



**Department of Sociology**

**Handbook for Sociology Majors**

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## **Welcome to the Department of Sociology!**

The Department of Sociology at Hardin Simmons University welcomes you. We are delighted that you have chosen to major in sociology. This brief handbook is designed to help you understand the requirements of a sociology major and to help you plan your courses.

### **Philosophy of the Sociology Department**

The department seeks to provide a quality and value-centered liberal arts education in a Christian environment. Hardin-Simmons students who major or minor in sociology, or who take sociology courses to satisfy core requirements or to satisfy electives, should acquire skills that will provide them with a better understanding of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior in the context of a Christian environment.

### **What is sociology?**

Before you choose to major in sociology, you will probably want to know what it is. We like to think of ourselves as a place where curious people find an intellectual home. Have you ever wondered why certain types of people are more likely to commit crimes, or be wealthy, or believe in certain religious teachings, or have children? Have you ever seen patterns in social life and simply asked the question, "Why? Why is it like this?" In sociology, we explore these questions, along with a few hundred others.

Simply put, sociology is the scientific study of society - human behavior, social interaction, group life, and broad patterns of social organization. Sociology provides many distinctive perspectives on the world, generating new ideas and critiquing the old. The field offers a range of research techniques that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life: street crime and delinquency, corporate downsizing, the role of religion in society, how people express emotions, welfare or education reform, how families differ and flourish, or problems of peace and war. Because sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time, it is a rapidly expanding field whose potential is increasingly tapped by those who craft policies and create programs. Sociologists understand social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces for social change and resistance, and how social systems work. The sociology courses offered at Hardin-Simmons should enable students to understand these issues and should prepare majors and minors for work or graduate school.

### **What can I do with a major in sociology?**

Through a major in sociology, you acquire a broad-based liberal arts education that can be applied to a variety of careers. Common professions for sociology majors include positions in social service, government and policy, healthcare, communications, and law enforcement / criminal justice. Sociology provides a rich fund of knowledge that directly pertains to each of these fields. A major in sociology also produces a firm foundation for entering professional schools in law, education, social work, and ministry. A BA or BBS in sociology is excellent preparation for future graduate work in sociology in order to become a professor, researcher, or applied sociologist.

## **Degrees Offered**

### **Bachelor of Arts**

### **Bachelor of Behavioral Science**

A major in Sociology consists of 30 semester hours. This can be acquired through two different degree plans. Although the major required courses are the same for both, the general degree requirements differ, giving the student flexibility in their studies. The Bachelor of Arts program provides an opportunity for students to take a foreign language, which may be useful in advanced degree programs. The Bachelor of Behavioral Science requires more hours in the social sciences and is useful for students seeking greater breadth in these areas. Required courses are: SOCI 1301, 2302, 3312, 3380, 4380, & 4390 plus 12 additional hours. At least 21 hours must be taken at the 3000 and 4000 level. Three hours of philosophy are required. Six hours of sociology will apply toward the social science requirement. In order to satisfy HSU's computer competency requirement, students must successfully complete CSCI 1303 or pass the CLEP for CSCI 1303.

### **Minor in Sociology**

Eighteen hours are required for a minor in sociology. Required courses are 1301, plus the student's choice of an additional 15 hours, 12 of which must be taken at the 3000 and 4000 level.

## **Courses Offered**

### **Introduction to Marriage and Family 1300**

A practical course designed to provide guidance for marriage and family life. Consideration is given to the cultural, biological, psychological, religious, and economic foundations for marriage and family. Some of the topics that will be explored include mate selection, sexuality, marriage, child-rearing, family finances, family conflict, and divorce.

### **Introduction to Sociology 1301**

An introduction to the field; a survey of society in which social institutions, social processes, and patterns of social interaction are studied and related to contemporary life.

### **Special Topics 2099, 3099, 4099 (1-4 hours credit)**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301 or consent of instructor.*

Study of special interest topics not found elsewhere in the department listing. May be repeated for additional credit when the topic varies.

### **Social Problems 2302**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

A survey of selected social problems in modern society from the point of view of their causes and constructive methods of treatment and prevention.

### **Directed Studies 3301, 4301**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

An opportunity for a student to investigate an area of special interest on a basis outside the normal setting of a classroom.

