan areas, including spatial, economic, and political trends; private and public decision making; class, race, and gender; and possible solutions to inequalities and planning challenges. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 208-0 Race and Society (1 Unit) Critical analysis of the biological myth and social reality of race; factors responsible for persistent racial inequality in the United States; social and political implications of race. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 210-0 Families and Societies (1 Unit) Changes, continuities, and variations in family life in industrialized countries over the past century. Key concepts in sociology and the study of families. Explanations for changes and implications for inequality. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 211-0 Food and Society: An Introduction (1 Unit) Overview of past and present food systems from a sociological perspective, examining the roles of culture, government policy, and social movements in shaping such systems and future alternatives. ENVR_POL 211-0 and SOCIOL 211-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 212-0 Environment and Society (1 Unit) Key environmental problems, such as climate change and oil spills; how they are shaped by the market, government regulations, and social movements; possible solutions. SOCIOL 212-0 and ENVR_POL 212-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 215-0 Economy and Society (1 Unit) Introduction to sociological approaches to economic life. Topics include property rights, illegal markets, money, economic inequalities, direct sales, and boycotts. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 216-0 Gender and Society (1 Unit) How our society creates ideas of what gender and gender-appropriate behaviors are. How these ideas are linked to sexuality and relationships, and how they become part of political conflict. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 217-0 Global Perspectives on Education (1 Unit) Global comparison of educational systems and learning experiences, with focus on inequality, trends in literacy and achievement, and social factors shaping schooling worldwide. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 218-0 Education and Inequality: Focus on Chicago (1 Unit) Causes and consequences of educational inequality. History, educational outcomes, and recent reform efforts of Chicago Public Schools. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 220-0 Health, Biomedicine, Culture, and Society (1 Unit) Provides a broad introduction to controversies surrounding health and biomedicine by analyzing culture, politics, values, and social institutions. SOCIOL 220-0 is taught with HUM 220-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules* (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 221-0 Social and Health Inequalities (1 Unit) Bidirectional relationship between social (e.g., class, gender, and racial/ ethnic) and health inequalities, including institutional/ structural, individual/family/ psychosocial, and biological mechanisms. SOCIOL 211-0 is taught with ANTHRO 221-0; may not receive credit for both courses.

SOCIOL 226-0 Sociological Analysis (1 Unit) Logic and methods of social research, qualitative and quantitative analysis of social data, and ethical, political, and policy issues in social research. Foundation for further work in social research.

SOCIOL 227-0 Legal Studies Research Methods (1 Unit) Introduction to research methodologies used in interdisciplinary legal studies, including jurisprudence and legal reasoning, qualitative and quantitative social science methods, and historical and textual analysis. LEGAL_ST 207-0 and SOCIOL 227-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 206-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 232-0 Sexuality and Society (1 Unit) Examination of the role of sexuality in the cultural, economic, political, and social organization of the United States. Sex work, sex tourism, sexual migration, LGBT social movements, and moral panics. SOCIOL 232-0 is taught with GNDR_ST 232-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 276-0 Introductory Topics in Sociology (1 Unit) Introduction to different key issues in the field. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with a different topic. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 277-0 Introduction to Native American Studies (1 Unit) Provides an overview of the culture and history of Native groups and how these histories influence modern Native America. Explores the current economic and social experiences of Indians and tribes. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 288-0 Institutions and Society (1 Unit) Institutions in a broad societal context. How institutional frameworks apply to government, family, education, and the environment; implications of institutions. POLI_SCI 388-0 and SOCIOL 288-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 301-0 The City: Urbanization and Urbanism (1 Unit) Theories of urbanization, housing, jobs, race and class, segregation, community and social networks politics, reform policies and planning. Research projects. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 302-0 Sociology of Organizations (1 Unit) Structure and function of formal organizations, especially in business and government. Stratification, social control, and conflict. Discretion, rules, and information in achieving goals. Modes of participation. Development of informal norms. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 303-0 Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data (1 Unit) Introduction to quantitative methods: the interpretation of descriptive statistics, relationships between variables, multiple regression, and the logic of inferential statistics. *Formal Studies Distro Area*

