
Sociology (BA)

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URL: http://sps.cuny.edu/programs/ba_sociology

THE PROGRAM

The online Bachelor's Degree in Sociology (B.A.) teaches students how people connect to other individuals in networks, teams, and organizations. Students gain insights into stereotyped groups such as race, class, and gender, as well as how to distinguish these from voluntary membership in social clubs, political associations, and professions. Learning how to frame issues as problems to be solved, how to conduct social research, how to communicate effectively and how to apply learning to new complex settings puts students on course for influential leadership positions in diverse organizational, community, cultural, and job settings.

Based on models and recommendations from the American Sociological Association, students completing the online Bachelor's Degree in Sociology will:

- Harness sociological terms, concepts, and principles;
- Evaluate and apply sociological theories to frame issues and problems;
- Explain social structures, social movements, and social change; and,
- Apply research methods and strategies to provide data for decision making.

General education courses complement this specialized study and emphasize critical thinking, qualitative reasoning, effective communication and the exploration of the foundations of knowledge and culture.

Career and Academic Advancement Prospects

Career and life planning, with guidance from faculty and student advisors, are integrated into the course work of the online Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. The emphasis on critical thinking, communication, ethics, research, and multiculturalism prepares students for programs in public policy, higher education, nonprofit management, human rights, urban studies, public health, labor studies, law, and criminal justice. The degree also provides the essential foundation for admission to graduate programs in sociology.

The online Bachelor's Degree in Sociology degree opens the doors to careers in social policy analysis and advocacy; marketing and market research; law enforcement and corrections; social and community services; and organizational analysis and change management.

Program Requirements

120 credits are required for the online Bachelor's Degree in Sociology.

- General Education - 39 credits required
- Sociology Courses - 33 credits
 - Required Courses – 18 credits
 - Sociology Electives – 15 credits (six of which must come from upper division elective courses)
- General Electives - 48 credits. General electives may be chosen from the Sociology courses or courses in other degree programs.

Required Courses

Students must complete 15 credits from the following core sociology courses:

- RM 201 – Introduction to Research Methods
- SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 302 - Advanced Quantitative Analysis
- SOC 310 - Foundations of Sociological Theory
- SOC 499 - Senior Capstone OR
- SOC 497 – Sociology Internship

Students must also complete 3 credits from among the following courses:

- SOC 490 - Ethnography
- SOC 491 - Comparative Methods

Inequality

- SOC 203 - Race, Class and Gender
- SOC 208 - Urban Sociology
- SOC 216 - Social Problems
- SOC 304 - Global Culture and Diversity
- SOC 313 – Stratification
- SOC 320 - Sociology of the Body
- SOC 380 - Independent Study
- SOC 418 - Social Movements and Collective Behavior
- SOC 470 – Special Topics in Sociology

Institutions

- ORGD 341 – Organizational Change and Leadership
- SOC 206 - Sociology of the Family
- SOC 207 - Introduction to Criminal Justice
- SOC 226 - Sociology of Religion
- SOC 319 - Self and Social Interaction
- SOC 405 - Sociology of Culture
- SOC 406 - Sociology of Education
- SOC 407 - Sociology of Health and Medicine
- SOC 408 - Political-Legal Sociology
- SOC 419 - The Digital Revolution and the Information Society

MINORS IN SOCIOLOGY

Sociology courses complement the curricula of other academic areas by placing a special emphasis on critical thinking, social research, ethics, and multiculturalism. The Sociology-General minor permits students to select courses from the sociology electives, allowing flexibility that enhances the student's area of major study. The Cultural Sociology minor enables students to acquire an in-depth understanding an important sociological sub-discipline.

