

SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

The Department of Sociology at Wake Forest University is a thriving community of teacher-scholars and students devoted to the scientific study and improvement of society. We provide students with an understanding of how communities have dynamic properties that exist independently of, and that structure the beliefs and actions of, any particular individuals. The basic idea behind this perspective is that the larger social context in which we live influences our social institutions, the social groups of which we are apart, our educational and occupational opportunities as well as our most private and personal experiences. Studying sociology is a critical part of a liberal arts education that prepares students for careers in law, medicine, education, public health, social work, business, criminal justice, non-profit organizations, and many other fields.

Our faculty conduct research and teach courses on a range of compelling topics, including the sociology of business, criminal justice, culture, education, emotions, family, gender, health, immigration, law, politics, race and ethnicity, religion, sport, and work. Our courses offer students the opportunity to examine the complex causes and consequences of stratification by socioeconomic status, gender, race, and sexual orientation. Students can earn certification for concentrations in three areas: crime and criminal justice; business and society; the social determinants of health and well-being.

Study abroad and transfer credit that can be applied to the sociology major/minor are limited to two courses (6h). For both study abroad and transfer credit, there is a bias against approval of theory, methods, and statistics courses, but these courses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Where students take sociology courses abroad, they must be in Wake Forest approved programs and/or must have been certified by the department. Courses to be considered for transfer credit must be taught at an accredited college/university that offers a 4-year degree, by a faculty member who has a PhD in sociology, and the syllabus for the course must be provided for inspection. In addition, no divisional credit is given for sociology courses taken abroad or at other institutions. The sociology courses of students who are transferring to Wake Forest from other institutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A student who selects sociology to fulfill the Division IV requirement must take one of the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
SOC 150	Analyzing the Social World	3
SOC 151	Principles of Sociology	3
SOC 152	Social Problems	3
SOC 153	Contemporary Families	3
SOC 154	Social Deviance	3
SOC 155	Public Engagement in USA and Other Post-industrial Societies	3

No introductory-level course is required for students taking a sociology course as an elective unless specified in the course description.

Contact Information

Department of Sociology (<http://college.wfu.edu/sociology/>)
Kirby Hall 02A
Phone 336-758-5495

Programs

Major

- Sociology, B.A. (<https://bulletin.wfu.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/sociology/ba-sociology/>)

Minor

- Sociology, Minor (<https://bulletin.wfu.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/sociology/minor-sociology/>)

Courses

Sociology (SOC)

SOC 150. Analyzing the Social World. (3 h)

Introduction to key findings and explanatory concepts in sociology through exploring large-scale data sets. Topics may include stratification by socio-economic status, gender, race, and sexual identity. (D, QR)

SOC 151. Principles of Sociology. (3 h)

General introduction to the field; social organization and disorganization, socialization, culture, social change, social inequality, and other aspects. (D)

SOC 152. Social Problems. (3 h)

Survey of contemporary American social problems such as domestic and international poverty, education, immigration, crime and mass incarceration. (D)

SOC 153. Contemporary Families. (3 h)

Introduction of how sociologists understand families and their relationship to social structures and individual agency. Topics include the family as a social construct, the role of the family in the reproduction and/or resistance of privilege and inequality, and the social forces shaping everyday family life (D).

SOC 154. Social Deviance. (3 h)

Study of the origins, development, and social construction of deviant categories in contemporary society. Examines the process of rulemaking, rule enforcing, and societal reactions to deviance and their consequences for people defined as deviant (D).

SOC 155. Public Engagement in USA and Other Post-industrial Societies. (3 h)

An introduction to core concepts and explanations in social science for differences between the US and other nations on civic engagement, social mobility, educational attainments, public health, and leisure pursuits. (CD, D)

SOC 270. Sociological Theory. (3 h)

Introduction to classic and contemporary works of social theory, illustrating and exploring how sociologists analyze social forces, evaluate explanatory hypotheses, and prescribe social remedies. Authors explored range from the 19th century founding figures of Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim, to contemporary theorists such as Ervin Goffman, Patricia Collins, Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, and Pierre Bourdieu. P - Any 100 level SOC course or POI.