SOCIOL 304-0 Politics of Racial Knowledge (1 Unit) Major developments in the history of racial knowledge, from Enlightenment philosophy to contemporary genomics. The intersection of politics and science in creating notions of race. Students are encouraged to take SOCIOL 208-0 prior to enrolling. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 305-0 Population Dynamics (1 Unit) Social causes and consequences of population dynamics (fertility, mortality, marriage, divorce, migration) and population structures (age, sex, size, density). Relationship between population changes and health, environmental, and economic outcomes. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 306-0 Sociological Theory (1 Unit) Sociological perspectives developed by classic theorists. Elucidation and testing of sociological principles in contemporary research. Primarily for sociology majors. Open to others with consent of instructor.

SOCIOL 307-0 School and Society (1 Unit) Reciprocal influences between formal institutions of education and the broader society from different theoretical perspectives. Internal organization of schools, inequality in educational settings and outcomes by gender, class, and race/ethnicity. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 308-0 Crime, Politics, and Society (1 Unit) Politics of defining, counting, explaining, and responding to crime, with emphasis on the social organization of crimes of the streets and crimes of the suites; also, domestic and international war crimes. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 309-0 Political Sociology (1 Unit) Selected topics in political economy and sociology: revolutions, the development of the modern state, third world development, international conflict, politics of memory and civil society. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 310-0 Sociology of the Family (1 Unit) Influence of socioeconomic and other structural and cultural resources and constraints on family structure and dynamics. Historical and comparative perspectives on the modern family. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 311-0 Food, Politics and Society (1 Unit) Social groups, institutions, and policies shaping food production, distribution, and consumption around the world; their social and environmental consequences. Alternatives to existing food systems. SOCIOL 311-0 and

ENVR_POL 311-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 312-0 Social Change and the Environment (1 Unit) The ways social patterns of production and consumption affect the natural environment, such as climate and biodiversity. Roles of social actors and structures in shaping environmental problems and policies. SOCIOL 312-0 and ENVR_POL 312-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 314-0 Sociology of Religion (1 Unit) Sociological approach to the study of American religion. Communities, practices, race, gender, and politics in the shaping of religion. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 316-0 Economic Sociology (1 Unit) Sociological approach to production, distribution, consumption, and markets. Classic and contemporary approaches to the economy compared across social science disciplines. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 317-0 Global Development (1 Unit) Exploration of the economic and social changes constituting development, focusing on comparison between the historical experience in Europe and more recent processes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 318-0 Sociology of Law (1 Unit) Sociological analysis of legal institutions such as courts, the police, and lawyers. Law, inequality, and social change. SOCIOL 318-0 is taught with LEGAL_ST 308-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 319-0 Sociology of Science (1 Unit) Science as social system. Personality, class, and cultural factors in scientific development, creativity, choice of role, simultaneous invention, and priority disputes. Social effects on objectivity and bias. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 321-0 Numbers, Identity & Modernity: How Calculation Shapes Who We Are & What We Know (1 Unit) Investigation of how we make and use numbers, how we know ourselves through numbers, the kinds of authority we grant to numbers, and how numbers inform our ethics. *Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules* (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 322-0 Sociology of Immigration (1 Unit) Sociological approach to immigration addressing such issues as assimilation, race/ethnicity, gender, transnationalism. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 323-0 American Subcultures and Ethnic Groups (1 Unit) Differentiation, organization, and stratification by ethnicity, race, lifestyle, and other traits. Maintenance of subgroup boundaries and distinctiveness. Consequences of difference: identity, political and economic participation, group solidarity. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 324-0 Global Capitalism (1 Unit) Sociological aspects of the rise of industrial capitalism. Rise of industrial capitalism in Europe, different forms of capitalism across the world, and consequences for poverty and inequality. Development and underdevelopment. *Historical Studies Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules* (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 325-0 Global & Local Inequalities (1 Unit) Inequalities in economic and social status, including in income, health, politics, social

