SOCIOLOGY

Academic Year

2012-2013

School

School of Humanities and Social Science School Web site

School Dean

Janet Dizinno, Ph.D. hssdean@stmarytx.edu

Department

Sociology

Department Chair

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Description of Program/Major

Sociology is the social science that studies human groups and society. It explores the multiple influences that groups exert in our personal lives: friendships, marriages, families, work units, businesses, schools, neighborhoods, organizations, communities, churches and clubs, among others.

In addition, sociology analyzes how and why groups form, hold together, and sometimes break up. It seeks an accurate and scientific understanding of society and of social life.

Likewise, sociology explores the many social and cultural forces that operate throughout society— forces that form individual persons, shape their attitudes and behaviors, and determine social events.

Sociology students learn countless applied and practical ways to change and to improve human life. Through the study of society, students learn how to deal more effectively with others while developing their thinking, analytical, problem-solving, research and communication skills.

Degree Requirements

Core Curriculum (SMC)

St. Mary's University Core (30 Hours)
All St. Mary's Core SMC13## "Reflection" courses must be completed before registering for SMC23## "Practice" courses. "Reflection" courses can be taken in any order followed by "Practice" courses in any order.

SMC 1301	Foundations of Civilization	3
SMC 1311	Foundations of Reflection: Self (Formerly PL 1310)	3

SMC 1312	Foundations of Reflection: Nature	3
SMC 1313	Foundations of Reflection: Others	3
SMC 1314	Foundations of Reflection: God (Formerly TH 2301)	3
SMC 2301	Foundations of Practice: Ethics (Formerly PL 2332)	3
SMC 2302	Foundations of Practice: Civic Engagement and Social Action	3
SMC 2303	Foundations of Practice: Fine Arts and Creative Process (Formerly FA 1101, FA 1102, FA 1103)	3
SMC 2304	Foundations of Practice: Literature	3
SMC 4301	Capstone Seminar: Prospects for Community and Civilization	3

School Specific Core (SSC)

School of Humanities and Social Sciences School Specific Core (30 Hours)

Speech	SE 1321 (for international students), SE 1341, SE 2333, SE 3391	3
Composition and Rhetoric (grade of "C" or better)	EN 1311, EN 1313 (for international students)	3
Mathematics	MT 1301, MT 1302, MT 1303, MT 1305, MT 1306, MT 1411, MT 2412	3
Foreign Languages	Six hours at the sophomore level (2311, 2312) in a Foreign Language previously studied for a minimum of one year; Or, 6 hours of introductory level (1311, 1312) in a Foreign Language not previously studied; Or, 12 hours of CLEP credit for a language previously studied.	6
History	Any HS courses.	3
Science	BL 1301, BL 1302, BL 3311, BL 3312, CH 1303, CH 1304, CH 1401, CH 1402, EG 2300, ES 1300, ES 1303, ES 1304, ES 1373, PY 1300, PY 1310, PY 1401, PY 1402	3
Theology	Advanced Theology 33XX, HU 3303	3
Fine Arts	AR, DM, MU	3
Literature	EN 23XX	3

Four Year Degree Plan

Sample 4-year degree plan

Department Courses and Descriptions

Introductory Sociology (3)
SC 1311
An introduction to the scope and methods of sociology, emphasizing the concepts of social structure, organization, institution, culture and socialization, and including analyses of primary and secondary groups, sex roles, social control, stratification, minorities, collective behavior, and population dynamics. Prerequisite for all courses in the Criminology program.

Cultural Anthropology (3)
SC 2331
An examination of the unity and diversity of cultural patterns in both simple and complex societies, including consideration of their political, intellectual, technical, aesthetic, and other social institutions in cross-cultural perspective.

Introduction to Archaeology (3)
SC 2332
Introduction to scientific study of material remains (fossil relics, artifacts, monuments, tools, pottery, graves, buildings, etc.) of past human life and activities. How archaeologists retrieve, process, analyze, interpret surviving prehistoric materials. Insights into cultural values, symbols, norms, customs, traditions, etc.

Special Topics in Sociology (3)
SC 3300
Topics will vary from semester to semester. May be retaken for additional credit when a different topic is offered.

North American Indians (3)
SC 3301
Survey of Indians from the time of European contact through the present, emphasizing the situation of contemporary Native Americans.

Interviewing Techniques (3)
SC 3305

Qualitative Research Methods (3)
SC 3306
An introduction to the methods used to conduct qualitative research in natural social settings. An examination of the methods of ethnography, participant observation/non-participant observation, focus group, interview, and use of documentary sources will be included. Students may have the opportunity to engage in hands-on research. Additional topics include data coding, data analysis, and research ethics. Prerequisite: Junior standing and have completed nine hours of pscyhology or sociology related courses.

Sociology of Religion (3)
SC 3308
An introduction to basic issues in the sociology of religion, including alternative definitions of religion, the relationship of religion to economic, political and other social institutions, and the influence of religion on personal development, social order, conflict, and change. Religious institutions are viewed in historical and cross-cultural perspective.

