

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Jackie Eller, Interim Chair
Andrew L. Todd Hall 342
Angela Mertig, Graduate Program Director
Andrew L. Todd Hall 328

The Sociology and Anthropology Department offers the Master of Arts with a major in Sociology and a minor in sociology at the graduate level.

Requirements for the Master of Arts

Admission Requirements

Full admission for a degree-seeking candidate: Receipt of all materials by April 1 for Fall admission, September 15 for Spring admission. A complete application includes application, letter of interest and goals, an example of written work, three letters of recommendation, all transcripts, at least a 2.75 GPA, acceptable GRE scores, and the successful completion of at least 18 hours of undergraduate sociology which includes the prerequisites of research methods (SOC 3040), statistics (SOC 3050), and sociological theory (SOC 3060), or their equivalents. A grade of C or better must be earned in the prerequisite courses.

Conditional admission for a degree-seeking candidate: Conditional admission is possible, but not guaranteed, under the following circumstances: (a) GRE score is less than acceptable (exception is dependent upon the strength of the other admission criteria); (b) prerequisites are missing or the grade is less than a C. All prerequisites **must be** completed within the next semester following this conditional admission and **prior to** enrollment in the twelfth hour of graduate study. If these conditions are not met, the candidate will be dropped from the program and must seek readmission in a subsequent semester; (c) GPA is less than 2.75 (exception is dependent upon the strength of the other admission criteria).

Degree Requirements

Candidate must

1. complete a minimum of 36 semester hours in graduate-level courses, 24 of which must be graduate-level sociology courses with no more than 6 of the 36 hours dual listed as undergraduate/graduate hours (4000/5000).
2. complete all required courses, including SOC 6560, 6620, 6675, 6720, and 6660 or 6010 with a minimum grade of B-.
3. complete 6 hours of thesis research (SOC 6640) and submit and successfully defend a thesis.

4. file a degree plan with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 21 credit hours.

Graduate Assistantship Application

Applications are due by April 1. Applicant must meet the following conditions: (a) be admitted to the M.A. program in sociology and (b) have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.00 OR a graduate GPA of at least 3.00 over a minimum of 9 hours of completed graduate courses.

Courses in Sociology [SOC]

