SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

# Course numbers with the # symbol included (e.g. #400) have not been
taught in the last 3 years.

SOC 400 - Introductory Sociology
Credits: 4
Overview of sociology as the scientific study of human social and cultural relationships. Social theory, methods and techniques of research, and current research findings on a wide range of social issues.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): SOC 400H, SOC 400W
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 402 - Statistics
Credits: 4
Elementary applied statistical techniques; tables, graphs, cross-clarifications; central tendency and dispersion; correlation and linear regression; confidence intervals and hypothesis testing. Other statistical classes including ADM 430, BIOL 528, ADMN 420, EREC 525, HHS #540, MATH 439, MATH 539, PHIL 412, MATH 644, PSYC 402 cannot be used to satisfy the major requirement. This is, all majors must take SOC 402 even if they have taken an introductory statistics course in another department. A student can, however, petition to receive eight credits for two introductory statistics courses, if and only if, SOC 402 is taken after the student became a sociology major and took their first statistics course prior to declaring SOC as their major. Majors cannot receive credit for statistics courses taken after they have declared SOC.
Attributes: Quantitative Reasoning(Disc)
Equivalent(s): SOC 402H, SOC 502, SOC 502H
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken ADM 430, ADMN 420, ADMN 510, BIOL 528, EREC 525, HHS 540, MATH 439, MATH 539, MATH 644, MTH 504, MTH 701, PSYC 402, PSYC 402H.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 444A - Honors/Society in the Arctic
Credits: 4
Introduction to societies of the far North today, from Alaska and Canada through Greenland, Iceland, northern Scandinavia and Russia. Reviews interconnected issues of social change, environment, sustainable development, local control, and modernization vs. traditions. Arctic dilemmas highlight some basic questions facing all societies in the 21st century.
Attributes: Environment,TechSociety(Disc); Honors course; Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 450 - Contemporary Social Problems
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to the study of major social problems in contemporary society, including poverty, discrimination, inequality, crime, violence, and environmental degradation. Explores how and why people come to view certain social conditions as problematic. Also explores the consequences of and possible solutions to contemporary social problems.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): SOC 540
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 515 - Introductory Criminology
Credits: 4
Introduces the scientific study of crime. Reviews the different forms of criminal behavior, theories of crime, and strategies of crime control.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 520 - Family
Credits: 4
Sociological study of marriage and the family in American society. Following a life-cycle approach, topics include gender roles, communication and conflict, dating and mate selection, work and family economics, the transition to parenthood, middle- and late-life family, divorce, and remarriage.
Equivalent(s): SOC 520H
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 525 - Juvenile Crime and Delinquency
Credits: 4
Crime, violence, and the criminal justice system as it affects children and youth in the role of both perpetrators and victims.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 530 - Race and Racism
Credits: 4
This course examines the categories of race and ethnicity, and the way these two concepts help us describe historical trends and modern relations. By the end of the course, Students should have: an in-depth understanding of the origins of race and racism; be able to identify, explain, and apply various sociological concepts and theories pertaining to race, ethnicity, racial oppression; and be able to conceptualize, operationalize, and test a line of scientific inquiry on race.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 535 - Homicide
Credits: 4
An introduction to theory and research in homicide studies, including a review of the origins of and social responses to homicide.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 555 - Death and Dying in America
Credits: 4
This course will explore a cultural and structural overview of death and dying in American society. Topics include the historical contexts of the care and treatment of the dying and the dead; attitudes toward death; bereavement over the life course; socialization to death; anticipatory grief and terminal illness; funeral rituals and their social functions; burial, mourning and grief practices; and suicide and assisted suicide. Cannot earn credit if previously taken SOC #597 "Special Topics: Death and Dying in America".
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 565 - Environment and Society
Credits: 4
Environment and Society focuses on the complex interactions between human communities and the natural world. The course considers the interconnected ways that social systems, the built environment, and related technologies produce environmental changes, and in turn how shifts in resources, air, water quality, climate, biodiversity, and ecosystems force societies to adapt. This course fulfills in the Environment, Technology, and Society category of UNH's Discovery Program.
