Sociology (SOC)

Sociology (SOC) Courses

SOC 1013. Introduction to Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 1301)
Introduces the study of human groups, the relations of individuals to groups, and the process of becoming a group member and functioning in a group setting. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. (Formerly titled “Introduction to the Study of Society.”) Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 1043. Introduction to Public Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Introduces the discipline of public health. Covers a variety of disciplines to the basic tenets of public health. Provides a history of public health, an introduction to the five core disciplines (Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Health, and Health Policy & Management). Also covers the role of public health in global society. (Same as PUB 1112. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 1043 and PUB 1113.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 2013. Social Problems. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 1306)
Examines major contemporary social problems and their causes and consequences. Topics may include poverty, racism, sexism, deviance and crime, drug and alcohol dependence, the urban crisis, overpopulation, and war. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 2023. Social Context of Drug Use. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 2340)
Explores the use and abuse of mind-altering substances within society. Topics of study may include historical treatments of drug use, drug treatment and recovery interventions, the global magnitude of contemporary drug problems, and the problematic nature and consequences of drug legislation and enforcement. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. (Formerly titled “Drugs in Society.”) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 2043. Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
In 2015, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) added a new section to the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) that focuses on “Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior.” According to the AAMC, this new section "tests your understanding of the ways psychological, social, and biological factors influence perceptions and reactions to the world; behavior and behavior change; what people think about themselves and others; the cultural and social differences that influence well-being; and the relationships between social stratification, access to resources, and well-being." This course will examine sociological perspectives and concepts to health outcomes like genetics, mental health, physical health, life style, health care and mortality risk.

SOC 2063. Special Topics in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
An organized course offering the opportunity for a specialized topic at the lower division level that is available through the regular course offerings. Special Topics may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 3013. Social Stratification. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines theory and research pertaining to inequalities of power, prestige, and economic privilege. Major emphasis upon inequality and social mobility in the United States. Generally offered: Summer.

SOC 3043. Race and Ethnic Relations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the dominant-subordinate relations in world societies, with major emphasis on the United States. Models of assimilation, colonial and class society, and consequences for minority and majority populations may be examined. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3053. Deviance and Difference. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Analyzes the forms of deviance and consideration of social/political trends toward difference. An examination of theories may include: biological, analytic, labeling, functionalist, culture conflict, radical, and poststructuralist.

SOC 3063. Collective Behavior. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013, or consent of instructor. Focuses on case studies and associated theory dealing with various forms of collective behavior ranging from spontaneous events to organized mass movements.

SOC 3083. Social Change and Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Presents principal models and theories of social transformation applied to examples of societal change. Topics may include consideration of master trends such as rationalization, industrialization, and bureaucratization, and the expansion and contraction of global interconnectedness.

SOC 3093. Religion and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on religious institutions and movements in the United States with comparative data from other countries. Topics may include the relationship of religious institutions to social stratification, economic institutions, and political and social change. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3113. Criminology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the nature, prevalence, and impact of different types of legal violations, including street crime, organized crime, political crime, and white-collar crime. Includes treatment of social and legal responses to crime. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 3163. Families in Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the modern family, structures and functions, variant patterns and the influence of the broader society in producing family change. Contemporary and continuing issues are covered in the context of theory and research. Topics may include variability in childhood socialization, family violence, changing gender roles, marriage, divorce and remarriage, alternative family structures, and the aging family. (Formerly SOC 2053. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3163 and SOC 2053.) (Formerly titled “Marriage and Family.”) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3193. The Sociology of Work and Occupations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the modern family, structures and functions, variant patterns and the influence of the broader society in producing family change. Contemporary and continuing issues are covered in the context of theory and research. Topics may include variability in childhood socialization, family violence, changing gender roles, marriage, divorce and remarriage, alternative family structures, and the aging family. (Formerly SOC 2053. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3163 and SOC 2053.) (Formerly titled “Marriage and Family.”) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3193. The Sociology of Work and Occupations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the modern family, structures and functions, variant patterns and the influence of the broader society in producing family change. Contemporary and continuing issues are covered in the context of theory and research. Topics may include variability in childhood socialization, family violence, changing gender roles, marriage, divorce and remarriage, alternative family structures, and the aging family. (Formerly SOC 2053. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3163 and SOC 2053.) (Formerly titled “Marriage and Family.”) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.
SOC 3213. Medical Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines social factors in the cause and distribution of disease; relationships between patients and medical professionals; the contribution of lay belief to health, illness, treatment, and recovery; the organization of health-care delivery; and the disparities in the distribution of medical resources. Generally offered: Spring.