- 5010 Social Inequality.** Three credits. The origins, variations, and consequences of class, status, and power in society. Includes individual and group economic interests, social prestige, ideology, market, and institutional inequality.
- 5050 Sociology of Families.** Three credits. An analysis: contemporary American family patterns; racial, ethnic, and class variations.
- 5100 Sociology of Work.** Three credits. Comparative analysis of work structure and processes in organizational contexts, including study of management and employee organizations and legal environments regulating workplace relations.
- 5140 Violence in the Family.** Three credits. (Same as CDFS 5140.) Causes, dynamics, and consequences of violence in the family. Includes the discussion of violence toward children, spouses, dating partners, siblings, and elders. Emphasizes the social conditions which lead to these types of violence.
- 5150 Topics in Sociology.** Three credits. An in-depth topic significant in current sociological literature.
- 5160 Sociology of Gangs.** Three credits. History of gangs in the U.S., the factors which account for their formation and perpetuation, and current empirical data on gang composition, demographics, and culture. Policy strategies for prevention, law enforcement, and nonlegal interventions assessed.
- 5170 The Social Context of Southern Music.** Three credits. A socio-historic analysis of Southern music providing a framework for examining the relationship between culture and popular culture, the production of popular culture, and popular culture as a vehicle for examining social issues of the southern region.
- 5240 Race and Ethnic Relations.** Three credits. Theories and dynamics of intergroup relations in a multiethnic society.
- 5300 Criminology.** Three credits. Theories of the causes of criminal behavior and coverage of its development and incidence; punishment and methods of control and rehabilitation.
- 5320 Public Opinion and Propaganda.** Three credits. (Same as PS 5320.) Public opinion and its role in the political and social processes.
- 5360 Medical Sociology.** Three credits. Sociological analysis of health care delivery including problems, policies, and issues faced by recipients and providers of care. Focuses on the U.S., role theory, and demographics.
- 5500 Social Psychology.** Three credits. Individual behavior in social contexts and symbolic interaction among groups. Includes social influences on perception, conformity, attitudes, communication, group structure, leadership, and role behavior.
- 5510 Social Movements and Social Change.** Three credits. Sociological theories of revolutions, rebellions, civil wars, and protest movements of the past and present and the relationship to significant social changes.
- 5520 Population and Society.** Three credits. Examines world and U.S. population trends and the impact of social forces on such demographic variables as births, deaths, migration, age, sex, education, marital status, and how these impact social conditions.
- 5540 Juvenile Delinquency.** Three credits. Social factors related to delinquency including family, peer group, school, and community. Includes the juvenile justice system and its agents.
- 5550 Sociology of Religion.** Three credits. Religion as social process and institution. An ideological, structural, and functional analysis. Specific U.S. religions examined in detail.
- 5560 Organizational Structures and Processes.** Three credits. Analysis of structure and processes of change, organizational environments, modes of power, ideologies, forms of control and resistance, including alternatives to bureaucracy.
- 5660 Urban and Community Studies.** Three credits. Focuses on concept of community as a core idea in the historical development of sociology, concentrating on theories and historical trends of urbanization and current urban problems and policies.
- 5790 Sport and Society.** Three credits. (Same as REC 5790.) Behavioral approach to the sport and leisure phenomena from the related perspectives of sociology and anthropology.
- 5800 Special Projects.** One to three credits. Field experiences or reading courses through which special interests or needs of the student may be pursued under individual supervision. No more than three hours may be used in the major. Arrangements must be made with instructor prior to registration.
- 6000 Comparative Social Change.** Three credits. (Same as PS 6000.) A historical comparative examination of the structure, institutions, and development of the modern world system; a review of major theoretical and empirical research on the world system.
- 6010 Social Policy Analysis.** Three credits. A historical comparative examination of social policy formulation, structure, and consequences. Focus on policy formation in modern and developing nations. Critical analysis of social policy development.
- 6510 Independent Study.** Three credits. Recommended for students past the midpoint in their master's programs. Designed to provide an opportunity to fill perceived gaps in the program of study and as precursor for the thesis. Arrangements must be made with instructor prior to registration.
- 6540 Topics in Crime and Deviance.** Three credits. Critical analysis of selected topics in the fields of crime and deviance. Students pursue individual projects that require integration of their theoretical understanding with contemporary applications.
- 6545 Topics in Gender.** Three credits. Critical analysis of selected topics in the study of gender in sociology with a focus on such issues as race/ethnicity, social class, work, deviance, and sexuality. Examines the major contemporary scholarly debates about gender and explores how gender is embedded in different institutions and organizations. A maximum of six hours may be credited to one's major.

- 6560 Sociological Theory.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SOC 3060. Encourages students to think sociologically, integrating theoretical knowledge with a critical examination of everyday experiences and social problems/issues. Addresses both classical and contemporary theories: structural, interpretive, micro and macro applications.
- 6570 Seminar in Advanced Social Psychology.** Three credits. The dynamics of human interaction: attitudes, processes, group structures, settings, and properties.
- 6620 Quantitative Research Methods.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SOC 3040 and 3050 or equivalent. Focuses on the design and application of quantitative data collection and analysis procedures to practical problems and issues. Students pursue supervised independent design and analysis using SPSS or SAS.
- 6630 Seminar in the Family.** Three credits. Principles of family organization; family as a sociocultural institution in various societies; theories of family structure, change, and deviance.
- 6640 Thesis Research.** One to six credits. Prerequisite: Student must have filed Candidacy Form and selected thesis committee before enrolling. Selection of a research problem, review of pertinent literature, collection and analysis of data, and composition of thesis. Once enrolled, student should register for at least one credit hour of master's research each semester until completion. S/U grading.
- 6650 Contemporary Social Issues.** Three credits. An in-depth investigation of a particular sociological issue or subdiscipline. A maximum of six hours may be credited to one's major.
- 6660 Program Evaluation.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SOC 3040 or permission of instructor. Methods and issues of client-centered social program evaluation. Topics include evaluation methods, proposal construction, report writing, and presentation techniques.
- 6675 Social Statistics.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SOC 3040 and 3050 or equivalent. An intermediate level treatment of statistical concepts and methods for the analysis of sociological data with emphasis on the application of multivariate statistical methods for basic and applied sociological research. Statistical analysis software (e.g., SPSS, SAS) applied to existing datasets.
- 6690 Death and Survivorship.** Three credits. The social complexities of dying, death, and survivorship with particular emphasis given to the aging population.
- 6700 Introduction to Community and Regional Development: An Interdisciplinary Seminar.** Three credits. Analysis of the problems and proposed solutions of community development from an interdisciplinary point of view.
- 6710 Japanese Society and Business.** Three credits. (Same as ECON 6540.) Japanese economy, business practices, and social and physical environment in comparison with those in other countries, particularly the United States.
- 6720 Qualitative Research Methods.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SOC 3040 and 3050 or equivalent. Focuses on the design and application of qualitative data collection and analysis procedures to practical problems and issues. Students pursue supervised independent and group projects.
- 6900 Practicum: Applied Analysis.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SOC 6620 and permission of instructor. Supervised independent study in which student is placed in an organization on a contractual basis. Course directed toward student pursuing career in applied sociology.