Medical Anthropology (3)
SC 3309
This course examines a variety of issues related to health, illness, and health care from an anthropological

perspective. It explores how people in various cultures, both Western and non-Western deal with illness, disease, birth, death, curing and maintaining health.

Sociology of Sex Roles (3)
SC 3310
An examination of the process of learning male and female roles. Topics include sexual identity, gender stereotypes, cross-cultural differences in gender roles and socialization, and changes in these roles in contemporary society.

Language and Culture (3)
SC 3312
Examines the dynamics between language and culture in cross-cultural perspective. It explores the functions and use of language in society, the symbolic nature of language, theories regarding the evolution of human language, linguistic change, and how humans use language in social contexts.

Future Societies (3)
SC 3315
An introduction to social forecasting and the sociology of the future. This course explores a range of alternative possibilities for the future of human societies, including both optimistic and pessimistic scenarios. Topics include the impact of technology on social relations, the future of major social institutions, and prospects for the solution of global problems.

Social Stratification (3)
SC 3320
An analysis of social stratification utilizing social class as the unit of study. The course will focus on the structure of social classes in the U.S. as a major factor influencing individual and group life chances with regards to education, crime, health, and disease, world views and life styles.

Social Issues (3)
SC 3321
Current discussions of contemporary social problems, including issues related to family and sexuality, health and substance abuse, education, poverty, prejudice and discrimination, population and environment, war and peace.

Juvenile Delinquency (3)
SC 3324
An examination of juvenile delinquency in the U.S.: its nature, extent, causes, effects, prevention and rehabilitation. Sociological approaches to delinquency are em phasized, but psychological and legal approaches are also considered.

Criminology (3)
SC 3325
An overview of the study of crime and the development of criminology. The nature, extent, causes, effects, rehabilitation and prevention of crime are examined from a sociological perspective. Psychological, legal, and philosophical approaches to crime are also considered.

Social Organization & Social Systems (3)
SC 3342
An analysis of human behavior in organizations viewed as social systems. Topics include formal and informal structures, corporate cultures, organizational goals and problems, communication, interpersonal relations, adaptation, and change.

The Family (3)
SC 3343
A study of the family as an institution and social system, including discussions of dating and mate selection, premarital and extramarital sex, birth control, abortion, illegitimacy, family planning, spousal relationships, interracial and interfaith marriages, socialization, social control, and change.

Group Dynamics (3)
SC 3352
An analysis of the structure, functions and processes of small groups from a social-psychological perspective. Practical applications are explored for education, counseling, social work, business, and law.

Public Opinion and Propaganda (3)
SC 3353
An examination of the nature, extent, and purposes of propaganda and of other social and psychological influences on public opinion. Topics include techniques of persuasion and the role of mass media and advertising in shaping public attitudes.

Internship in Sociology (3)
SC 3355
Experiential education related to the theoretical and researcch topics studied in sociology. The experience consists of pre-professional work in social agencies, community programs, and other appropriate settings approved by the department. Junior/Senior status and at least 9 hours of upper-division sociology are prerequisites. Involves written sociological analysis. 3 to 6 semester hours of credit, with a maximum of 3 hours per semester.

Urban Sociology (3)
SC 3361
An analysis of cities, their historical development and social organization. Topics include urbanization in developed and developing societies, urban stratification and lifestyles, and urban, metropolitan and regional planning.

Demography and Ecology (3)
SC 3362
The demographic study of human populations, including fertility, mortality, migration, age, sex, class composition. The ecological study of relations between human societies and their environments. Analysis of environmental problems and proposed solutions.

Minority Relations (3)
SC 3371
A study of et nic, religious and racial relations in the U.S. and other countries. Topics include power

relationships, prejudice, discrimination, ethnic stratification, migration, assimilation and pluralism. Minorities to be considered include Blacks, Mexican-Americans and Native Americans.

Introductory Statistics (3)
SC 3381
An introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics designed for the student of behavioral sciences. (same as AN, SE 3381)

Social Gerontology (3)
SC 4300
A study of the aging process, with emphasis on its social, cultural and psychological aspects. Topics include the effects of aging on personality, intelligence, sexuality and maturity; family relationships; the demography of aging; and the relevance of gerontology theory and research for social policy.

Death and Dying (3)
SC 4305
A holistic treatment of the dying person and his/her environment. Topics include cross-cultural differences in grief and mourning behaviors, psychological process of the terminally ill, funeral practices, hospice alternatives, and ethical problems related to the medical extension of life.

Sociological Research (3)
SC 4383
An introduction to the history and methods of sociological research. Topics include the logic of scientific research, observation, questionnaires, interviews, content analysis, experiments, descriptive statistics, sampling, computerized data analysis and presentation. Students conduct actual research project.

Sociological Theory (3)
SC 4384
An overview of major European and American social theorists and their influence on current sociological research and applications.

Department Faculty

Sociology Faculty Website

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