### **Cultural Diversity 3303**

A practical course designed primarily for non-majors and minors who are interested in learning more about various social groups in American society; examples are: racial, ethnic, gender, religious, physically challenged, and other groups that are represented on campus and in the workplace.

**Statistical Methods 3312 (See also MATH 3312)**

*Prerequisite: MATH 1310*

Descriptive and inferential statistics for students in education, social science, and natural science as well as in mathematics. Topics to be discussed will include measures of central tendencies, probability, estimations and predictions, variance and correlation. May be counted toward a mathematics major or minor only by students seeking teacher certification in mathematics or by students who are minoring in mathematics on the BBS degree. This course does not fulfill the foundational curriculum mathematics requirement. Students must have a TI-30 (or equivalent) calculator.

**Sociology of Sport 3320**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

Study of the structural and cultural relationship of sport to society. Consideration will be given to the historical development of sports in the US, with a special emphasis on the importance of gender, race/ethnicity, and social class as they relate to sports. Current issues and problems will be addressed.

**Urban Sociology 3331**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of the urban landscape, with a particular focus on the United States. The focus will be on conceptual and theoretical issues associated with the sociological study of the city, an historical understanding of the processes of urbanization and suburbanization, and issues relevant to the challenge of building livable and sustainable cities.

**Social Psychology 3340**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301 or PSYC 1301*

Study of objective factors, which integrate personality and response in a social environment

**Sociology of Religion 3360**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

Study of the sociological approaches to religious phenomena and the reciprocal influence of society and religion on each other. Emphasis will be placed on the contemporary American urban church.

**Social Research Methods 3380** (See also SCWK 3380)

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

Introduction to the methods of scientific inquiry and their relevance to the social sciences. Topics include research design, problem formulation, measurement, data analysis, and ethics in research. Fundamentals of analyzing research reports will be emphasized.

**Violence and Victimology 4312** (See also CRIJ 4312)

*Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301 or SOCI 1301*

A study of violent behavior and the role of victimology in the criminal justice system. Sociological and psychological perspectives help to create a coherent approach relating to violent crime (domestic abuse, sexual assault, child maltreatment, elder abuse, robbery and homicide) patterns of violent offending, and the demographics of victimization as well as victim-offender relationships. This course also focuses on the ways in which violence is defined and techniques used to confront offenders of violent behavior within the criminal justice system. Elective.

**The Family and Postmodern Film 4320**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

This class examines how the American family has been portrayed in American films during the transition from a modern to a postmodern society. Family theories will be the basis of analysis as we observe family structure, gender roles, sexual behavior, issues of race/ethnicity, social class, family values, family crisis, and family violence as portrayed in these films.

**Sociology of Marriage and Family 4340**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

The family as a social institution and a cultural universal is studied in depth in the light of changing family patterns. Special consideration will be given to the structural and cultural underpinnings of both contemporary American families and families around the world.

**Crime and Delinquency 4351** (See also CRIJ 4351.)

*Prerequisite: six hours of sociology or criminal justice or consent of instructor.*

Study of the nature of crime and crime causation. Effects of crime on the social order and social institutions. Focus is on criminal behavior: its causes, treatment, and prevention. Participation in field trips to correctional facilities is required.

**Race, Class, and Gender 4353**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

The primary purpose of this course is to study how the intersections of race, class, and gender shape American society. The course begins with an examination of race, class, and gender as sociological concepts, with the purpose of using this framework to analyze and interpret contemporary issues and social problems. At the same time, the course introduces students to the experiences of diverse groups in the United States and shows how race, class, and gender together shape these experiences.

**Health Care Issues in Society 4360 (See also SCWK 4360)**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

General study of issues related to health care. Attention is given to analyzing major health policy issues, adaptation of social work theory to health care settings, with emphasis on principles and skills used in the helping process. Particular focus will be on understanding psychosocial and cultural dimensions of the patient role emphasizing the impact of illness on individual/family system.

**Aging in Society 4370 (See also SCWK 4370)**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

A survey of the various social issues facing aging people. Special attention will be given to how social work and social welfare provide services to this population group. Specific issues covered will include health, abuse, income security, and day care, as well as current sociological research on aging.

**Sociological Theory 4380**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301*

A survey of classical and contemporary sociological theories. The objective of this course is to enhance theoretical and critical thinking, especially as it applies to understanding a wide range of social issues.