SOC 3223. Population Dynamics and Demographic Techniques. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Introduces the common methods, techniques, and models employed by demographers. Topics may include demographic data sources, introduction to life table techniques; construction, standardization, and decomposition of rates; measures of concentration and diversity; and population growth projections. Students will become familiar with microcomputer programs for demographic analysis. (Formerly titled "Demographic Techniques.") Generally offered: Spring.

SOC 3253. The Individual and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the major theories dealing with the effects of culture and social structure on the development and functioning of the personality and the self.

SOC 3263. Latinas in U.S. Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on women of Latino descent in the United States with a comparative emphasis on the experiences of Texas Latinas relative to those residing elsewhere in the Southwest. Topics may include: historical presence in the Southwest; patriarchy and familialism; labor and employment issues; immigration and border issues; political involvement and feminist vision; artistic, cultural and intellectual expression. (Same as WS 3953. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3263 and WS 3953 when topic is the same.) Generally offered: Spring.

SOC 3283. Poverty. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States and selected other societies. An examination of social programs designed to combat poverty. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 3293. Sociology of Gender. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Explores the nature of gender roles in our own and other societies. Consideration of how people learn gender roles and the outcomes of this learning for individuals, families, and societies. Alternatives to conventional gender roles. (Formerly titled "Gender Roles.").

SOC 3323. Introduction to Social Research. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013. Introduction to the philosophy of science and the logic of research design. Examines a variety of social research designs including experiments, survey research, content analysis, and historical analysis. Course emphasizes techniques related to information gathering, basic data analysis, and reporting findings. (Formerly titled "Research Methods in Sociology.") Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3353. Sociological Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013. Begins with an examination of the foundational writings in classical sociological theory with special emphasis on the work of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Contemporary paradigms in sociological theory (e.g., functionalism, neo-Marxism, phenomenology, and feminism), and current debates over the state of theory are then addressed. Attention is also given to the linkages between theory and research. (Formerly SOC 3183. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3353 and SOC 3183.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 3373. Qualitative Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 3323. Introduces the philosophy of science and research design, including participant observation, in-depth interviews, oral history, and focus groups through field research. The course provides opportunities for developing qualitative research skills while gaining familiarity with issues and problems common to these methods. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3393. Quantitative Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of the Core Curriculum requirement in mathematics, SOC 1013, and SOC 3323. Application of conceptualization and operationalization in the quantitative analysis of a variety of sociological subjects. Use of elementary measures of central tendency and dispersion, cross tabulations, and linear model procedures to evaluate relationships among variables; problems of descriptions and inference. Includes the use of standard computer packages and secondary analysis of data. (Formerly SOC 3313. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3313 and SOC 3393.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 3413. Sociology of the Mexican American Community. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on contemporary issues regarding Mexican American communities. Topics of discussion include family structure, gender roles, border issues and political power. Comparison with other minorities and the majority group will allow discussion of variant community patterns. (Same as MAS 3413. Credit cannot be earned for both MAS 3413 and SOC 3413.) (Formerly titled "Mexican American Family.") Generally offered: Summer.

SOC 3423. Mass Media in Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines media production and its role in the economy; the construction of media meaning, signification, and ideology; and the role of the audience in making sense of messages. Larger issues of societal power will be treated, along with an examination of alternative media.

SOC 3433. Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on the growth and development of the Mexican population in the United States and controversies around Mexican immigration, both legal and undocumented. Uses a sociological perspective to present a historical analysis of Mexican migration to the United States, theoretical explanations of migrations, and the social implications of these issues.

SOC 3463. Sociology of Sport and Leisure. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the social meanings of play and leisure in advanced industrial societies. Emphasis will be on the origins, structure, and function of these phenomena in the United States, with major emphasis on sport as an institution.

SOC 3503. Sociology of Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Explores education as an institution that affects and is affected by the larger social structure. Topics may include the role of schools in society; connections between schooling, stratification and the economy; gender and ethnic differences in achievement; and social and cultural contexts of learning. Generally offered: Summer.

SOC 3513. Children and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the evolution of concepts of childhood over time. Topics may include theories of child development, cultural and social influences in child raising, the effects of affluence and poverty on children, children in postmodern societies, and child socialization in different cultures.
SOC 3543. Data Management in Public Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Provides an introduction to data management for research projects in public health using microcomputers. Topics include design of data collection forms, data entry, computer managed documentation and statistical computing using SPSS/SAS. (Same as PUB 2113. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3543 and PUB 2113.)

SOC 4023. Violence and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Examines and assesses the major social science perspectives and theories that attempt to explain why violence occurs in society. (Formerly SSC 3203. Credit cannot be earned both for SOC 4023 and SSC 3203.) Generally offered: Spring.

