SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of social life, from peer groups to mass media to the global society. The Sociology Program at Sacred Heart University is value driven and the faculty provide a course of study that fosters awareness of social conflict and inequality while highlighting practices and structures that promote healthy self development, cohesive family and community and a fair and just society. The Program provides an excellent foundation for careers in professional sociology and social research, teaching, counseling, community service, human resources, journalism, public relations, government service, law, NGOs and other non-profit organizations.

Faculty

COLLEEN BUTLER-SWEET, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

STEPHEN J. LILLEY, PH.D.
Professor, Chair

AMANDA MORAS, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

GERALD F. REID, PH.D.
Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Professor

Major in Sociology

The major in Sociology requires the completion of 36 or 39 credits. There are three concentrations that students can choose from: General Sociology Concentration, Concentration for Teaching and the Social Research Concentration.

REQUIRED COURSES

AN 110 Human Cultural Diversity
SO 110 Sociological Imagination
SO 372 Sociological Theory

SO 373 Applications of Sociological Theory
SO 382 Methods of Social Research
SO 383 Applications of Social Research
SO 398 Senior Seminar in Sociology
Electives Two Sociology electives (other than electives used toward concentration)

Additional Requirements for General Sociology Concentration: 9 credits

SO 392 Sociology Internship

Two courses from the following:

SO 201 Poverty and Inequality in the United States
SO 239 Diversity and Oppression in Contemporary Society
SO 258 Society and the Environment
Elective Anthropology elective

Additional Requirements for the Teaching Concentration: 9 credits

Three courses from the following:

SO 216 Changing Families
SO 238 Youth and Contemporary Society
SO 239 Diversity and Oppression in Contemporary Society
Elective Anthropology elective

Additional Requirements for the Social Research Concentration: 12 credits

SO 242 Statistics for Social Research
SO 392 Sociology Internship

Two courses from the following:

SO 240 Studying Changing Human Populations
SO 254 Society and Economic Change
AN 250 Doing Ethnography: Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences
Minor in Sociology
The minor in Sociology requires the completion of the following 18 credits:
AN 110  Human Cultural Diversity
SO 110  Sociological Imagination
Elective  Anthropology elective
Electives  Three Sociology electives

Associate in Arts General Studies

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS (15 CREDITS)
Required Courses
AN 110  Human Cultural Diversity
SO 110  Sociological Imagination
Electives  Three Sociology electives

Course Descriptions
† Elective Core Course

SOCC 103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society
3 CR
This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, Sacred Heart University's Common Core Curriculum. As part of the University's Common Core: The Human Journey, this course takes up the enduring questions of human existence: 1) What does it mean to be human? 2) What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose? 3) What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world? 4) What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good? Investigations are primarily guided by insights from sociology about the social nature of human beings and the structure of societies while also including the contributions from the natural sciences and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

†SO 110 Sociological Imagination
3 CR
Students are taught how to investigate social issues as sociologists do—by tracing the troubles of men and women back to broader social forces and problems. The relevance of sociology is demonstrated through examples of applied sociology and through the students' use of social theory and methods to address social problems.

†SO 201 Poverty and Inequality in the United States
3 CR
The aim of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of poverty and socioeconomic inequality in contemporary United States. These problems are examined from theoretical, descriptive, historical and comparative perspectives. The intersection of the problems of poverty and inequality with gender, race, ethnicity and political power are also examined. Students will have an opportunity to examine critically current public policies designed to deal with the problems of poverty and inequality in American society.
Prerequisite: SO 110

†SO 215 Social Psychology: Macroprocesses
3 CR
Explores social and cultural forces that influence individual social interaction. Covers components of individual social behavior and interpersonal social behavior.
Prerequisite: SO 110

†SO 216 Changing Families
3 CR
Examines family in terms of structure, roles and functions. Emphasis is on understanding: family life cycles; the shift in perspective about the family; the conflict between family values and individual values; the interplay between individual families and the larger society; and the flexibility and diversity of
the family as an institution.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 220 Ethnography of Ireland**
3 CR
This course examines the patterns economic, social, political and cultural change in modern Ireland through the lens of selected ethnographic studies of Irish communities. In addition, this course will examine the changing theoretical interests and research methodologies of anthropologists working in Ireland. This work will be supplemented with a selection of ethnographic films focusing on Irish communities and contemporary patterns socio-cultural change in Ireland.

