

# Sociology (SOC)

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## Courses

### **SOC 122 Introduction to Sociology (3 Hours) ▶**

Introduction to Sociology introduces students to sociology, the "science of society," and its approach to human social life. The course shows students how sociologists conduct research and describes the basic concepts and theories sociologists use to explain the social world.

### **SOC 125 Social Problems (3 Hours) ▶**

Selected social problems will be analyzed. Problems associated with race, gender, class, deviance, crime and ecology will be examined as perennial issues in contemporary society. In addition, other topics will be analyzed as they arise or as the instructor and students determine them to be significant. The history and development of each problem, as well as possible solutions, will be examined from a variety of perspectives.

### **SOC 131 Sociology of Families (3 Hours) ▶**

This is a sociological examination of marriage and the family as a social institution. It will emphasize social theory, changing roles, family formation, socialization, domestic conflict, interaction among family members and marriage partners, and the role of marriage and the family in society.

### **SOC 146 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare (3 Hours) ▶**

This course will introduce the student to the profession of social work and to the history and development of social welfare and social service systems in the United States. This is a required introductory course in the sequence of study leading to a professional degree (BSW, MSW or DSW) in social work.

### **SOC 147 Social Work and Social Justice (3 Hours)**

The history of social movements in the United States will be integrated into exploration of current economic, political, religious and psychosocial issues, at micro and macro practice levels, relevant to the professional practice of social work at the BSW or MSW level of practice. This course is designed to support the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics and Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) requirements for culturally competent practice.

### **SOC 165 Contemporary Chinese Society (3 Hours)**

A survey of major issues and changes in Chinese society since 1949, this course focuses on social change while analyzing both continuity and change in social forces and historical processes. Social movements, political and economic change, social conflict and globalization are examined and analyzed through competing narratives.

### **SOC 180 Inequality and Diversity in The United States (3 Hours)**

In modern American society, the issue of diversity is increasingly and vigorously debated. Topics like race, gender, class, sexuality are ever-present in the media and in public discourse. But what does the word "diversity" actually mean, and why does it matter? In this course, students will explore issues of inequality and diversity with attention to how power structures shape and reproduce existing systems of stratification. The course will critically examine the historical and social developments in cultural diversity and the challenges of multiculturalism. By understanding the tensions created by the social dynamics of inequality and diversity, students can begin to identify the resulting implications for capitalism and democracy.

### **SOC 220 Food and Society (3 Hours)**

Through this exploration of food in society, students will discover the fundamental significance of the relationships between people and food. In studying the ways food is produced and consumed, we will also discover the ways food shapes and expresses relationships among people. This most basic of human needs is easily taken for granted by those who have plenty, while the causes of hunger are easily dismissed or misunderstood. This course will address such misunderstandings, as well as issues of culture, meaning, identity, power, and ecology, all through a focus on food. ANTH 220 and SOC 220 are the same course; enroll in only one.

### **SOC 240 Sociology of Community (3 Hours)**

In a world of instantaneous and mobile communication, many social observers and scholars suggest that community is being lost, and increasing numbers of Americans report feeling increasingly alienated from the people with whom bonds were traditionally the strongest. Taking this apparent paradox as its starting point, this course will examine the impact of macro-social forces such as economic transition, globalization, and technological advance on American communities, focusing especially on the post-Great Depression era. Students will explore the various bases on which communities are formed, as well as assessing threats to community solidarity. In its final analysis, this course will ask: Is community truly being lost, or is it simply changing form?

### **SOC 270 Men and Masculinities (3 Hours)**

This course explores the construct of masculinity within the cultural context of the US. It will examine the experiences of men through the life course and across a variety of institutional structures. Particular focus is given to the intersection of masculinity with race, ethnicity, social class, transgenderism and sexuality. Students will critically analyze contemporary notions of masculinity in "crisis" and men's involvement in both men's movements and gender equality movements.

**SOC 291 Independent Study\* (1-7 Hour)**

**Prerequisites :** 2.0 GPA minimum and department approval.

Independent study is a directed, structured learning experience offered as an extension of the regular curriculum. It is intended to allow individual students to broaden their comprehension of the principles of and competencies associated with the discipline or program. Its purpose is to supplement existing courses with individualized, in-depth learning experiences. Such learning experiences may be undertaken independent of the traditional classroom setting, but will be appropriately directed and supervised by regular instructional staff. Total contact hours vary based on the learning experience.

**SOC 292 Special Topics:\* (3 Hours)**

**Prerequisites :** Department approval.

This course periodically offers specialized or advanced discipline-specific content related to the study of Sociology, not normally taught in the curriculum, to interested and qualified students within the program. This is a repeatable course and may be taken more than once for credit.