Attributes: Environment,TechSociety(Disc)
Grade Mode: Letter Grading
SOC 570 - Sexual Behavior
Credits: 4
This course approaches sexuality as a social phenomenon. We examine variability in sexual practices, sexual identities, and sexual behaviors throughout history, across cultures, and throughout the life course of individuals. Particularly, we focus on the social control of sexuality and the extent to which sexualities are socially constructed. We consider the media and other cultural influences on a diverse range of sexual experiences and take a straightforward, non-stigmatizing approach to tackling controversial issues.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 595 - Independent Reading and Research
Credits: 2-8
Independent study of advanced or specialized topics in sociology requiring extensive reading and writing. Before registering, students must develop a project in consultation with a faculty supervisor and submit a proposal to the undergraduate committee. Students are required to complete 12 sociology credits prior to taking this course.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC #597 - Special Topics
Credits: 4
Occasional or experimental offerings. May be repeated baring duplication of subject.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated up to unlimited times.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 599 - Sociological Analysis
Credits: 4
Basic skills essential to sociological study, including: development of critical reading skills; evaluation of theory construction and evidence; analysis of classic and contemporary works, research, writing, and use of library resources. To be taken by sociology majors no later than the junior year.
Attributes: Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): SOC 599W
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 601 - Methods of Social Research
Credits: 4
Overview of major research methods: survey analysis, personal interview, participant observation, content analysis, and experimental design. Each student designs and completes a research project. Students are strongly urged to have completed SOC 599 prior to enrolling.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Prerequisite(s): SOC 402 with a minimum grade of D-.
Equivalent(s): PSYC 502, SW 601, SW 601W
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 611 - Sociological Theory
Credits: 4
Analysis of the origins and development of sociological theory. Includes the classical works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim and their connections to the major strands of present day research.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 620 - Drugs and Society
Credits: 4
Provides students with an overview of drug using behavior as viewed from a sociological perspective. Highlights historical and current drug use trends, examines the social correlates of drug use, considers societal responses to drug use including treatment, prevention, and policy, and engages students in key controversial debates confronting U.S. citizens and policymakers. Provides a foundation for understanding drugs and society.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 625 - Mental Health and Society
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to sociological approaches for studying and understanding mental health and illness in society. With an emphasis on the importance of social stress, we examine the distribution of mental illness in the United States and identify the factors that help to explain mental health differences across social roles and statuses.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 627 - Sociology of Fashion
Credits: 4
This course explores how clothing, accessories, and bodily adornment are socially constructed processes. We apply a sociological lens to uncover how fashion intersects with: social identities and aspirations; fads and trends; historical forces; how we modify our bodies; production and consumption of clothing and shoes; race, class, and gender; labor and human rights; globalization and trade; technology, and environmental issues in clothing production. Cannot earn credit if previously earned credit for SOC 697 "Special Topics Sociology of Fashion".
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 628 - Social Psychology
Credits: 4
Engages students in key controversial debates confronting U.S. citizens and policymakers. Provides a foundation for understanding drugs and society.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 635 - Medical Sociology
Credits: 4
Health and Illness are considered as a sociocultural phenomenon. Meanings are attached to health and illness as they are influenced by our social values and our cultural beliefs, which to a large degree are influenced by available medical technologies. People’s experiences of health and illness are shaped by a range of social factors (e.g., race, class, gender) and follow clear patterns of social inequality. A critical approach is taken to examine topics such as the social determinants of health, illness and healthcare; the social construction of illness; the medicalization of society; and the social organization of health care.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): SOC 635
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 635W - Medical Sociology
Credits: 4
Health and Illness are considered as a sociocultural phenomenon. Meanings are attached to health and illness as they are influenced by our social values and our cultural beliefs, which to a large degree are influenced by available medical technologies. People’s experiences of health and illness are shaped by a range of social factors (e.g., race, class, gender) and follow clear patterns of social inequality. A critical approach is taken to examine topics such as the social determinants of health, illness and healthcare; the social construction of illness; the medicalization of society; and the social organization of health care.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): SOC 635
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 636 - Sociology of Justice
Credits: 4
In this course, students will begin to understand how individuals, groups, and societies perceive justice, how to research those perceptions, and how those perceptions shape our lives. By the end of this course, students should have an advanced understanding of justice research and be able to apply sociological research principles to examining wide variety of real-world issues.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 645 - Class, Status and Power
Credits: 4
Focuses on the major dimensions of inequality, including class, gender, and race, by exploring the distribution of economic, political, and social resources within contemporary societies.
Equivalent(s): SOC 645W
Grade Mode: Letter Grading
SOC 647 - Sociology of Work and Well-Being
Credits: 4
What constitutes a 'good job' or a 'bad job'? What characteristics of jobs are harmful, and which job conditions protect worker health and wellbeing? In this course, we focus heavily on the nature of job stress, where it comes from, and why some people experience more of it than others. Topics will include socioeconomic disparities in stress exposure, gender and racial discrimination in the workplace, gig work and online platforms, social protection policies, and COVID-19. Cannot earn credit if already taken SOC 697 under the special topic "Work and Well-Being".
