

SOCIOLOGY

Academic Year

2014-2015

School

School of Humanities and Social Science [School Web site](#)

School Dean

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

Department

Sociology

Department Chair

Janet Armitage, Ph.D. jarmitage1@stmarytx.edu

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 societyâ 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.

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|----------|---|---|
| SMC 1301 | Foundations of Civilization | 3 |
| SMC 1311 | Foundations of Reflection: Self | 3 |
| SMC 1312 | Foundations of Reflection: Nature | 3 |
| SMC 1313 | Foundations of Reflection: Others | 3 |
| SMC 1314 | Foundations of Reflection: God | 3 |
| SMC 2301 | Foundations of Practice: Ethics | 3 |
| SMC 2302 | Foundations of Practice: Civic Engagement and Social Action | 3 |
| SMC 2303 | Foundations of Practice: Fine Arts and Creative Process | 3 |

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| 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 Degree Plan](#)

Department Courses and Descriptions

SC 1311

Introductory Sociology (3)

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.

SC 2331

Cultural Anthropology (3)

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.

SC 2332

Introduction to Archaeology (3)

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.

SC 3300

Special Topics in Sociology (3)

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Topics will vary from semester to semester. May be retaken for additional credit when a different topic is offered.

SC 3301

North American Indians (3)

Survey of Indians from the time of European contact through the present, emphasizing the situation of contemporary Native Americans.

SC 3305

Interviewing Techniques (3)

SC 3306

Qualitative Research Methods (3)

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 psychology or sociology related courses.

SC 3308

Sociology of Religion (3)

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.

SC 3309

Medical Anthropology (3)

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.

SC 3310

Sociology of Sex Roles (3)

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.

SC 3312

Language and Culture (3)

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.

SC 3315

Future Societies (3)

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.

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SC 3320

Social Stratification (3)

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.

SC 3321

Social Issues (3)

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.

SC 3324

Juvenile Delinquency (3)

An examination of juvenile delinquency in the U.S.: its nature, extent, causes, effects, prevention and rehabilitation. Sociological approaches to delinquency are emphasized, but psychological and legal approaches are also considered.

SC 3325

Criminology (3)

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.

SC 3342

Social Organization & Social Systems (3)

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.

SC 3343

The Family (3)

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.

SC 3352

Group Dynamics (3)

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.

SC 3353

Public Opinion and Propaganda (3)

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.

SC 3355

Internship in Sociology (3)

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Experiential education related to the theoretical and research 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.

SC 3361

Urban Sociology (3)

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.

SC 3362

Demography and Ecology (3)

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.

SC 3371

Minority Relations (3)

A study of ethnic, 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.

SC 3381

Introductory Statistics (3)

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

SC 4300

Social Gerontology (3)

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.

SC 4305

Death and Dying (3)

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.

SC 4383

Sociological Research (3)

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.

SC 4384

Sociological Theory (3)

An overview of major European and American social theorists and their influence on current sociological research and

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applications.

Department Faculty

[Sociology Faculty Website](#)

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