Minor Requirements

Sociology - General - 12 credits as follows:

Required course:

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology

Nine credits (three courses) from the following:

ORGD 341 – Organizational Change and Leadership

SOC 203 Race, Class and Gender

SOC 206 Sociology of the Family

SOC 207 Introduction to Criminal Justice

SOC 208 Urban Sociology

SOC 216 Social Problems

SOC 226 Sociology of Religion

SOC 304 Global Culture and Diversity

SOC 313 Stratification

SOC 319 Self and Social Interaction

SOC 320 Sociology of the Body

SOC 405 Sociology of Culture

SOC 406 Sociology of Education
 SOC 407 Sociology of Health and Medicine
 SOC 408 Political-Legal Sociology
 SOC 418 Social Movements and Collective Behavior
 SOC 419 The Digital Revolution and the Information Society

Cultural Sociology – any 12 credits (four courses) from the following:

SOC 226 Sociology of Religion
 SOC 304 Global Culture and Diversity
 SOC 320 Sociology of the Body
 SOC 405 Sociology of Culture
 SOC 406 Sociology of Education
 SOC 407 Sociology of Health and Medicine
 SOC 408 Political-Legal Sociology
 SOC 419 The Digital Revolution and the Information Society

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RM 201 Introduction to Research Methods 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an introduction to research approaches characteristic of the social and behavioral sciences. These involve observations of behavior and other strategies that result in descriptive accounts, including field studies, content analysis, and surveys. Statistical methods for analyzing descriptive data, including measures of central tendency and variability and graphing will be included, along with questions about validity and research ethics. The course engages students in the planning, conducting, reporting and evaluation of research.

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

An introduction to the theoretical perspectives, concepts, methods, and core research areas in sociology. Active learning projects develop understanding of the discipline of sociology and demonstrate mastery of key concepts in the field.

SOC 203 Race, Class and Gender 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

Race and ethnicity often frame social relations in structures of inequality. Likewise, gender and class relations can also be shaped by unequal resources and differential access to the sources of power. In this course we explore the historic and social roots that have given rise to minority-dominant power relations both from a U.S. and an international perspective. Students will use their sociological imagination to envision how race, ethnicity, gender and other categories of experience -- i.e., age, religion, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and geographic region -- intersect with institutions in everyday society to create minority statuses.

SOC 206 Sociology of the Family 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

The course examines the family as a social institution, its origins, structure and process. Students will describe and analyze cross-cultural and historical variations in family patterns, social relationships and interaction patterns involved in courtship, mate selection and marriage. They will understand the nature of family organizations, family disorganization and the impact on the lives of men, women and children in America.

SOC 207 Introduction to Criminal Justice 3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

This introductory course offers an overview of the history and trends of crime and justice within the United States. An examination of the different types of crime and the consequences will be discussed. Students will be introduced to the administration of police; court and correctional agencies; and the decision-making points from the initial investigation or arrest by police to the eventual release of the offender and his/her reentry into society. The role of the police, the prosecuting attorney, the defense attorney, judge, probation, corrections and parole will be examined individually and collectively.

- SOC 208** **Urban Sociology** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
 The course emphasizes the study of cities and societies from a variety of perspectives, and examines a broad range of theoretical and practical public policy issues, including race and gender, immigration patterns, economic growth and decay, urban politics and elections and population distribution.
- SOC 216** **Social Problems** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
 The course focuses on problems whose origins lie outside the individual and how these problems impact individual behavior and social adjustment. Students will analyze problems related to major social institutions with special focus on the impact of inequality: health care, education, criminal justice, culture, political, and economic.
- SOC 226** **Sociology of Religion** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
 This course provides an introduction to the study of religion from a sociological viewpoint: basic definitions and concepts in the sociology of religion; methods of studying religious beliefs and practices; group processes, organizational forms and religious leadership; secularization, church-state issues, and contemporary fundamentalism; religiosity and conversion; and religious beliefs/practices as these interact with socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.
- SOC 302** **Advanced Quantitative Analysis** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: RM 201
 This course aims to enhance and develop the research methodological competencies developed in the introduction to research methods course by focusing more specifically on survey research, sampling, research design, questionnaire development, and more advanced quantitative analysis techniques: regression, correlation, analysis of variance, t-tests, and chi-square, as well as advanced issues in research design. Students will learn SPSS or another statistical program and use it to plan and execute a research project involving analysis of data located and extracted from a data bank.
- Note: For requirement purposes SOC 302 is the equivalent to CM 411.*
- SOC 303** **Demography** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: SOC 101
 This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to address questions concerning population growth and change. It explores critical issues such as the relationship between population growth and development; immigration and internal migration; how demographic processes and opportunities vary by age, race, ethnicity, and gender; and how and why these processes vary around the world. Additionally, students will learn to compute a variety of demographic measures using publically available data and Excel.
- SOC 304** **Global Culture and Diversity** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: None
 The contemporary world features astonishing cultural diversity, easily accessed through communication networks and international trade. How do recent technological developments in communication and media affect culture throughout the globe? Do we live in an age in which 'global culture' dominates local cultures? This course examines these and other questions utilizing classical and contemporary theories and research pertaining to economic disparity, cultural diversity and sustainable development in modernizing post-colonial
- Note: For requirement purposes SOC 304 is the equivalent to CM 304.*
- SOC 310** **Foundations of Sociological Theory** **3 Credits**
Prerequisite: SOC 101, PSY 101, or equivalent
 This course examines the historical development and transformation of critical social thought. Students will initially focus on classical European theorists such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as early American theorists such as Mead, Burgess and Park, in order to explain their founding role in sociology and its direction. They will then examine the progression from classical to contemporary sociological theory and the increasing emphasis on middle-range theories and empirical work. Students will develop basic knowledge of key theoretical and conceptual frameworks as well as an understanding of how theory is developed, tested, and applied to practical social problems and research questions.

