Sociology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Sociology & Corrections
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Website: http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr

Chair: Barbara Carson

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Sociology is the scientific study of society and culture examining patterns of human social behavior. The sociology program at Minnesota State University Mankato is dedicated to the pursuit, transmission and application of sociological knowledge in order to understand and transform the social world. The pursuit of sociological knowledge involves scholarly inquiry by faculty and students. The transmission of sociological knowledge entails teaching and learning within and beyond the academy. The application of sociological knowledge translates the unique insights of sociological perspectives into our professional activities and daily lives. The sociology program at MSU leads to careers in academic and applied settings including human services, government, business, non-profit organizations and social action organizations.

The Sociology undergraduate major includes three options: Option I: General Sociology provides a liberal arts curriculum along with research skill development for students interested in a comprehensive education or preparation for graduate education. Option II: Applied Sociology prepares students for careers in a variety of applied settings. This applied program includes an internship. Option III: The Globalization Studies Emphasis provides students a global perspective to understand global social processes and the role of the United States in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Sociology program uses a portfolio model of student professional development. Students planning to major in sociology should take SOC 200: Foundations of Sociology as soon as possible to start their portfolio. Our program mission statement, program goals, career information and more are available on our website (http://sbs.mnsu.edu/soccorr).

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.

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.

SOCIIOLOGY BA

Option I: General Sociology

Required General Education
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Major Common Core
(Choose 21 credits)
SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)
SOC 201 Social Research I (3)
SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)

SOC 202
SOC 201
SOC 200
SOC 101

SOC 351 Social Psychology (3)
SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)
SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)
SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)

Major Restricted Electives
(Choose one of the following)
SOC 469 Survey Research (3)
SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC 480 Qualitative Methods (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives
Choose fifteen credits from 300-400-level courses.
SOC 307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC 360 Indigenous People and Environmental Struggles (3)
SOC 402 Medical Sociology (3)
SOC 404 Sociology of Aging (3)
SOC 405 Sociology of Death (3)
SOC 407 Population Dynamics (3)
SOC 408 Family Life Dynamics (3)
SOC 409 Family Violence (3)
SOC 417 Program Administration (3)
SOC 420 Identity Work in Women’s Reentry Experiences (3)
SOC 423 Complex Organizations (3)
SOC 425 Social Movements (3)
SOC 430 Sociology of Globalization (3)
SOC 441 Social Deviance (3)
SOC 442 Criminology (3)
SOC 446 Race, Culture & Ethnicity (3)
SOC 451 Law & Social Justice in Society (3)
SOC 460 Environmental Sociology (3)
SOC 461 Urban Sociology (3)
SOC 465 Law & Chemical Dependency (3)
SOC 466 Program Planning (3)
SOC 469 Survey Research (3)
SOC 470 Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction (3)
SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC 480 Qualitative Methods (3)
SOC 482 Social Change (3)
SOC 483 The Family and Society (3)
SOC 484 Sociology of Religion (3)
SOC 485 Selected Topics (2-6)
SOC 490 Workshop (1-3)
SOC 491 In-Service (1-6)
SOC 492 Honors Reading (1)
SOC 493 Applied Sociology (3)
SOC 497 Internship: Sociology (1-12)
SOC 499 Individual Study (1-6)

Other Graduation Requirements
Required for BA only: Language (8 credits)

Required Minor. Yes. Any.

Option II: Applied Sociology

Required General Education
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Major Common Core
(Choose 27-30 credits)
SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)
SOC 201 Social Research I (3)
SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)
SOC 351 Social Psychology (3)
SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)
SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)
SOC 493 Applied Sociology (3)
SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)
SOC 497 Internship: Sociology (1-12)
Sociology

Major Restricted Electives
(Choose one of the following)
SOC  469 Survey Research (3)
SOC  479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC  480 Qualitative Methods (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives
(Choose 15 credits)
SOC  307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC  351 Social Psychology (3)
SOC  402 Medical Sociology (3)
SOC  404 Sociology of Aging (3)
SOC  405 Sociology of Death (3)
SOC  407 Population Dynamics (3)
SOC  408 Family Life Dynamics (3)
SOC  409 Family Violence (3)
SOC  417 Program Administration (3)
SOC  423 Complex Organizations (3)
SOC  425 Social Movements (3)
SOC  430 Sociology of Globalization (3)
SOC  441 Social Deviance (3)
SOC  442 Criminology (3)
SOC  446 Race, Culture & Ethnicity (3)
SOC  451 Law & Social Justice in Society (3)
SOC  458 Sociological Theory (3)
SOC  460 Environmental Sociology (3)
SOC  466 Urban Sociology (3)
SOC  468 Social Stratification (3)
SOC  469 Law & Chemical Dependency (3)
SOC  470 Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction (3)
SOC  479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC  480 Qualitative Methods (3)
SOC  485 Selected Topics (2-6)
SOC  490 Workshop (1-3)
SOC  491 In-Service (1-6)
SOC  492 Honors Reading (1)
SOC  499 Individual Study (1-6)

