

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Ayers, Chair; Dr. W. P. Anderson, Dr. Campbell, Dr. S. Jones.

The Sociology program of Grove City College rests upon the belief that the study of social relationships and social organization, under girded by a Christian worldview, is essential for all who are committed to shaping our nation upon the ideals and institutions of a free society. Our program, consequently, prepares students (majors and non-majors) for careers in public policy, graduate study and professional research, criminal justice, or the helping professions.

Although we use the basic sociological theories in our teaching, we analyze their premises and conclusions in light of our Christian presuppositions. While we believe in the value of careful, thorough, empirically-based research, we attempt to be guided in our research by Biblical principles as they apply to the subjects under investigation.

In sum, we seek to help students develop a Christian mind, to use the principles and methods of sociology to examine and understand the world, especially the group behaviors, institutional structures, and social forces that so deeply affect the lives of individuals, and to serve God and others faithfully and creatively in contemporary society.

Sociology majors are provided with focused, discipline-specific instruction in professional writing by taking the Writing Intensive (WI) course Sociology 277 “Social Research Methods,” and in professional speaking by taking the Speaking Intensive (SI) course Sociology 452 “Sociology Colloquium.” Information Literacy (IL) instruction is also incorporated in Sociology 277, focusing on knowledge and use of electronic information technology and resources, critically assessing this information, and teaching skills that explore scholarly research and publishing processes within the field of Sociology.

Course requirements for Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology (36 hours)

Core Requirements (21 hours):

Sociology 101, 201, 277, 452, 471, and 472.

Psychology 203.

Elective Requirements (15 hours):

Fifteen hours from: Sociology 103 or 241; Sociology 203, 251, 308, 312, 314, 321, 331, 356, 390, 460, 499 or Psychology 208. One of the following courses may also count as a Sociology elective: Economics 306, History 357, or Psychology 211.

A Sociology Internship (SOCI 480) may not be counted as an elective course toward the major, though Sociology 480 grades will be included in the Major Quality Point Average (MQPA) for Sociology majors.

Recommended electives:

Students preparing for careers in criminal justice are encouraged to take the following courses as part of their major: Sociology 203, 314, 331, 356, 480, and Economics 306 or

History 357. In addition students should select the following general electives: History 317-318; Political Science 308 and 309; and Psychology 312.

Students preparing for careers in any of the helping professions or in Christian ministry are encouraged to take the following courses as part of their major: Sociology 203, 251, 308, 312, 356, and 480; Psychology 208 or 211, or History 357. In addition, they should consider the following general electives: Religion 216 and Psychology 206, 210, 310, and 312.

Students are expected to contact their advisors for a detailed schedule of courses recommended to meet requirements for a major.

Course requirements for a minor in Sociology (18 hours)

A minor in Sociology consists of 18 hours of Sociology courses including Sociology 471.

SOCIOLOGY (SOCI)

101. FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY. An introductory study of the major and enduring theoretical ideas, concepts, methods, and debates that have shaped and informed the discipline of Sociology from its inception to the current day, with a particular focus on those which have relevance to the human quest for understanding and attaining both social order and individual freedom. Recommended to precede all other Sociology courses. *Semester course, three hours.*

103. INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. An introduction to the study of culture, its meaning and significance for human beings, and the ways in which man organizes his activities to meet universal human needs, especially in simpler societies. *Fall semester course and alternate Spring semesters, three hours.*

201. SOCIAL PROBLEMS. An analysis and interpretation of social problems: war and violence, substance abuse, crime and delinquency, environmental problems, world population and hunger, poverty, family discord, race, sex roles, and sexual deviance. *Semester course, three hours.*

203. SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR. A study of the social aspects of personal deviation including consideration of the alcoholic, the drug addict, the suicidal and the sexually maladjusted from the perspective of social background, causative factors, and possible therapy. Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or 201. *Alternate Fall semesters, three hours.*

241. MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY. A study of the social and cultural aspects of medicine and health, strongly emphasizing the results of cross-cultural and comparative research. Topics include health professionals and services around the world, alternative healers, the demography of health and illness, and privatized versus government-sponsored health care systems. *Alternate Spring semesters, three hours.*

251. COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE. A general introduction to marriage and the family emphasizing practical living. Topics include dating, courtship, engagement,

marriage, romantic love, and marital adjustment including the roles experienced through life - parenthood and child rearing and divorce. *Semester course, three hours.*

277. SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS. Research methods in the major phases of sociology investigation: the logic of research, its design and analysis, and specific methods of data collection. Includes training in locating, assessing, importing, modifying and analyzing secondary data; general knowledge of key sociological information sources; basic MicroCase and SPSS statistical software training; and hands-on instruction in all stages of writing professional research reports. This course fulfills the discipline-specific Writing Intensive (WI) and Information Literacy (IL) requirements for Sociology majors. Three lectures and two lab hours per week. Prerequisite: Six hours of sociology including Sociology 101. *Fall semester only, four hours.*

308. SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION. This course seeks to answer many questions concerning religion from a sociological perspective focusing on how religion affects individuals and societies, promotes both cohesion and conflict, and enhances or retards social change and how the processes of secularization are shaping the modern world. Prerequisite: Sociology 101. *Alternate Fall semesters, three hours.*

312. THE FAMILY AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION. A course that focuses upon the status, development, and future of the modern American family from historical, cross-cultural, and sociological perspectives. Examines contemporary debates over legal definitions of "family," patterns of family structure, families and the elderly, family policy, and reviews non-governmental approaches to strengthening the family. Recommended for those students contemplating careers in teaching, the helping professions, ministry, public policy, and research. *Alternate Spring semesters, three hours.*

314. CRIME AND DELINQUENCY. A study of crime and juvenile delinquency in contemporary society. Basic factors in crime, detection, punishment, delinquency, gangs, courts, probation, and the science of criminology are studied. Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or 201. *Alternate Spring semesters, three hours.*

321. SOCIAL CHANGE. A course designed to make sense of future and past social change patterns, mechanisms, and strategies in a rapidly changing world. Changes in societies and civilizations past, present, and future are considered on many levels including organizational and institutional. Prerequisite: Sociology 101. *Alternate Spring semesters, three hours.*

331. LAW AND SOCIETY. An exploration of the relationship among law, legal systems, and social structure. Topics include the origin and development of law, analysis and cross-cultural comparisons of resolving disputes and other judicial processes, the social psychology of legal decision-making including jury studies, and the legal profession. *Alternate Fall semesters, two or three hours.*

356. POVERTY AND STRATIFICATION. An overview of the nature and extent of poverty and stratification in the United States, Western nations, and the world. Emphasis

is placed upon public policy approaches, especially private sector initiatives, toward reconstructing welfare and reducing poverty. Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or 201.

Alternate Fall semesters, three hours.

390. STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY. This course, which varies each semester, involves the examination of different areas of sociology with a focus on new areas not covered in regular coursework.

Semester course, three hours.

452. SOCIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM. Guided intensive study of a specific sociological problem or topic under the guidance of one Sociology faculty member, and training in the art of professional speaking in the field. Students will orally present and defend their study proposals and completed final projects before the Sociology faculty and other students in the class. This course fulfills the discipline-specific Speaking Intensive (SI) requirement for Sociology majors. Prerequisite: senior status.

Spring semester only, two hours.

460. INDEPENDENT STUDY. Available to students with a minimum of twelve hours in sociology. Prerequisite: Consent of department chairman.

Semester course, one, two or three hours.

471. WORLDVIEWS IN CONFLICT I: SOCIAL THINKERS FROM THE REFORMATION TO 1900. A survey of different sociological perspectives that lay the foundation for 20th Century sociological theories. Includes Calvin, Hobbes, Bentham, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Tocqueville, Comte, Simmel, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim.

Fall semester only, three hours.

472. WORLDVIEWS IN CONFLICT II: MODERN SOCIAL THINKERS. An examination of competing approaches to social theorizing in the 20th Century. Topics include structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, conflict theories, rational choice, ethnomethodology, post-industrial, and Christian approaches. Prerequisite: Sociology 471.

Alternate Spring semesters, three hours.

480. INTERNSHIP IN SOCIOLOGY. This course offers practical experience appropriate for the sociology field. Prerequisite: Consent of department chairman.

Semester course, one to six hours

499. HONORS IN SOCIOLOGY. Open only to seniors who have honors grades and who have completed a minimum of fifteen hours in the department. Application must be made to the department and a proposal for the study must be approved before registering. The student studies under the guidance of department staff. Prerequisite: Fifteen hours in sociology including Sociology 477.

Semester course, one, two or three hours.