

Sociology

Associate Professor Aimee Vieira; Assistant Professor Min Li

The Sociology minor provides students with a distinctive social perspective on the realities of everyday life and the relationships within societies, institutions, organizations, and groups. Students are introduced to methods of social science research and the social, cultural, and political dimensions of domestic and global issues. Students are also exposed to the interstices between sociology and other social and behavioral sciences.

Sociology Minor

SO 201	Introduction to Sociology	3
SO 202	Problems of Modern Society	3
SO/CJ 209	Methods of Social Science Research (or one of the following social science methodology courses:)	4
HI 209	Historical Methods	3
PO 220	Research Methods	3
PY 313	Experimental Psychology I	3
PY 314	Experimental Psychology II	3
SO 212 or SO 214	Cultural Anthropology Racial and Cultural Minorities	3
Two Sociology electives including SO 300 Selected Topics, SO 212 or SO 214 if not taken previously; excludes SO 209/CJ 209. Sociology cross-listed courses (SO 320, SO 402) must be taken under the SO number to apply to the minor.		6
Total Credits		18/19

Criminal Justice majors pursuing a Sociology minor cannot count cross-listed courses other than CJ 209/SO 209 for both the major and minor.

Courses

SO 201 Introduction to Sociology 3 Credits

An analysis of the order and change in social life, both at the micro (interactional) and macro (societal) levels. An examination of fundamental concepts and research methods applied to understanding culture and socialization; social groups and organizations; social stratification; and social change.

SO 202 Problems of Modern Society 3 Credits

This course examines the problems of American social institutions such as the family, the economy, and education, using basic sociological principles and paradigms. The course also covers problems of inequality, deviance, and problems of change and modernization.

SO 209 Methods of Social Science Research 4 Credits

An examination of the methodological foundations of the social sciences; the logic and technique of empirical inquiry; the nature of social facts, the operationalization of concepts, and the construction of hypotheses; research designs including surveys, interviews, experiments, observation, and evaluation; the organization and analysis of data; graph and table construction and interpretation; the common problems of empirical social research; and research ethics. Emphasis given to criminal justice applications. The lab part of the course instructs students how to use and apply SPSS and other relevant software. Cross-listed with CJ 209. Offered fall semester. Classroom and Laboratory 4 hours.

SO 212 Cultural Anthropology 3 Credits

Principles and methods in the comparative study of cultures. An examination of the concepts and theories in terms of which cultural anthropology is pursued. Offered in fall semesters.

SO 214 Racial and Cultural Minorities 3 Credits

A study of relations between racial and ethnic groups in modern America. Attention is also given to selected subordinate groups in the U.S. and other countries.

SO 216 Soc of Health, Wellness & Med 3 Credits

Introduction to the sociology of health, wellness and medicine. Examines the cultural and institutional aspects of health, wellness, and healthcare systems through basic sociological principles, paradigms and methods. Explores inequality in health outcomes, access to resources, and within the medical field. Includes an international comparative approach. Offered annually in the fall semester. Open only to Nursing majors in their third semester of the degree program, students with a Sociology minor, or by permission of the Instructor and the Department Chairperson (3 credits).

SO 300 Topics in Criminal Sociology 3 Credits

Selected topics offered on occasion.

SO 316 Aging in Society 3 Credits

Introduction to the sociological study of aging in society. This course examines the cultural, relational and institutional interpretations of aging through the life course using basic sociological principles, paradigms and methods. Students will explore inequality as it relates to aging and diverse populations in terms of health outcomes, in access to resources, and within the medical field. Offered annually in the fall semester. Prerequisites: SO 216 or SO 201, or by permission of the instructor. 3 lecture hours.

SO 320 Drugs and Society 3 Credits

This course focuses on the interrelationships between drugs and the social order. Issues considered include: the nature and effects of legal and illegal drugs; the determinants of drug effects, especially the social determinants; the history of drug prohibition; drug addiction and drug treatment; and drug policy. Cross-listed with CJ 320. Offered every other year.

SO 330 Military Sociology 3 Credits

This course provides a sociological perspective of the military as both an institution as an occupation. It examines the social structure and functions of the military and the social factors that influence behavior in and of the military. In terms of function, it examines the changing purposes of the military in view of changing national and international conditions; and in terms of structure, it examines the norms, values, traditions, organizations, and culture of the military. It is designed to provide greater insight into the routine life within the military and into contemporary issues confronting the military. Course taught in spring every other year.

SO 400 Independent Study 3 Credits

An opportunity for qualified upper class students to engage in an intensive research program in fields of interest not satisfactorily covered by regular course offerings. Periodic conferences will be required. Prerequisite: written consent of the instructor to a specific project presented by the applicant. Open only to students with a cumulative quality point average of 2.5. Offered on occasion. Prerequisite: Sociology minor and SO 201. 3 lecture hours.

SO 402 Law and Society 3 Credits

An analysis of various theoretical perspectives on the nature, courses, organization and operation of law and legal systems. Emphasis will be placed on law creation, conflict resolution, the legal profession, and the role of law in social change. Cross listed with CJ 402. Offered every other year.