Sociology (SOC)

Major in Sociology
Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Sociology: Anthropology (ANT), Business Management (BUS), Human Sexual and Gender Development (LHD), International Studies (LKS), Political Science (POL), service learning for community-based action research (LCR)

Faculty

Said Amir Arjomand, Distinguished Service Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Comparative, historical, political sociology; religion.
Javier Auyero, Associate Professor, Ph.D., The New School for Social Research: Culture; urban poverty and social inequality; Latin American studies.

Diane Barthel-Bouchier, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Culture; sex roles; historical. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1989, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1989.

Ivan D. Chase, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Social inequality; social structure; resource allocation; cross-species comparisons.

Stephen Cole, Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Science; theory; culture. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1992.

O. Andrew Collier, Associate Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Complex organizations; demography; ecology.

Kenneth A. Feldman, Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan: Social psychology; higher education; socialization. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1995; and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1995.

John H. Gagnon, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Deviance; family simulations; sexual conduct; social change.

Norman Goodman, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Distinguished Service Professor, Ph.D., New York University: Social psychology; family; socialization. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1976.

Michael Kimmel, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Comparative and historical development; social movements; gender and sexuality.

Daniel Levy, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: International migration; globalization; political sociology.
Catherine Marrone, Lecturer, Ph.D. Stony Brook University: Sociology of medicine and of aging; sociology of gender and of gender and work.

Timothy Moran, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Maryland: Comparative sociology; inequality, economic sociology; global social processes; quantitative methods.

Eileen Otis, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Davis: Gender; economic sociology; global social processes; quantitative methods.

Oyeronke Oyewumi, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Comparative and historical sociology; race, gender, family inequalities in global systems.

Ian Roxborough, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison: Joint Appointment with History; Comparative social structures; development; social change; war and the military.

James B. Rule, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Theory; political sociology; technology.

Michael Schwartz, Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University: Methodology; historical; political economy; business structure; social movements. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1975.

Jackie Smith, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame: Global sociology; social movements; international organizations; environmental sociology.

Judith Tanur, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Statistics; methodology; social psychology. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1990, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1990.

Kyoteru Tsutsui, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Stanford University: Political sociology; social movements; comparative historical sociology; economic sociology; quantitative methods.

Andrea Tyree, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Demography; social stratification; statistics; ethnicity.

Affiliated Faculty

Richard Howard, Philosophy
Joseph Schwartz, Psychiatry
H. Barry Waldman, Dental Health

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 3

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 25

Sociology is the systematic study of social life. It is based on the assumption that there is a certain pattern to the way people live and think and that by studying their behavior and attitudes, this pattern can be discovered and explained. Sociologists investigate how the group influences behavior, from the smallest (a two-person relationship, like husband and wife) to the largest (huge organizations, such as General Motors or the Catholic Church). Anything having to do with social behavior is the subject matter of sociology.

The Bachelor of Arts program at Stony Brook seeks to develop in students both an understanding of a history of social thought and skills in the collection and analysis of social data. The core program includes two semesters of sociological theory, one semester of research methods, and one semester of statistics.

Students who have completed this program have attended graduate schools in sociology or related disciplines, law school, social welfare, and pursued careers in advertising, marketing, and business management. Some work at market research (studying for large companies what products people want to buy), demography (studying the population scientifically, as in the United States census), criminology (investigating the causes and nature of crime and criminal justice), urban planning, polling, and public opinion (like the Gallup or Harris Polls).

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Courses Offered in Sociology

See the Course Description listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

SOC 105-F  Introduction to Sociology
SOC 106-F  Introduction to Sociology: Honors
SOC 150  Topics in Introductory Sociology
SOC 200  Medicine and Society
SOC 201  Research Methods in Sociology
SOC 202-C  Statistical Methods in Sociology
SOC 204-F  Intimate Relationships
SOC 243-F  Sociology of Youth
SOC 247-K  Sociology of Gender
SOC 248-F  Social Problems in Global Perspective
SOC 264-J  Introduction to Middle Eastern Society
SOC 268  Theory and Practice in Student Leadership
SOC 302-K  American Society
SOC 303-F  Social Inequality
SOC 304-F  Sociology of the Family
SOC 309-F  Social Conflicts and Movements
SOC 310-K  Ethnic and Race Relations
SOC 315-H  Sociology of Technology
SOC 320-F  Population and Society
SOC 323-K  Urban Society
SOC 330-F  Media and Society
SOC 336-F  Social Change
SOC 337-F  Social Deviance
SOC 338-F  The Sociology of Crime
SOC 339-F  Sociology of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
SOC 340-H  Sociology of Human Reproduction
SOC 341-F  Historical Sociology
SOC 344-F  Environmental Sociology
SOC 348-F  Global Sociology
SOC 351-F  Sociology of the Arts
SOC 352-F  Sociology of Religion
SOC 355-H  Social World of Humans and Animals
SOC 356-F  Political Sociology
SOC 361-F  Historical Development of Sociological Theory
SOC 362-F  Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 364-J  Sociology of Latin America
SOC 365-J  Introduction to African Society
SOC 371-K  Gender and Work
SOC 373-F  Collective Behavior
SOC 374-F  Global Issues in the United Nations
SOC 378-F  War and the Military
SOC 380-F  Social Psychology
SOC 381-F  Sociology of Organizations
SOC 382-F  Small Groups
SOC 384-F  Sociology of the Life Course
SOC 386-J  State and Society in the Middle East
SOC 387-F  Sociology of Education
SOC 390-394-F  Special Topics
SOC 395-H  Topics in Science, Technology, and Society
SOC 401  Honors: Sociology of Global Issues