**SO 224 Social Capital & Civil Society**
3 CR
Centered on Putnam’s influential Bowling Alone (2001), this course examines the concept of social capital and the role of social capital in the building and maintenance of community life and civil society.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 233 Aging in America**
3 CR
The aging of the American population is the subject of this course. Emphasis is placed on the imminent retirement of the “baby boomers” and its impact on the structures of society and future generations.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 234 Sociology of Health and Health Care**
3 CR
Focuses on the social nature of illness in contemporary society, the changing health care system and the ethical issues raised by advances in medical technology.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 237 Deviance and Social Control**
3 CR
Explores the creation of deviance, the process of becoming deviant and society’s reactions to such issues as civil disorder, crime, mental illness, addiction and sexual deviance.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 238 Youth and Contemporary Society**
3 CR
The course analyzes youth as a stage in life made both promising and problematic by contemporary social structure and culture. Attention is given to the origins and forms of youthful conformity and achievement as well as misconduct and crime, with an emphasis on how those issues differ by gender, social class, race/ethnicity and variations in the organizations and social institutions that constitute the context of daily life for youth.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 239 Diversity and Oppression in Contemporary Society**
3 CR
Emphasis is on human diversity. This course is designed to give students an understanding of the conditions that lead to minority emergence and the consequence of minority status; it fosters acceptance of diversity, cultural pluralism and social change.
Prerequisite: SO 110

**SO 240 Studying Changing Human Populations**
3 CR
This course (1) identifies what kinds of changes have been occurring in the size, composition and geographic distribution of human populations at the local, national and global levels; (2) analyzes the impacts those changes have been exerting on social patterns; and (3) develops basic skills for studying those changes and impacts. Focuses on birth and fertility rates, death
rates, migration rates and changes in specific aspects of populations: size, age, sex ratio, socioeconomic status and cultural heritage/identity.

Prerequisite: SO 110

‡SO 242 Statistics for Social Research
3 CR
This course shows how to use statistics for specific purposes in social research and how to interpret the results of statistical analysis.

Prerequisites: SO 110 and C or better in MA 101 or higher level Mathematics course

‡SO 244 Racial and Ethnic Relations
3 CR
In this course students will be introduced to the various sociological perspectives and theoretical frameworks used to understand racial and ethnic relations in the United States. Racial and ethnic identities remain an important aspect of how people view themselves and others. In this course, we will discuss the dynamics of individual racial and ethnic groups including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and White Americans. We will also examine what the concepts of race and ethnicity mean and how they affect various aspects of American society.

Prerequisite: SO 110

‡SO 254 Society and Economic Change
3 CR
Major socioeconomic developments in 21st-century capitalism (e.g., consumer culture, global labor market, media empires) are studied. The persistence of inequality and poverty, fragmentation of family and community, unhealthy constructions of self-image and other social problems are explained in terms of these developments.

Prerequisite: SO 110

‡SO 257 Science, Technology and Society
3 CR
With the increasing diffusion of biotechnology, cybertechnology, communication/media technology, etc., in the world, it is prudent to study the influence of science and technology on culture and society and to consider the social impact of the next wave. While identifying serious problems and risks, the course also explores how science and technology are positive forces.

Prerequisite: SO 110

‡SO 258 Society and the Environment
3 CR
This course (1) examines how human activities contribute to environmental problems, such as climate change, pollution, disappearance of natural habitat, decreasing biodiversity, diminishing natural resources, deforestation, erosion and desertification, (2) analyzes the impact of environmental degradation on human populations and human societies; and (3) identifies those steps taken and yet to be taken to end degradation and restore environmental health. A project in which students take action in some group organization or community to make its impacts on the environment more positive is required.