Option II: Applied Sociology

Required General Education
SOC  101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Major Restricted Electives
(Choose one of the following)
SOC  469 Survey Research (3)
SOC  479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC  480 Qualitative Methods (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives
(Choose 6-9 credits)
Must be upper division and taken with the approval of an advisor to total 39 credits in the major.
SOC  307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
Sociology

SOC 402 Medical Sociology (3)
SOC 404 Sociology of Aging (3)
SOC 405 Sociology of Death (3)
SOC 407 Population Dynamics (3)
SOC 408 Family Life Dynamics (3)
SOC 409 Family Violence (3)
SOC 417 Program Administration (3)
SOC 420 Identity Work in Women’s Reentry Experiences (3)
SOC 423 Complex Organizations (3)
SOC 425 Social Movements (3)
SOC 430 Sociology of Globalization (3)
SOC 441 Social Deviance (3)
SOC 442 Criminology (3)
SOC 446 Race, Culture & Ethnicity (3)
SOC 451 Law & Social Justice in Society (3)
SOC 460 Environmental Sociology (3)
SOC 461 Urban Sociology (3)
SOC 465 Law & Chemical Dependency (3)
SOC 466 Program Planning (3)
SOC 469 Survey Research (3)
SOC 470 Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction (3)
SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC 480 Qualitative Methods (3)
SOC 482 Social Change (3)
SOC 483 The Family and Society (3)
SOC 484 Sociology of Religion (3)
SOC 485 Selected Topics (2-6)
SOC 490 Workshop (1-3)
SOC 491 In-Service (1-6)
SOC 492 Honors Reading (1)
SOC 499 Individual Study (1-6)

SOCIOLOGY: GLOBALIZATION STUDIES BA

Required General Education
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Major Common Core
SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)
SOC 201 Social Research I (3)
SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)
SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)
SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)
SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)
Add ONE of the following (Choose 3 credits):
SOC 469 Survey Research (3)
SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC 480 Qualitative Methods (3)

Major Restricted Electives
Please select a total of 18 credits of major restricted electives.

Required Electives
(Choose 3-6 credits)
ANTH 436W Anthropology of Aging (3)
ETHN 330 Immigration and Ethnicity (3)
GEOG 425 Economic Geography (3)
GWS 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
POL 231 World Politics (3)
POL 241 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)

SOCIOLOGY MINOR

Required for Minor (3 credits)
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Required Electives (18 credits)
At least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level.
SOC Any Level
SOC Any Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level

Sociology

POL 431 International Relations (3)
POL 435 Capitalism, Nationalism, and Democracy (3)
POL 436 International Political Economy (3)
POL 448 Political Development & Change (3)
SOWK 255 Global Responses to Human Need (3)
URBS 150 Sustainable Communities (3)

Other Graduation Requirements
Required for BA only: Language (8 credits)

SOCIOLOGY: GLOBALIZATION STUDIES BS

Required General Education
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Major Common Core
SOC 200 Foundations of Sociology (3)
SOC 201 Social Research I (3)
SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)
SOC 458 Sociological Theory (3)
SOC 463 Social Stratification (3)
SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)
Add ONE of the following (Choose 3 credits):
SOC 469 Survey Research (3)
SOC 479 Sociological Ethnography (3)
SOC 480 Qualitative Methods (3)

Major Restricted Electives
Please select a total of 18 credits of major restricted electives.
Departmental Courses
(Choose 12-15 credits)
SOC 307 Sex & Gender in Contemporary Society (3)
SOC 407 Population Dynamics (3)
SOC 425 Social Movements (3)
SOC 430 Sociology of Globalization (3)
SOC 446 Race, Culture & Ethnicity (3)
SOC 460 Environmental Sociology (3)
SOC 461 Urban Sociology (3)
SOC 482 Social Change (3)
SOC 490 Workshop (1-3)
SOC 491 In-Service (1-6)
SOC 492 Honors Reading (1)
SOC 499 Individual Study (1-6)

Other College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Electives
(Choose 3-6 credits)
ANTH 436W Anthropology of Aging (3)
ETHN 330 Immigration and Ethnicity (3)
GEOG 425 Economic Geography (3)
GWS 220 Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
POL 231 World Politics (3)
POL 241 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)

SOCIOPOLY MINOR

Required for Minor (3 credits)
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

Required Electives (18 credits)
At least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level.
SOC Any Level
SOC Any Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level
SOC 300-400 Level
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
Diverse Culture - Purple

**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
WI, GE-5, GE-8
Diverse Culture - Purple

**SOC 150 (3) Social Problems**
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-8
Diverse Culture - Purple

**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.
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
Diverse Culture - Purple