SOC 313	Stratification	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course provides an overview of classic and contemporary theories of social class and inequality within the United States and in a global context. Students will examine these as well as strategies for assessing and measuring the level of inequality within and across nations, mobility rates, and factors, i.e., religion, ethnicity, and gender that affect socio-economic status and impact life chances. Students will also evaluate the impact of social policies intended to mitigate the effects of inequality.		
SOC 319	Self and Social Interaction	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
Social psychology provides a framework for analyzing the emergence and construction of self, identity, cognition and personality in the context of groups, cultures, networks (including digital networks), organizations and communities. Students will examine and apply concepts and ideas from social learning theory, psychoanalysis and post-analytic theories, cognitive development theory, exchange theory, dramaturgy and symbolic interaction to understand the emergence and development of self, self identity and self-presentation.		
SOC 320	Sociology of the Body	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course examines the body as social construction that is situated within a particular social and historical context. Students will understand how bodies become gendered, raced, classed, and sexualized in ways that create and reinforce social institutions and relations of power. They will analyze the reciprocal processes of structuration: how the body is shaped by social expectations and symbolic exchange, how meanings are attached to bodies and different body parts, and how these interpretations in turn shape social relations. Students will critically evaluate the experience of embodiment and the contribution of sociological theories and data to our understanding of the process. They will write two course papers on the sociology of the body.		
SOC 380	Independent Study	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: RM 201 and SOC 310, plus permission of the Academic Director are required.</i>		
The Independent Study will be taken under the supervision of an instructor. The student will develop a proposal and rationale for the Independent Study, which must be approved in advance by the instructor. The instructor and the student will develop a set of guidelines for the course, including the scope of reading and writing assignments. These guidelines will be submitted to the Academic Director in the form of a course proposal and plan. Students will be limited to one independent study in fulfillment of the elective requirement.		
SOC 405	Sociology of Culture	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course provides an overview of sociological approaches to the production, distribution, consumption, interpretation and preservation of culture and cultural artifacts. Students will analyze how patterns of cultural consumption define social groups, how these consumption patterns both reflect and shape social status and power and how these relate to the sustainability of a cultural heritage. Students will develop an understanding of how sociological approaches to culture differ from those of other disciplines, notably the humanities.		
SOC 406	Sociology of Education	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
The course will provide an overview of the American Educational system as an institution. Students will learn and apply sociological theories of education, evaluate research on education, understand the role of education in social reproduction as well as social dynamics and change, and develop awareness of how education affects their own lives.		
SOC 407	Sociology of Health and Medicine	3 Credits
<i>Prerequisite: None</i>		
This course examines current issues in health, healing, and medicine from a sociological perspective. Students will use the sociological imagination to develop a deeper understanding of patterned relationships among social, cultural, political, organizational and economic contexts and individual health/illness definitions and outcomes. Course assignments will engage students in empirical analysis and critical thinking about connections between demographic characteristics such as race, ethnicity, education and income, and health-related outcomes such as stress, health education, health maintenance,		

and chronic diseases. Student projects will evaluate the impact of social policies and/or of technologies on environmental factors, health education and health care delivery within broader institutional systems.