SOC 271. Social Statistics. (4 h)

Computer-based survey of basic statistics utilized in sociological research. STA 111 (Elementary Probability and Statistics) or higher is strongly recommended as a prior course. Lab-1 hour. P-Any 100 level SOC course or POI. (QR)

SOC 272. Research Methods in Sociology. (3 h)

Overview of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Research projects required. P - Any 100 level SOC courses or POI.

SOC 301. Sociology of Religion. (3 h)

Introduction to the sociological analysis of religion, including religious beliefs and experiences, the cultural context of religion, varieties of religious organization, religious change and social change. Also listed as REL 351.

SOC 303. Business and Society. (3 h)

Historical development, organization, and current problems of business enterprises in American society.

SOC 305. Gender in Society. (3 h)

The significance of gender in society for individuals and institutions. An examination of differential gender experiences based on race, class, and sexual orientation. Consideration of feminism as a social movement and the possibility for social change. (CD)

SOC 309. Sexuality and Society. (3 h)

Study of the societal forces that impinge on human sexual behavior, emphasizing the effects of social change, the implications of changing gender roles, cross-cultural and subcultural variations, and the influence of the mass media.

SOC 316. Conflict Management in Organizations. (3 h)

An examination of conflict management and social control in organizations, focusing on power structures, management styles and processes of dispute resolution.

SOC 320. Sociology of Sports and Art Worlds. (1.5 h)

Seminar on social forces that structure the production and consumption of sports and the arts. Topics may include differences between American and world football; how culture capital determines engagement with the arts.

SOC 321. Sociology of Contested Past. (1.5 h)

Seminar on how societies remember their past and why it matters to contemporary social relations. Topics include case studies of commemorative practices on the Nazi Holocaust, America's Civil War, and the relationship of American universities to slavery.

SOC 325. The Individual and Society. (3 h)

Introduces students to the field of sociological social psychology. Examines (1) how membership in social groups shape experiences; (2) the development of the self in social interaction; and (3) the creation of small group culture and structure. Also covers a range of substantive topics such as socialization, identity, emotions, prejudice, deviance, mental health and social change.

SOC 327. Sociology of Emotion. (3 h)

Exploration of the social side of emotion, including how emotions are socially learned, shaped, regulated, controlled and distributed in the population as well as the consequences of emotion norms, emotion management, emotional labor, and emotional deviance for individuals, social groups and society. P-one SOC course or POI.

SOC 328. The Sociology of Food. (3 h)

Examines systems of food production and their health consequences for workers and consumers; how social identities shape consumption choices and family food responsibilities; and analyzes food insecurity, food policy, and food-focused social movements from a sociological perspective.

SOC 329. Health Inequalities. (3 h)

Introduction to current sociological perspectives on the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and societies by examining the social determinants of inequalities in both mental and physical health (including reproductive health) based on socioeconomic status, gender, and race/ethnicity in the U.S. P-one SOC course or POI.

SOC 330. Gender, Social Relationships, and Well-Being. (3 h)

Examines how and why gender continues to shape men's and women's social relationships, including their social and economic well-being, their emotions and identities, as well as their mental and physical health over the life course. P-one SOC course or POI.

SOC 331. The Social and Legal Contexts of Medicine. (3 h)

Examines student socialization, the social structure of medicine and the social and legal contexts in which the medical profession exists and changes.

SOC 334. Sociology of Education. (3 h)

An evaluation of the major theories and significant empirical literature, both historical and statistical, on the structure and effects of educational institutions.

SOC 335. Sociology of Health and Illness. (3 h)

Examines processes of medicalization, the social experience of illness, cultural influences on the practice of medicine, and inequalities in access to care and resources to support health.

SOC 336. Money, Markets and Medicine. (3 h)

Examines the entanglement of financial interest with care for the sick and dying, interrogating how power and profit shape what health is and who has access to it.

SOC 337. Opioids in American Society. (3 h)

Explores the ambivalent role of opioids in American society. Students will interrogate the narratives around different social groups and their encounters with drugs.