**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
Diverse Culture - Purple

**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

**SOC 325 (3) Sociology of Popular Culture**
This course examines the sociological significance of popular culture and focuses on how popularized aspects of social life are produced, consumed and experienced by members of society. Includes discussion of celebrities, sports, music, television, movies, commercials and consumption practices.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable

**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 360 (3) Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Struggles**
Introduces students to the differences between indigenous and Western views of the environment. Analyzes the impact of invasion and encroachment on indigenous societies' interactions with nature. Compares historical and contemporary environmental issues in indigenous societies.
Variable
GE-10
Diverse Culture - Purple

**SOC 398 (0) CPT: Co-Operative Experience**
Curricular Practical Training: Co-Operative Experience is a zero-credit full-time practical training experience for one summer and on adjacent fall or spring term. Special rules apply to preserve full-time student status. Please contact an advisor in your program for complete information.
Pre: At least 60 credits earned; in good standing; instructor permission; co-op contract; other prerequisites may also apply.
Fall, Spring, Summer

**SOC 402 (3) Medical Sociology**
Introduces students to central topics in medical sociology including; social factors responsible for people's health outcomes; social construction of health and illness; health inequalities; evolution of the social institution of medicine; and/or issues related to race/ethnicity, social class and gender.
Fall

**SOC 403 (3) Sociology of Mental Health**
This course brings a sociological perspective to the understanding of mental health and illness. Students review the history and the perception of mental illness in western society, and critically examine how social factors influence the definition and the responses to mental disorders.
Fall, Spring

**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
Diverse Culture - Purple
Sociology

**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

**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
Variable

**SOC 409 (3) Family Violence**
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.
Fall

**SOC 417 (3) Program Administration**
Implications of sociological knowledge for the administration of Human Services programs. Theoretical and practical aspects of administration within social service systems.
Spring

**SOC 420 (3) Identity Work in Women's Reentry Experiences**
Applies sociological theories of identity to the experience of women being released from prison. Taught at the women's prison in Shakopee, Minnesota and integrates Minnesota State Mankato students with students drawn from the educational program located within the women's prison in Shakopee.
Fall, Spring
Diverse Cultures - Gold

**SOC 423 (3) Complex Organizations**
Analysis of the development, structure, and functioning of social processes in large-scale, formal organizations.
Pre: SOC 101, SOC 101W
Fall

**SOC 425 (3) Social Movements**
Survey of major sociological perspectives on social movements, including theoretical approaches and empirical research on the causes, processes, and outcomes of social movements.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Spring

**SOC 430 (3) Sociology of Globalization**
Overview of the role of the United States in an increasingly globalized society with a focus on economic and political inequality, the class structure, the labor process, race and gender relations, the global dimensions of capitalism, and modern crisis tendencies.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**SOC 441 (3) Social Deviance**
Sociological perspectives on social deviance; overview of theoretical approaches; emphasis on symbolic interactionism; issues of social control; research examples and policy implications.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Fall, Spring

**SOC 442 (3) Criminology**
A critical consideration of myths concerning crime, perspectives on crime and their assumptions, current criminology theory, and construction of alternative explanations related to crime.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Fall, Spring

**SOC 446 (3) Race, Culture & Ethnicity**
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.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Fall, Spring
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**SOC 451 (3) Law & Social Justice in Society**
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.
Pre: SOC 101, SOC 101W and CORR 106
Variable

**SOC 458 (3) Sociological Theory**
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.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Spring

**SOC 460 (3) Environmental Sociology**
Examines the sociological relationship between people and the environment including: ways various societies view the environment, social changes from ecological degradation, and solutions to environmental problems. Topics may include a sociological analysis of climate change, agriculture, and resource extraction.
Spring
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**SOC 461 (3) Urban Sociology**
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.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Variable
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**SOC 463 (3) Social Stratification**
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.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Spring
Diverse Cultures - Purple

**SOC 465 (3) Law & Chemical Dependency**
Addresses aspects of criminal and civil law pertinent to substance abuse.
Fall

**SOC 466 (3) Program Planning**
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.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W
Spring
**SOC 469 (3) Survey Research**
Techniques of survey research, interview, and questionnaire construction, field administration, and sampling methodology.
Fall

**SOC 470 (3) Sociology of Parent-Child Interaction**
Parent-child relationships in societal context; socialization theories; classic and contemporary research; parenting applications; current issues.
Spring

**SOC 479 (3) Sociological Ethnography**
Examination of ethnographic methodologies in sociology with emphasis on analytic, performance, and autoethnography. Exploration of ethics in ethnography, visual sociology, and first-hand experience in both crafting and presenting ethnographic works.
Pre: SOC 101 or SOC 101W; SOC 201 or similar science research course with instructor permission.
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; SOC 201 or similar social science research course with instructor permission.
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 and Society**
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 493 (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 201. Senior Standing; SOC 201 or equivalent with permission
Fall

**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, SOC 201, SOC 458
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