policy, the family, gender, and race. Contemporary US focus but also historical and global trends. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 326-0 Politics, Society, and Public Policy in the United States from the New Deal (1 Unit) Social and political determinants of public policy in the United States from the New Deal to the present, including industrial relations, social policy, healthcare, and banking and financial regulation. *Historical Studies Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules* (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 327-0 Youth and Society (1 Unit) How modern definitions of childhood and adolescence have evolved. Diversity across the lives of young people today and the development of social networks and transitions to adulthood. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 328-0 Inequality & American Society (1 Unit) Introduction to research on social stratification and inequality, focusing on American society. Theories of distributive justice, trends, intergenerational mobility, gender and race inequality, causes and consequences of inequalities. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 329-0 Field Research and Methods of Data Collection (1 Unit) Practicum in firsthand data collection using observation and structured and unstructured interviewing. Issues of reliability and validity and qualitative analysis.

SOCIOL 330-0 Law, Markets, and Globalization (1 Unit) The role of national and international law in recent economic globalization trends, global convergence in law, legal transplants, globalization and the environment. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 331-0 Markets, Hierarchies & Democracies (1 Unit) The forms and social structures for making economic and political decisions in modern societies. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 331-SA Markets, Hierarchies & Democracies (1 Unit) The forms and social structures for making economic and political decisions in modern societies. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 332-0 Work and Occupations (1 Unit) Sociological perspectives on work. Work, class, status, and power. Society, economy, technology, and occupational structure; organization of workplace. Work in the global economy. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 333-0 Sociology of Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East (1 Unit) Key debates and developments in the history and politics of gender and sexuality in the Middle East, including colonialism, modernization, Islamist mobilization, neoliberalism, family, sexuality, and LGBT issues. *Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules* (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 334-0 Social Protest and Social Change Around the World (1 Unit) How and why social protests can initiate major social change within societies and social groups around the world. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 335-0 Sociology of Rational Decision Making (1 Unit) Analysis of the role played by numerical and quantitative information in organizational decision making in the private and public sectors. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 336-0 Climate Change, Policy, and Society (1 Unit) Examination of main impacts of climate change and of different perspectives

toward mitigation and adaptation: market-based, institutionalist, bio-environmentalist, social movement, and climate justice. SOCIOL 336-0 and ENVR_POL 336-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 345-0 Class and Culture (1 Unit) The role that culture plays in the formation and reproduction of social classes. Class socialization, culture and class boundaries, class identities and class consciousness, culture and class action. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 348-0 Race, Politics, and the Law (1 Unit) Current role of race and racism from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Application to contemporary legal and political issues. How law deals with racial inequality. LEGAL_ST 348-0 and SOCIOL 348-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 206-0, SOCIOL 206-0, SOCIOL 208-0, LEGAL_ST 308-0, or SOCIOL 318-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 350-0 Sociology of the Arts (1 Unit) Art as collective activity. Conventions in art and aesthetics. Professionals and audiences and other aspects of culture. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 355-0 Medical Sociology (1 Unit) Social construction of health and illness; inequalities in distribution of illness and health care; organization of health care work and occupations. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 356-0 Sociology of Gender (1 Unit) Gender and issues of social reproduction and social change with sexuality and reproduction emphasized. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 376-0 Topics in Sociological Analysis (1 Unit) Advanced work on special topics in sociological study. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

SOCIOL 379-0 Understanding Genocide (1 Unit) Key debates in the comparative study of genocide. Why genocide occurs, why people become killers, how these processes relate to each other. POLI_SCI 389-0 and SOCIOL 379-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

SOCIOL 398-1 Senior Research Seminar (1 Unit) Independent research projects carried out under faculty supervision.

SOCIOL 398-2 Senior Research Seminar (1 Unit) Independent research projects carried out under faculty supervision. Prerequisite: B- or better in SOCIOL 398-1.

SOCIOL 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) Consent of department required. May reenroll for consecutive quarters.