Prerequisite: SO 110

‡SO 259 Social Movements
3 CR
Social movements are a powerful form of collective action with the capacity to alter societies for the better (e.g., Civil Rights Movement) or worse (e.g., fascism). Utilizing a rich vein of social theory and social scientific studies, this course offers an in-depth analysis of these fascinating social phenomena.

Prerequisite: SO 110
†SO 263 Sociology of Gender
3 CR
This course provides an introduction to the sociological study of gender by exploring gender as something that is individual, interactional and institutional. This course elaborates specifically on how gender is a central component of inequality and oppression and the intersections of gender, race, class and sexuality.
Prerequisite: SO 110

†SO 296 Sociology of Education
3 CR
This course focuses on education as a social institution and an agent of socialization. The formal organization of education, education and the family, education and social stratification and education as a vehicle for examining and solving social problems are explored.
Prerequisite: SO 110

†SO 299 Special Topics in Sociology
3 CR
Detailed and comprehensive analysis of a sociological issue or problem of current interest. Specific topic is announced in the course schedule of any given semester.
Prerequisite: SO 110

SO 372 Sociological Theory 3 CR
This sociological theory course gives students an understanding of the works of the major classical theorists whose ideas played a central role in the development of sociological theory and introduces students to the dominant contemporary perspectives in social thought. Emphasis is on developing the students’ knowledge of the range of thinking that exists concerning social issues, what the strengths and weaknesses of each position are, therefore, enabling them to work within any point of view. A seminar format is used, requiring students to do assigned readings before a topic is discussed in class since it is through class discussions that ideas are analyzed, dissected and critically assessed.
Prerequisites: AN 110, SO 110 and two Sociology electives

SO 373 Applications of Sociological Theory
3 CR
Emphasis is on sociology as an applied discipline that provides scientific explanations of important social issues. Students review several existing sociological studies framed within the various theoretical approaches studied in the Sociological Theory (SO 372). Students are expected to identify the theoretical framework used by the researcher in each study; to explain the impact of the theoretical framework on the methodology used in the study; and to propose another theoretical framework that could have been used and its impact on the selection of a research method to study the social phenomenon covered in the study. This course helps students understand the relationship between theory and method and provides a critical foundation for the design and development of their Senior thesis.
Prerequisites: SO 372, SO 382; Corequisite: SO 383

SO 382 Methods of Social Research
3 CR
Students learn how to design, conduct and report the results of social research. Attention is given to: experimental and evaluation research, field research, unstructured exploratory interviewing, content analysis, analysis of published statistical data, survey research, conceptualization and operationalization of variables, analysis of data, the writing of research reports and the logic of cause and effect in research. The course also includes learning how to use the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyze quantitative data.
Prerequisites: AN 110, SO 110 and two Sociology electives
SO 383 Applications of Social Research
3 CR
This course involves additional exercises with the analysis of published statistical data, content analysis, survey research, sampling theory, the use of SPSS for quantitative data analysis, with emphasis on applications of multivariate analysis for the purpose of examining evidence for cause-and-effect relationships. Other topics include the relationship between theory and research; examining studies which researchers have used to test and/or refine sociological theories; learning how to use one’s own research to test, refine and develop sociological theories; and developing the ability to relate the findings of existing studies to one's own research questions. This course is a critical part of the foundation for the Senior Seminar in Sociology.
Prerequisites: SO 382, SO 372; Corequisite: SO 373

SO 392 Sociology Internship
3–6 CR
The internship in Sociology offers an opportunity for qualified Sociology majors to gain practical experience in an area to which sociology applies. Internships are arranged in advance of the semester they are to be taken.
Prerequisite: Permission of Sociology faculty

SO 398 Senior Seminar in Sociology
3 CR
The capstone course in the Sociology major. Students write and defend a sociological thesis under the guidance of a faculty mentor.
Prerequisites: SO 373 and SO 383, Senior Sociology major standing

SO 399 Independent Study in Sociology
3 CR
Designed for students interested in advanced study or in pursuing areas within Sociology for which no course is offered. By special arrangement.
Prerequisite: Permission of Sociology faculty