### Sociology

**College of Social & Behavioral Sciences**  
**Department of Sociology & Corrections**  
113 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1561  
Website: [http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr](http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr)

**Chair:** Kimberly Greer  
Afroza Anwary, Steven Buechler, James Burnett, Barbara Carson, Joe W. Davis, H. Diane Graham, Kim Greer, Vicki Hunter, Barbara Keating, Luis Posas, Paul Prew, James Robertson, Leah Rogne, Pedro Thomas, Sherrise Truesdale, Steve Vassar, William Wagner, Dennis Waskul

Sociology is the scientific study of contemporary society, social structures, human social behavior, and the organization and functioning of groups.

The Department of Sociology operates under a mission statement that calls for shared faculty and student responsibility for the pursuit, transmission and application of sociological knowledge. Copies of the mission statement and specific academic goals are available through the Department office. As part of this shared responsibility, students majoring in Sociology are expected to integrate the various facets of their education through a series of reflexive essays and other contributions to a student portfolio.

The Sociology major is designed to provide a comprehensive undergraduate education in Sociology. It is appropriate for students who wish to apply sociological knowledge and skills in a variety of settings, for liberal arts students with an interest in Sociology and for students who wish to prepare for graduate education in Sociology. Departmental requirements for BA and BS are identical.

**Admission to Major** is granted by the Department. Minimum University admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.  
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 ("C").

### SOCIOLOGY BA, BS

**Required General Education:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology (3)</td>
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</table>

#### OPTION I, GENERAL SOCIOLOGY

**Required for Major (24 credits):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 200</td>
<td>Foundations of Sociology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 201</td>
<td>Social Research I (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 202</td>
<td>Introductory Social Statistics (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 351</td>
<td>Social Psychology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 458</td>
<td>Sociological Theory (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 463</td>
<td>Social Stratification (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 495</td>
<td>Senior Seminar (3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Choose one of the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 469</td>
<td>Survey Research (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 479</td>
<td>Sociological Ethnography (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 480</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods (3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Required for Major (Electives, 15 credits):**

Must be upper division and taken with the approval of an advisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 300/400</td>
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</table>

**Required for BA only:**

8 credits Language

**Required Minor. Yes. Any**

### SOCIOLOGY MINOR

**Required for Minor (3 credits):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology (3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Required Electives (15 credits):**

At least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Any Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 300-400</td>
<td>SOC 300-400</td>
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<td>SOC 300-400</td>
<td>SOC 300-400</td>
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<td>SOC 300-400</td>
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**POLICIES/INFORMATION**

**GPA Policy.** A minimum grade-point average of 2.0 is required for all coursework in the major. A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 is required for graduation. In addition, students must earn a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 for courses taken in the major to be eligible for field practice or internship.

**P/N Grading Policy.** Courses leading to a major or minor in sociology may not be taken on a P/N basis, except where P/N grading is mandatory.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**SOC 101 (3) Introduction to Sociology**

Overview of the nature and characteristics of human societies; the structure and processes of social life; impact of social forces on individuals and groups; interdependence of society and the individual; emphasis on cultural diversity and globalism.

Fall, Spring  
GE-5, GE-8 CD-Related

**SOC 101W (3) Introduction to Sociology**

Overview of the nature and characteristics of human societies; the structure and processes of social life; impact of social forces on individuals and groups; interdependence of society and the individual; emphasis on cultural diversity and globalism. This is a writing intensive course.

Variable  
GE-1C, GE-5, GE-8 CD-Related

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 150</td>
<td>Social Problems (3)</td>
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2007-2008 Undergraduate Bulletin
A critical description and analysis of selected social problems, with an emphasis on the sociological perspective, critical thinking, roots of group inequality, and exploration of solutions and alternatives to existing social problems.

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-7 CD-Core

SOC 200 (3) Foundations of Sociology
Elements of the sociological perspective; overview of theoretical and methodological orientations; sociological practice and application; initial development of student portfolio.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 201 (3) Social Research I
Fundamentals of research methods focusing on the research process and research design and including hypothesis testing, basic analysis and interpretation; students will develop and practice research skills.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 202 (3) Introductory Social Statistics
Basic descriptive and inferential statistics used in the analysis of sociological data.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

GE-4

SOC 208 (3) Courtship, Marriage & Family
Courtship, marriage and family are studied as social and cultural phenomena. Focuses on the relationships between society, culture, social institutions, families and individuals especially as they are affected by social change.