Courses in Anthropology [ANTH]

- 5120 Practicing Anthropology.** Three credits. Culture change theory and the practical dimension of anthropology in research and planned change implementation.
- 5740 Law and Politics in Traditional Societies.** Three credits. Law and methods of social control in primitive societies. Emphasis on the importance of a cross-cultural perspective for understanding Western political behavior.
- 5750 Anthropology of Religion.** Three credits. Cross-cultural exploration of religion, including beliefs in the supernatural, the use of ritual in secular and sacred context, and the roles of ceremonial practitioners. Focuses on how people interpret and control their worldviews through religion and ritual.



- 5751 Ritual.** Three credits. Ritual in sacred and secular contexts. Examination of function and logic of ritual in social systems.
- 5860 Historical Archaeology.** Three credits. (Same as HIST 5860.) Introduces the disciplines of historical archaeology, including examination of archaeological evidence, historical documentation, and interpretation of evidence.
- 5890 Seminar in Anthropological Theory.** Three credits. Prerequisites: 18 hours of anthropology, including ANTH 2010, 3210, 3310, 3410. A critical examination of the major anthropological theories within their historical, cultural, and political context.
- 5910 Special Projects.** One to six credits. Experience in research through which special interests or needs of the student may be pursued under individual supervision. Arrangements should be made with an instructor prior to registration.
- 5940 Ethnographic Field School.** Three to six credits. Field experience in a cross-cultural setting. Training in ethnographic research techniques.
- 5950 Archaeological Field School.** Three to six credits. Basic techniques of archeology and paleoecology through participation in actual excavation and laboratory work.

Courses in Aging Studies [SOC]

- 5020 Sociology of Aging.** Three credits. Demographic, social, and cultural aspects of aging. Emphasis on the types of problems encountered by older persons in American society.
- 5030 Topics in Gerontology.** Three credits. An opportunity to integrate gerontological theory and research techniques in working with the practical problems of older persons.
- 5040 Health Care Delivery Issues.** Three credits. An assessment of critical issues with special emphasis on policies, procedures, and intervention strategies in long-term care settings.
- 5090 Health Care Management.** Three credits. Details of the technical aspects of health care management with an emphasis on long-term care settings.
- 5800 Special Projects.** One to three credits. Experiences in research through which special interests or needs of the student may be pursued under individual supervision. Arrangements should be made with an instructor prior to registration.
- 6550 Seminar on Aging.** Three credits. In-depth investigation of selected topics in social gerontology.
- 6670 Mental Health and Aging.** Three credits. The basic concepts associated with mental health and the aging process. The epidemiology, assessment process, and approaches to treatment stressed. A positive approach to the mental well-being of the older adult provided.
- 6680 Counseling Elders.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SOC 6670 recommended but not required. Counseling techniques and outcomes common to late life therapy. Special application to specific problems and social environments of the elderly.

Courses from communication disorders, human sciences, psychology, and recreation are to be used in conjunction with these sociology courses to complete the requirements for a multidisciplinary minor in Aging Studies. Students should consult their advisors for specific courses from the various departments.