

Sociology



Department of Behavioral Sciences
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Field

Sociology is the study of society and how it is shaped by individual and collective action. A “sociological imagination” helps us to see the connections between private troubles that are experienced individually and public issues that are experienced collectively. Also, it explains how individual attitudes and behaviors are distributed in patterned and predictable ways according to the position of the individual in society’s institutional structure. These institutions include those of economy, government, family, education, and religion.

Career Opportunities

The undergraduate program in sociology provides a focus for a general liberal education and also prepares students for careers in a variety of professions and occupations. A sociology degree is a solid preparation for a variety of graduate and professional schools. With a B.A. in sociology, students are prepared for careers requiring interpersonal skills and understanding, data collection and analysis, as well as specialized knowledge about how particular institutions work. Occupational experience in the areas of social work can be obtained through an internship. UM-Dearborn’s sociology program is designed to be flexible so that students can choose courses to fit their own needs as well as those of employers. Course selection should be made in consultation with a sociology faculty member.

The Major

Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.

Prerequisites

Students majoring in Sociology are required to take SOC 200 or 201.

Requirements

Students must complete 28 hours in sociology in courses numbered 300 or above. All students must take the following courses:

- SOC 308, 410 (double majors in sociology and psychology may use Psych 381 or Soc 383 or Psych 425 as a substitute), 413, and 497.
- one macro sociology course (one of SOC 422, 423, 450, 453, 455, 457, 458, or 460)
- one Public Issues, Private Troubles course (one of SOC 350, 403, 446, 465, 468, or 469)
- one organizations course (one of SOC 439, 440, 442, 456, 477, or 483) and
- one individual and society course (one of SOC 382, 426, 443, or 445)

Cognates

Students must complete at least six hours in cognate courses from two of the following six disciplines: anthropology, economics, history, political science, computer science, or statistics courses in mathematics. Internships in these disciplines may not be used to satisfy the cognate requirement.

Students are required to develop a portfolio before graduation. Please see a sociology advisor for specific requirements.

Independent Study/Research

The sociology faculty encourages students to develop their own research projects in the form of independent studies (SOC 498). To find an appropriate faculty member for any one of these courses, students should start by consulting the list of faculty members and their specializations. Often, faculty members are involved in research in which students can take part as data collectors or analysts.

Internship

Internships provide supervised field experience in a variety of occupational agencies focusing on social work. Students are placed in sites appropriate to their occupational goals. Each intern spends a total of 80 hours on-site and attends a weekly seminar. Students may elect to take this course for 3-6 units.

Minor/Area of Focus

Sociology is also available as a minor, or as an area of focus in General Studies or Liberal Studies. The minor or area of focus requires a minimum of 12 credit hours of upper level coursework in Sociology.

Students might want to focus their coursework around occupational tracks. This list of courses is in no way complete, merely suggestive:

- **Social work and related human services** (e.g., social workers, counselors, personnel, recreation directors). Suggested courses include: 201, 350, 445, 446, 447, 461, 465, 477, 478, 482.
- **Managing people and organizations** (e.g., business management, public administration, labor relations). Suggested courses include: 382, 422, 442, 443, 483.
- **Research** (e.g., in marketing or public opinion research). Suggested courses include: 383, 410, 497.
- **Criminal justice** (e.g., probation officers, youth counselors, paralegals, police officers, lawyers). Suggested courses include: 447, 453, 465, 468, 469, 470.
- **Graduate school** (Ph.D. studies in sociology and other social sciences). Suggested courses include: 308, 410, 413, 423, 445, 460, 483, 497, 498.

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The Courses

For more detailed information, see the UM-Dearborn Undergraduate Catalog or consult a faculty member.