GE-5, GE-7 CD-Core

SOC 209 (3) Sociology of Human Sexualities
Explores the social construction of sex and sexuality, including the organization of human bodies and activities into particular categories such as female and male or homosexual and heterosexual. How this is done in specific institutional settings like the law, media, and science is a primary focus. The effects of such practices and their associated meanings, as well as resistance to them, are also investigated

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-7 CD-Core

SOC 240 (3) Rural Studies
Students will explore some of the major variables that impact the lives of rural populations. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the diversity in experiences and history in both national and international rural communities, as well as on understanding which public policies can maximize the success of rural environments.

Variable

SOC 255 (3) Juvenile Delinquency
A critical consideration of definitions of juvenile delinquency, emphasis on micro and macro level of struggle in which delinquent behavior takes place, critique of current theories on delinquency, and the juvenile justice response to delinquency.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

GE-5, GE-9

SOC 291 (1-3) Exploratory Studies
May be used to explore areas of interest to students which are not covered in regular courses. A maximum of three hours applicable toward a major or minor in the department with consent of an advisor.

Pre: Consent

Fall, Spring

SOC 307 (3) Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society
Description and analysis of sex/gender systems, interpersonal power, language and communication, the role of gender in social institutions such as the family, work, and politics, and the role of social movements in creating change in gender relations.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

CD-Core

SOC 351 (3) Social Psychology
The study of symbolic interaction as the basis of the mind, the self, and society.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall, Spring

SOC 352 (3) Humanistic Sociology
An examination of the relationships between society and the myths and illusions expressed in art and the humanities as socially constructed realities and reified symbols.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Variable

SOC 401 (3) American Society: Comparative Perspectives

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Variable

SOC 404 (3) Sociology of Aging
Social and social-psychological focus in later life. Problems and prospects of growing old in the United States.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall

SOC 405 (3) Sociology of Death
Study of the structure of human response to death, dying, and bereavement in their socio-cultural, interpersonal, and personal context. Formation of children’s perception of death, functions of the funeral, euthanasia, and suicide are among the topics to be discussed.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall

CD-Related

SOC 406 (3) Applied Sociology
Focuses on ways sociological theories, perspectives, and methods can be applied to address human concerns; how sociologists make a better world. Participants learn to use sociological methods and concepts (such as theories about social structure, social organization, and social movements) to identify, investigate, and implement solutions to problems of social organization, social process, and social change. Potential applications include issues encountered in various workplace and social situations including community agencies and organizations, government, business, health care, and other social institutions.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Fall

SOC 407 (3) Population Dynamics
The course will acquaint students with dynamic forces operating in the field of population and development. Includes an introduction to basic theories and techniques of population analysis, with coverage of global economic forces: fertility, mortality, and migration. The causes and consequences of over-population are discussed with special attention to resource depletion and food shortages.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

Variable

SOC 408 (3) Family Life Dynamics
An overview and analysis of major aspects and issues facing the American family, including cohabitation, mate selection, parenting, and changes in marriage, family and sex role dynamics. Ethnicity, race, social class, and cultural aspects of family are highlighted.

Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W

2007-2008 Undergraduate Bulletin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Pre-Requisites</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Core/Ann</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 409</td>
<td>(3) Family Violence</td>
<td>Various forms of family violence including dating violence, spouse abuse, and child abuse; social theory, empirical research and social policy on family violence; social context, responses and solutions.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 410</td>
<td>(3) Black American Families</td>
<td>To review the sociology and other literature about Black Families. To enable all students to better understand the sub-culture of the Black population in the U.S. To examine some of the problems encountered by the sociologists attempting to do good research on Black Families. To enable all students to gain insights into how the various types of Black Family social systems are organized and how they function.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<td>Fall, Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 411</td>
<td>(3) The Family Across Cultures</td>
<td>Utilizes the comparative perspective to examine marriage and family in numerous international cultures. Focuses upon similarities and differences across cultures and how different family systems deal with universal aspects of family.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>CD-Core</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 417</td>
<td>(3) Program Administration</td>
<td>Implications of sociological knowledge for the administration of Human Service programs. Theoretical and practical aspects of administration within social service systems.</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 423</td>
<td>(3) Complex Organizations</td>
<td>Analysis of the development, structure, and functioning of social processes in large-scale, formal organizations.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101, SOC 101W</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<td>SOC 425</td>
<td>(3) Social Movements</td>
<td>Survey of major sociological perspectives on social movements, including theoretical approaches and empirical research on the causes, processes, and outcomes of social movements.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 430</td>
<td>(3) Sociology of Capitalism</td>
<td>Overview of the political economy of the United States as an advanced capitalist society with a focus on economic and political inequality, the class structure, the labor process, race and gender relations, the welfare state, the global dimensions of capitalism, and modern crisis tendencies.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td>SOC 441</td>
<td>(3) Social Deviance</td>
<td>Sociological perspectives on social deviance; overview of theoretical approaches; emphasis on symbolic interactionism; issues of social control; research examples and policy implications.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Fall, Spring</td>
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<td>SOC 442</td>
<td>(3) Criminology</td>
<td>A critical consideration of myths concerning crime, perspectives on crime and their assumptions, current criminology theory, and construction of alternative explanations related to crime.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Fall, Spring</td>
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<td>SOC 446</td>
<td>(3) Race, Culture &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>Study of minority racial and cultural groups in U.S. society. An examination of how the lives of the members of these groups are affected by racism, prejudice, and discrimination.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Fall, Spring</td>
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<td>SOC 451</td>
<td>(3) Law &amp; Social Justice in Society</td>
<td>A critical look at the construction of the concepts of law and justice as it operates in the United States and an application of the principles of justice to community issues.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101, SOC 101W and CORR 106</td>
<td>Variable</td>
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<td>SOC 456</td>
<td>(3) History of Social Thought</td>
<td>A survey of ideas about the nature of society from the past to the present.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Variable</td>
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<td>SOC 457</td>
<td>(3) Classical Sociological Theory</td>
<td>A study of the 18th century forerunners and the 19th century founders of sociology.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Variable</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 458</td>
<td>(3) Sociological Theory</td>
<td>An overview of sociological theory that surveys the classical tradition and emphasizes contemporary theories including functionalism, conflict theory, rational choice theory, and symbolic interactionism as well as recent trends in theoretical developments.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 461</td>
<td>(3) Urban Sociology</td>
<td>A survey of sociological theory and research on the ecology, demography, and social organization of the urban community. Presents a sociological interpretation of the development of urban society and how the process of urbanization affects the basic societal institutions and individual behavior.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Variable</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 463</td>
<td>(3) Social Stratification</td>
<td>An overview of the causes, processes and consequences of social stratification in society. Includes an overview of classical statements about stratification and focuses on social inequalities rooted in social class structures, the organization of political power, and social hierarchies based on race and gender differences in society.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 465</td>
<td>(3) Law &amp; Chemical Dependency</td>
<td>Addresses aspects of criminal and civil law pertinent to substance abuse.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 466</td>
<td>(3) Program Planning</td>
<td>Theoretical and practical aspects of the planning process within social service systems. Examines the social context of planning and the use of a sociological knowledge base for planning in Human Services.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 469</td>
<td>(3) Survey Research</td>
<td>Techniques of survey research, interview, and questionnaire construction, field administration, and sampling methodology.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 470</td>
<td>(3) Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction</td>
<td>Parent-child relationships in societal context; socialization theories; classic and contemporary research; parenting applications; current issues.</td>
<td>Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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</table>
SOC 479 (3) Sociological Ethnography
Exploration of the methodological and theoretical issues in sociological ethnography; examination of ethnic, deviant, and other constructed social worlds and the means by which sociologists study these worlds.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Spring

SOC 480 (3) Qualitative Methods
Participant observation, focused interviews, and qualitative analysis; students actively participate in a field research project.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Fall

SOC 482 (3) Social Change
Analysis of social forces and processes involved in changing norms, values, and structures in traditional and modern societies. Examines both planned and unplanned change.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable

SOC 483 (3) The Family: A Sociological Analysis
Theory development and research findings about family systems with a special emphasis on societal influences (social, economic, political) on the changing family.
Variable

SOC 484 (3) Sociology of Religion
Analysis of the structures, functions, and origins of religion, its relationship to other social institutions, and its role in modern secular society. Examines processes of individual religiosity and explores current religious movements and trends.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable

SOC 485 (2-6) Selected Topics
Topics vary as announced in class schedule. May be retaken for credit if topic varies.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable

SOC 490 (1-3) Workshop
Workshop topics vary as announced in class schedule. May be retaken for credit.
Variable

SOC 491 (1-6) In-Service
Topics vary as arranged by students and instructor. May be retaken for credit.
Variable

SOC 492 (1) Honors Reading
For Honors students only.
Variable

SOC 495 (3) Senior Seminar
Review of central ideas, concepts, and controversies in sociology; detailed examination of the sociological perspective and its implications for vocational or other social action; preparation of integrative essay based on portfolio materials. Students must have completed or be currently enrolled in all other required courses for the sociology major.
Pre: SOC 200
Fall, Spring

SOC 497 (1-12) Internship: Sociology
The internship in sociology is designed to provide opportunity to apply classroom learning, to practice and enhance skills, to experience professional socialization, and to explore a career. It also serves as a vehicle for the student to become more aware of personal strengths and identify areas in which further growth is needed.
Pre: Consent
Fall, Spring

SOC 499 (1-6) Individual Study
A maximum of six credits is applicable toward a single major in the department; three credits toward a minor.
Pre: Consent
Fall, Spring

SOCIOLOGY