SOC 408 **Political-Legal Sociology** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an introduction and overview to international human rights organizations, laws, and practices. Students will develop an understanding of national and international human rights standards, constitutionalism, the nature of human rights violations, and human rights advocacy within the framework of national and international legal systems designed to protect human rights. Students will develop analytic skills and a knowledge base with which to assess human rights violations and to implement as well as evaluate various strategies for addressing them.

SOC 418 **Social Movements and Collective Behavior** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

The goal of this course is to assist advanced students in thinking systematically about contentious politics – processes in which people make conflicting collective claims on each other or on third parties – as they participate in them, observe them, or learn about how they are happening elsewhere. Students will review and evaluate theories of political contention as well as methods for gathering and analyzing evidence. They will examine and analyze specific examples of forms of contention such as social movements, revolutions, nationalist mobilization, and ethnic conflict and how these have worked in different times and places. Students will apply systematic comparative methods to analyze parallels and differences among these, to assess the role of communication in propelling them, and to evaluate theories that explain them.

SOC 419 **The Digital Revolution and the Information Society** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an overview of the information revolution over the last fifty years. Students will develop a critical perspective regarding narratives and theories that explain this phenomenon as a variant of "technological determinism." They will examine and evaluate alternative theoretical perspectives and explanations, e.g., the social constructivist understanding of science and technology as objects and systems that derive significance and definitions from their embeddedness in social, political, and economic contexts. Students will engage in research projects related to "information work"; the "digital divide" and technological access; virtual communities; digital communities, and popular culture to assess and evaluate various information technologies and their impact on human communities.

SOC 470 **Special Topics in Sociology** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: A minimum of 60 undergraduate credits plus an introduction to research methods in the social and behavioral sciences.

This course provides students with the opportunity to study new and/or other specialized topics in Sociology not covered in existing courses. Topics may vary from term to term to reflect the interests of faculty and students. Course descriptions for a given semester in which the course is offered may be obtained by going to the college website and/or e-mailing the instructor before registration. Students may take this course more than once for credit but may not repeat topics.

SOC 490 **Ethnography** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: SOC 101, PSY 101 or equivalent

This course is designed to provide an overview of ethnographic research methods. Students will gain understanding of the process, tools, rewards and challenges of observing and describing symbolic interaction within cultural fields. They will evaluate the contributions of ethnographic research to anthropological and sociological theory and knowledge and compare its utility relative to other social science research methods such as quantitative and historical analysis. Students will study and evaluate specific ethnographic studies and conduct their own ethnographic research project.

SOC 491 **Comparative Methods** **3 Credits**

Prerequisite: SOC 101, PSY 101 or equivalent

This course aims to enhance research methodological competencies that bridge quantitative and qualitative methodologies by focusing on the development and application of Boolean analysis to a small number of cases. Students will evaluate research studies that use ideal types, analytic elements and Boolean logic, fuzzy set theory, event analysis, set theory contrasts of empirical configurations, and/or path analysis in causal explanations of macro-socio-historical phenomena. They will apply appropriate comparative methods to a research project of their own design.

SOC 497**Sociology Internship****3 Credits**

Prerequisite: Advanced status and permission of the Academic Director

The Internship will be taken under the supervision of an instructor in coordination with a supervisor at the Internship site. The student will develop a proposal and rationale for the Internship, which must be approved in advance by the Academic Director and Internship instructor. The instructor and the student will develop a set of guidelines for the course, including the scope of reading, writing and work task assignments. These guidelines will be submitted to the Academic Director in the form of a course proposal and plan. Students may submit Internship proposals for capstone ePortfolio projects or for advanced sociology elective credits.

SOC 499**Senior Capstone****3 Credits**

Prerequisite: Department Permission

All students are expected to complete a senior research project under the direction of a faculty mentor. This capstone project will expand upon and integrate work completed in previous courses and provide students with an opportunity to apply methods of scholarly and/or action research to issues and problems of their own choosing. The final results of this study will be shared through ePortfolios on a virtual "commons" used for publication/presentation and critique open to all.