SOC 4043. Global Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Covers the field of global health, particularly the serious health problems facing developing world populations. The course begins with an introduction to the global burden of disease and then examines the complex social, economic, political, environmental, and biological factors that structure the origins, consequences and possible treatments of disease. Provides an introductory survey of the basic issues and initiatives in contemporary international public health, and develops student awareness of the socioeconomic and cultural complexity of health problems in developing nations. Generally offered: Fall.

SOC 4053. Health Care System. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Covers the complexities of health care organization and finance and presents a general overview of how the U.S. health care systems work and how the major components within the system fit together. Covers basic structures and operations of the U.S. health system—from its historical origins and resources, to its individual services, cost, and quality. Compares and contrasts the U.S. health care system with other health care systems around the world. Generally offered: Fall.

SOC 4073. Social and Behavioral Theories in Public Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Examines the fundamental social and behavioral theories that drive research and practice in public health. The course covers a number of social and behavioral theories commonly used in public health education interventions at the individual, group, and community levels. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

SOC 4083. Behavioral Epidemiology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: Restricted to upper-division Sociology and Public Health majors. Provides an introduction to the social/behavioral sciences in public health, basic behavioral measurement methods, and basic knowledge of epidemiologic application in the area of social and behavioral science. The course will stress the relationship of human behavior to disease, and ways in which the social/behavioral sciences differ from epidemiology with respect to approaches to measurement, terminology, and analytic methods. In addition, the course will examine the literature, and explore in-depth and quantify the determinants of behavior that are risk factors for several chronic and infectious disorders. (Same as PUB 3413. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 4083 and PUB 3413.)

SOC 4213. Behavioral Profiling. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: SOC 1013 or PSY 1013. This course is designed to expose students to the process of criminal behavioral profiling, an investigative tool used by law enforcement, criminologists, and forensic scientists to predict the characteristics of unknown subjects through crime scene analysis. This is a unique course and is arranged around the deductive profiling method developed by a few of the more published criminal profilers in the United States. Topics include case assessment, crime scene reconstruction methods, evidence dynamics, victimology, criminal motivation, and ethics.

SOC 4433. Culture and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Explores the social significance of cultural production, including the relationships between art, consciousness, the economy, and history. Themes examined may include the social production of art, art and ideology, the problem of artistic reception, and art movements and cultural resistance. Topics include art and culture in minority social movements, the relation between high and low culture, and cultural conflict over art.

SOC 4683. Health Disparities. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
The main purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of how racial/ethnic, social, economic, demographic and gender factors contribute to disparities in health and health care in the United States. Generally offered: Spring.

SOC 4853. Special Studies in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree. (Formerly SOC 4953. Credit may be earned for both SOC 4853 and SOC 4953 but may not exceed 6 semester credit hours combined.)

SOC 4863. Topics in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for a specialized topic not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Topics may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4911. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.  
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4923. Public Health Study Abroad. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
The purpose of this course is to provide students greater understanding of global health issues. The study abroad program focuses on health care and public health in different international settings and provides students with a unique opportunity to integrate direct academic learning and field experience in public health. The program involves attending class room lectures in public health and interacting with local public health officials in understanding how health care system is responding to the health needs of its population. This course will satisfy 3 hours of the Public Health Internship requirement under the Sociology degree.
SOC 4926. Public Health Study Abroad. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students greater understanding
of global health issues. The study abroad program focuses on health care
and public health in different international settings and provides students
with a unique opportunity to integrate direct academic learning and field
experience in public health. The program involves attending class room
lectures in public health and interacting with local public health officials in
understanding how health care system is responding to the health needs
of its population. This course will satisfy 6 hours of the Public Health
Internship requirement under the Sociology degree.

SOC 4933. Internship in Sociology. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of SOC 3353 and either SOC 3373 or SOC
3393, and consent of internship coordinator. Provided as part of the
COLFA Signature Experience and offers supervised work experience
relevant to sociology within selected organizations and agencies.
Internships selected should be relevant to previous coursework. A
maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through this
internship. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 4936. Internship in Sociology. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of SOC 3353 and either SOC 3373 or SOC
3393, and consent of internship coordinator. Provided as part of the
COLFA Signature Experience and offers supervised work experience
relevant to sociology within selected organizations and agencies.
Internships selected should be relevant to previous coursework. A
maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through this
internship. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

SOC 4993. Honors Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Enrollment limited to candidates for Honors in Sociology
during the last two semesters. Supervised research and preparation of an
honors thesis. May be repeated once with advisor’s approval. Generally
offered: Fall, Spring.