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 655 - Environmental Sociology
Credits: 4
Interactions between society and the physical environment, including environmental constraints, population and economic growth, social impacts of resource development, large-scale environmental change, and the social bases of environmental attitudes, behavior, and politics.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 693 - Global Change and Social Sustainability
Credits: 4
Achieving "social sustainability" has become a goal for societies around the world, but what does it mean and how can they achieve it? Sociology provides scientific tools to help answer these questions. In this course, students will learn sociological approaches for investigating and analyzing global social challenges ranging from climate change and food insecurity to drug trafficking and health pandemics and consider applications of these insights to inform on-the-ground efforts to advance social sustainability.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 697 - Special Topics
Credits: 4
Occasional or experimental offerings. May be repeated for different topics.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Repeat Rule: May be repeated up to 2 times.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 725 - Social Demography
Credits: 4
Social demography examines the linkages between changes in the size, composition and distribution of the population and changes in social, environmental, economic and political factors. The course examines demographic methods and the materials and the analytical techniques used by demographers to analyze population redistribution, fertility, work, marriage, migration and mortality. The policy implications of demographic change will be examined with attention to the U.S. as well as the developed and developing world.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 730 - Communities and the Environment
Credits: 4
People and the natural environments in which they live fundamentally structure communities around the globe. Economic change, expanding development, and human migration are transforming social and environmental conditions in both rural and urban settings, altering the identities of many communities as well as their relationships with the natural world. The importance of these emerging social and environmental issues has made them a focus for social science inquiry. This course exposes students to a range of sociological concepts, theories, and research approaches related to the study of communities and environmental issues. Some of the substantive themes that are covered include: population dynamics and environmental change; social capital and social networks; political economy and community development; collective action and social movements; science, technology, and environmental risks; and environmental racism and justice. The principal assignment for the course will be a research project where students investigate a community or environmental issue of their own interest.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 740 - Sociology of Mental Health
Credits: 4
Introduces students to different sociological approaches for studying and understanding mental health and illness. Students examine the social distribution of mental illness in the United States and the social-structural factors that help to explain mental health variations. Also addresses issues surrounding mental health treatment, systems, and policies for the mentally ill.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC #745 - Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality
Credits: 4
Sociological perspectives on race and ethnic relations for graduate and advanced undergraduate students. Topics include the creation of racial and ethnic identities, the nature and extent of segregation, education, employment, and wealth inequalities, and the effects of state policy. The course emphasizes both theoretical and empirical assessments.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC #788 - Advanced Medical Sociology
Credits: 4
This course is intended to provide an in-depth introduction to the major theoretical frameworks of medical sociology and empirical research examining social factors that influence individual's health and illness. We will take a critical approach in our examination of: the distribution of health and illness (by socioeconomic status, sex/gender, and race/ethnicity); medicalization and social control; and the social construction of health and illness. Most of the learning in this course will take place through shared facilitation of class discussions based on the reading.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Grade Mode: Letter Grading
SOC 792 - Internship Independent Study
Credits: 2-8
Provides upper level sociology majors with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to the real world. This will provide the opportunity for students to work individually with a faculty member on an Internship with the option of variable credit. There is no formal class time required. Students will arrange meetings with supervising faculty to plan assigned readings, update internship progress and complete semester projects. Project ideas are developed with faculty and internship site supervisor.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC #797 - Special Topics
Credits: 4
Occasional or experimental offerings. May be repeated for different topics.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Equivalent(s): SOC 797W
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 799 - Senior Thesis
Credits: 4 or 8
Independent work in the library or field culminating in a written senior thesis. Recommended for, but not confined to, majors intending to pursue graduate studies. Students must arrange for supervision from two faculty members and submit a proposal to the Undergraduate Committee before registering. May be completed in one or two successive semesters during the senior year.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. May be repeated up to 2 times.
Equivalent(s): SOC 699
Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SOC 799H - Senior Honors Thesis
Credits: 4 or 8
Independent work in the library or field culminating in a written senior honors thesis and a formal research presentation. Recommended for, but to confined to, majors intending to pursue graduate studies. Required for students participating in the departmental honors program as part of their 16 honors credits. Students must arrange for supervision from two faculty members and submit a proposal to the Undergraduate Committee before registering. May be completed in one or two successive semesters during the senior year.
Attributes: Honors course
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
Equivalent(s): SOC 699H
Grade Mode: Letter Grading