SOC 338. Courts and Criminal Procedure in the Era of Mass Incarceration. (3 h)

An overview of the socio-organization of criminal courts and procedure in the US. The course examines the structure of courts, and questions how conceptualizations of justice and relationships of power have developed over time.

SOC 339. Family Violence. (3 h)

Examines family violence including child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse as well as the criminal justice response to these forms of violence.

SOC 340. Corrections. (3 h)

Surveys the political, economic and social factors influencing the historical development of the corrections system. Institutional corrections such as jails, boot camps and prisons will be examined as well as community-based approaches such as probation and parole.

SOC 341. Criminology. (3 h)

Introduction to the study of crime, including the development of criminal law, how crime is defined and measured, the patterns and trends of crime, and a review of theories explaining where, when, by whom and against whom crime happens.

SOC 342. Juvenile Delinquency. (3 h)

Examines the development of the juvenile justice system. Topics include the concept of childhood and delinquency, measurement of delinquent behavior, gender differences, the impact of relationships within the family, school, and peer groups, and an assessment of policies for control and prevention.

SOC 343. Law and Society. (3 h)

Study of the social and cultural factors in the development, maintenance, and change of legal structures and processes. Topics include law as a vehicle and agent of social change, the role of law in social control and dispute resolution, the structure and organization of the legal profession, and the images of law in popular culture.

SOC 344. Social Justice in Theory, Method, and Practice. (3 h)

Explores relationships between knowledge production, academic research, and social activism by surveying social science and humanities theory, research methods, and practice oriented toward social justice. Topics include critical theory, community-based research, and contemporary social movements.

SOC 345. Advanced Seminar on Criminal Homicide. (3 h)

Examines the various cultural and structural forces that have been identified as major factors in understanding criminal homicide.

SOC 346. Sociology of Guns. (3 h)

Examines the multifaceted roles guns play in the U.S. from a sociological perspective. Topics include the history and technology of firearms, origins and development of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prevalence and distribution of guns, lawful possession and use of firearms, illegal gun markets, gun crime and injuries, gun politics and the efficacy of gun control.

SOC 347. Society, Culture, and Sport. (3 h)

An examination of the interrelationship of sport and other social institutions. Emphasis on the study of both the structure of sport and the functions of sport for society.

SOC 348. Sociology of the Family. (3 h)

The family as a field of sociological study. Assessment of significant historical and contemporary writings. An analysis of the structure, organization, and function of the family in America.

SOC 351. Management and Organizations. (3 h)

A study of macro-organizational processes and changes in contemporary industrial societies and their effects upon managerial systems, managerial ideologies and managers in firms.

SOC 352. White-collar Crime. (3 h)

Study of criminal activity committed in the course of legitimate occupations including workplace crime, graft, and business crime.

SOC 355. Social Psychology of Inequality. (3 h)

Introduction to social psychological perspectives on social inequality with a focus on microlevel structures and processes underlying inequality including gender, age, race/ethnicity, as well as socioeconomic and sexual minority status. P-one SOC course or POI.

SOC 356. Sociology of Immigration. (3 h)

Traces the waves of immigration historically and examines current policies and debates, with an emphasis on the political, economic, and social consequences of immigration in the post 1965 era. The focus will be on the United States, but will also consider cross-national comparisons. (CD)

SOC 357. Crime, Law, and Immigration. (3 h)

Examines the role of law in the production of the U.S. Immigration Detention System, specifically the incarceration, deportation, and surveillance of immigrants and asylum seekers, and the consequences for immigrants, nonimmigrants, and their communities.

SOC 358. Racial Capitalism. (3 h)

Examines the historical and contemporary relationship between race and capitalism. Covers both the origins and operations of racial capitalism as well as global movements that challenge it.

SOC 359. Race and Racism. (3 h)

Examines the origins and effects of racial inequality and relationships between race and ethnic groups with a focus on the United States. (CD)

SOC 360. Social Inequality. (3 h)

The study of structured social inequality with particular emphasis on economic class, social status, and political power. (CD)

SOC 362. Work, Conflict, and Change. (3 h)

Changing trends in the United States labor force. The individual's view of work and the effect of large organizations on white- and blue-collar workers. Use of some cross-cultural data.