Independent reading, research, teaching practica, internship, and senior honors courses

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Sociology

Freshman  Fall  Credits
SOC 105-F    3
SOC 106-F    3
D.E.C. A    3
Total    15

Sophomore  Fall  Credits
SOC 201-F    3
SOC elective    3
Social science elective    3
D.E.C.    3
Total    15

Junior  Fall  Credits
SOC 361-F    3
SOC Upper-Division elective    3
Social science elective    3
D.E.C.    3
Elective    3
Total    15

Senior  Fall  Credits
SOC Upper-Division elective    3
SOC Upper-Division elective    3
SOC Upper-Division elective    3
SOC Upper-Division elective    3
SOC elective    3
Total    15

Spring  Credits
SOC 362-F    3
SOC Upper Division elective    3
SOC Upper Division elective    3
SOC Upper Division elective    3
SOC elective    3
Total    15
Requirements for the Major in Sociology (SOC)

The major in Sociology leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All sociology courses offered for the major, except those graded S/U, must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Of courses outside the Department offered for the major, only one may be taken with the Pass/No Credit option.

Completion of the major requires 39 credits, of which 30 to 33 are in sociology courses.

A. Study within the Area of the Major

1. Required courses
   - SOC 105 Introduction to Sociology
   - SOC 201 Research Methods
   - SOC 202 Statistical Methods in Sociology or another allowed statistics course
   - SOC 361 Historical Development of Contemporary Sociology

2. Sociology electives
   - Free selection of courses, totaling 18 credits, from among all sociology course offerings.

Notes:
1. If any required course is waived for any reason, it must be replaced with an additional elective.
2. Only six credits of independent study courses (SOC 447, 487, and 488) may be used toward the requirements of 15 elective credits in sociology.
3. SOC 362, Contemporary Sociological Theory, is strongly advised for any student who is 1) considering graduate education in sociology or 2) participating in the Honors Program.

B. Study in Related Areas

At least three courses (nine credits) chosen from one of the following related social sciences: Africana studies (only those courses with designator AFS), anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, political science, psychology, social sciences, and women’s studies (only those WST courses crosslisted with social sciences courses). Credits from applied social science professions such as social work, police science, education, and management science are not applicable. Courses that are crosslisted with a sociology course do not satisfy this requirement.

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Sociology majors are expected to fulfill the upper-division writing requirement by the end of their junior year. Students may meet the requirement by having their writing evaluated in certain upper-division sociology courses. Students who have indicated that they wish to have their writing evaluated receive a separate report on writing proficiency in addition to their regular course grade.

Students whose writing is not judged adequate should consult with the director of undergraduate studies on further steps to fulfill the writing requirement.

Notes for Transfer Students:
1. The Department of Sociology requires that transfer students take at least 12 credits in sociology in residence at Stony Brook to complete the sociology major.
2. No transferred sociology course with a grade lower than C is accepted for credit in the major.

Honors Program

The honors program is open to seniors majoring in Sociology who have maintained a g.p.a. of 3.50 in the major and 3.00 overall, and who have completed or are in the process of completing the methods and statistics requirement and the upper-division writing requirement. Students should apply for the honors program before the beginning of their senior year. With the approval of the sponsoring faculty member, the student must submit a written proposal for a major paper or research project to be completed during the senior year. Acceptance into the honors program depends on the approval of the proposal by the Department.

In the senior year, the student enrolls in SOC 495 during the first semester and SOC 496 during the second semester, for a total of six credits. The student’s major paper or research project must be completed no later than four weeks prior to the end of the second semester, to allow for possible revisions. It is read and evaluated by a committee consisting of the student’s sponsor, one other Sociology faculty member, and one faculty member from another department.

If the honors program is completed with distinction and the student has achieved a 3.50 g.p.a. in all sociology courses taken in the senior year, honors are conferred.