200	Understanding Society
201	Contemporary Social Problems
263	Western Culture III
264	Western Culture IV: The Modern Era
275	Introduction to Women's Studies
304	Studies in Detroit Culture
305	Society and the Arts in Detroit
306	Comparative American Identities
308	Development of Sociological Theory
310	Computers and Society
350	Sociology and Poverty
382	Social Psychology
383	Introduction to Statistics
390-394	Topics in Sociology
398	Independent Studies
403	Minority Groups
4045	Disssed: Difference, Power & Discrimination
4075	Sexual Praxis and Theory
409	Feminist Theory
410	Social Research Methods
411	Program Evaluation
412	Men and Masculinities
413	Qualitative Research Methods
422	Structure of American Society
423	American Social Classes
426	Society and Aging
430	Population Problems
435	Urban Sociology
436	Personality and Society
439	Sociology of Professions
440	Medical Sociology
441	Sociology of the Auto Industry
442	Sociology of Work
443	Gender Roles
444	The Medical Profession
445	The Family
446	Marriage and Family Problems
447	Family Violence
448	Comparative Health Care Systems
449	The Black Family in Contemporary America
450	Political Sociology
452	Marxism
453	Sociology of Law
454	Mental Health and the Law
455	Sociology of Religion
456	Health Care and the Law
457	Family, Aging, and the Law
458	Sociology of Education
460	America in a Global Society
461	Corrections Officers and Inmates
465	Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization
466	Drugs, Alcohol and Society
467	Drugs, Crime and Justice
468	Criminology
469	Juvenile Delinquency
470	Current Issues in Criminal Justice
471	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
472	Corrections
473	Race, Crime and Justice
477	Social Welfare
478	Social Work Internship
479	Comparative Health Systems: Trip
481	Gender and Globalization
482	Methods of Social Work Practice
483	Complex Organizations
490-494	Advanced Topics in Sociology
497	Senior Research Seminar
498	Independent Study

The Faculty

The sociology faculty welcome students to their offices to discuss courses, careers, and other topics of interest to students.

- Pamela Aronson, Ph.D.** (Minnesota), Assistant Professor, Teaching : family, marriage and family problems, social problems, senior seminar. Research: work and family, sociology of the life course, adolescence, social movements, and race, class and gender inequities.
- Lars Bjorn, Ph.D.** (North Carolina), Professor. Teaching: social problems, methods, theory, law, political, Detroit, auto industry. Research: work, jazz, Detroit, comparative.
- Eric Bolling, M.A.** (Florida Atlantic), Lecturer. Teaching: juvenile delinquency, criminology, minorities, complex organizations. Research: stratification, education.
- Paul Draus, Ph.D.** (Loyola, Chicago), Assistant Professor, Teaching: medical, deviance, urban, qualitative methods, poverty and inequality. Research: ethnography of health and health care, urban and rural communities, substance abuse, violence, media.
- Kevin Early, Ph.D.** (Florida), Associate Professor. Teaching: criminology, corrections, deviance, drugs and society. Research: criminology, corrections, deviance, and alcohol and drug behavior. Certifications: Certified Criminal Justice Specialist (C.C.J.S.) and Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC).
- Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Ph.D.** (Maryland) Assistant Professor. Teaching: Social problems, minorities, immigration, family. Research: Migration/immigration, race/ethnicity, stratification/ social inequality, gender and family.
- James Gruber, Ph.D.** (North Carolina), Professor. Teaching: sex roles, methods, theory, education, poverty, social psychology. Research: women and work, social psychology, sex roles.
- Lora Bex Lempert, Ph.D.** (University of California, San Francisco), Professor. Teaching: social work internship, qualitative methods, family violence, social psychology. Research: wife abuse, intergenerational family interactions.
- David R. Lilley, Ph.D.** (Florida) Assistant Professor, Teaching: Criminal Justice Systems, applied criminal justice theory, deviant behavior, and criminology. Research: crime analysis, deviant behavior and victimization.
- Nehal Petal, Ph.D.** (Chicago) Assistant Professor. Teaching: Criminology, topics in criminal justice and sociology of law. Research: environmental sociology, sociology of law, religion, social movements, consciousness studies, mixed-methods research and social psychology of collective behavior.
- Lawrence Radine, Ph.D.** (Washington), Associate Professor. Teaching: health law, work, evaluation, methods, social classes, complex organizations. Research: health law, organizations, regulation.

For More Information

For additional information about the sociology program, contact:
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University of Michigan-Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road
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313-593-5520

To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

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