SOC 363. Global Capitalism. (3 h)

An analysis of industrial organization, including discussion of market relations and the behavior of firms, the structure of industrial development, and labor relations and the growth of trade unions. Also listed as CGS 363.

SOC 364. Power, Politics, and Protest. (3 h)

Analyzes the interactions between politics, the state and society. Topics include public and social policies, political engagement and social movements, and social change.

SOC 365. Technology, Culture, and Change. (3 h)

Examines the interrelated forces that shape change in organizations and societies; from the emergence of capitalist markets to the systems, controls, and information revolution of the 21st century. Also listed as CGS 365.

SOC 366. Sociological Analysis of Film. (3 h)

Examines the intersection of economic, organizational, and cultural sociology using films and the film industry as focal examples.

SOC 367. Sociology of Culture. (3 h)

Examines the most powerful explanatory schools in sociology in the fields of cultural production and consumption. Topics include: stylistic change and the consumption of visual and performance arts; musical tastes; the production and consumption of literature; museum attendance; education and culture; and architecture and design.

SOC 368. Death and Dying. (1.5 h)

Analyzes how the experience of physical decline is socially and medically managed, and the role social rituals play in the aftermath of death and grief.

SOC 369. Social Movements. (3 h)

Examines social movements and public protest with a focus on why movements arise, how they operate, and what effects they have on participants and on society.

SOC 380. Special Topics Seminar in Social Institutions. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving family, religion, education, politics, and sport.

SOC 381. Special Topics Seminar in Social Inequality. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving gender, class, race, poverty, and sexuality.

SOC 382. Special Topics Seminar in Social Psychology. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in the areas of social psychology, the individual, and the social self.

SOC 383. Special Topics Seminar in Medicine and Health Care. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in medicine, illness, and health care.

SOC 384. Special Topics Seminar in Crime and Criminal Justice. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues about crime, police, courts, and corrections.

SOC 385. Special Topics Seminar in Business and Society. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues in business, work markets, and management .

SOC 386. Special Topics Seminar in Culture and Social Movements. (3 h)

Intensive investigation of current scientific research on issues involving, culture, social change, and social movements.

SOC 390. Special Topics Seminar in Sociology. (1.5-3 h)

Survey of a selected area in sociology not covered in the regular course offerings. Prospective students should contact the professor before enrolling as topics will vary.

SOC 391. Special Topics Seminar in Sociology. (1.5-3 h)

Survey of a selected area in sociology not covered in the regular course offerings. Prospective students should contact the professor before enrolling as topics will vary.

SOC 394. Research with Faculty. (0.5-3 h)

Awards credit to students assisting with a research project led by a faculty member. Students can earn a maximum of six credits (pass/fail) between SOC 394 and 395, but only three credits can be counted toward the major or minor. P-POI.

SOC 395. Research with Faculty. (0.5-3 h)

Awards credit to students assisting with a research project led by a faculty member. Students can earn a maximum of six credits (pass/fail) between SOC 394 and 395, but only three credits can be counted toward the major or minor. P-POI.

SOC 398. Individual Study. (1-3 h)

Reading, research, or internship courses designed to meet the needs and interests of selected students, to be carried out under the supervision of a departmental faculty member.

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Reading, research, or internship courses designed to meet the needs and interests of selected students, to be carried out under the supervision of a departmental faculty member.

Faculty

Chair Joseph Soares

Professors Catherine Harnois, Joseph Soares, Ian M. Taplin, David Yamane

Associate Professors H. Kenneth Bechtel, Hana E. Brown, R. Saylor Breckenridge, Amanda Gengler, Ana M. Wahl

Assistant Professor Brittany Battle, Alexandra Brewer, Andrea Gomez Cervantes

Teaching Professor Steven E. Gunkel

Adjunct Assistant Professor Yaqi Yuan

Research Full Professor Catherine Harris

Research Assistant Professor Robert Freeland

Emeritus Professor Catherine Harris