**Internship 4381**

*Prerequisite: SOCI 1301, 2302*

Internships are open to sociology majors with junior standing and a GPA of 2.5 or above. They are intended to give students practical and sociologically relevant work experience, allowing them to try out a field in which they might wish to work upon graduation. Internships require a minimum of 100 hours of work with an organization or business approved by the student's advisor.

**Senior Seminar in Sociology 4390**

*Prerequisites: SOCI 1301, SOCI 2302, SOCI 3312, SOCI 3380 and SOCI 4380.*

This capstone course ties together the various components in the Sociology Major and prepares graduates for work or graduate school. Students will develop a project that demonstrates their grasp of sociological concepts, theories and methods. This seminar should be taken after students have completed 24 hours of sociology.

## Faculty



Joanne Roberts, Ph.D., CFLE

Professor and Chair

Areas of Interest: Family, Racial/Ethnic Groups, Urban Sociology

Joanne Roberts joined the HSU faculty in 2003.

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Jeremy Rhodes, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Areas of Interest: Religion, Deviance and Conformity

Jeremy Rhodes joined the HSU faculty in 2011.

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### Course Rotation

Fall (Odd Year)	Spring (Even Years)	Fall (Even Years)	Spring (Odd Years)	Mayterm / Summer
1301 – Intro to Soc 2302 – Social Problems 3303 – Cultural Diversity  3340 – Social Psychology 3360 – Soc of Religion  4390 – Senior Seminar	1301 – Intro to Soc  3312 – Statistics 3320 – Soc of Sport 3331 – Urban Soc  3380 – Methods  4351 – Crime & Delinq  4370 – Aging 4380 – Social Theory 4390 – Senior Seminar	1300 – Intro to Mar/Fam 1301 – Intro to Soc 2302 – Social Problems  3340 – Social Psychology 3360 – Soc of Religion  4312 – Violence / Victim  4353 – Race/Class/Gend  4390 – Senior Seminar	1301 – Intro to Soc  3312 – Statistics 3320 – Soc of Sport 3331 – Urban Soc  3380 – Methods  4340 – Soc of Mar/Fam 4351 – Crime & Delinq  4360 – Health Care  4390 – Senior Seminar	1301 – Intro to Soc          4320 – Family & Film

Freshman Year:  
**Introduction to Sociology\* (3)**  
 Sociology Elective (3)

Sophomore Year:  
**Social Problems (3)**  
 Sociology Elective (3)

Junior Year:  
**Statistics (3)**  
**Social Research Methods (3)**  
 Sociology Electives (3)

Senior Year:  
**Sociological Theory (3)**  
**Senior Seminar in Sociology (3)**  
 Sociology Electives (3)

## Degree Plans

**DEGREE: B.A.** **MAJOR: SOCIOLOGY**

Foundational Curriculum	Hours
<b>Effective Communication</b>	
<b>ENGL 1301</b> Freshman Writing I	3
<b>ENGL 1302</b> Freshman Writing II	3
<b>COMM 1301</b> Speech Communication	3
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	
<b>MATH 1301</b> or recommended	3
<b>Fitness Education</b>	
<b>FSSC 1170</b> Wellness for Life	1
<b>FSSC</b>	1
<b>FSSC</b>	1
<b>Fine Arts &amp; Leisure</b>	
<b>FINE ARTS</b> from Art, Music, Theatre	3
<b>ENGL 230X</b> World, English, or American Lit	3
<b>Biblical Studies</b>	
Six hours including at least 3 hours of BIBL	6
<b>BIBL 1301</b> Old Testament Survey	
<b>BIBL 1302</b> New Testament Survey	
<b>CHST 1311</b> Intro to Christianity	
<b>MNST 1321</b> Christianity in Cultural Context	
<b>THEO 1331</b> Intro to Christian Thought	
<b>THEO 1331</b> Intro to Christian Ethics	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	
(one language)	4
	4
	3
	3
<b>Humanities</b>	
<b>Humanities</b> (see SOCI 4380 in major)	
<b>Natural &amp; Physical Sciences</b>	
<b>4 hr lab</b>	4
<b>Other Science</b>	3
<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</b>	
6 hrs from: HIST, ECON, POLS, or PSYC,	3
(at least two fields)	3
<b>Technological Competency</b>	
<b>CSCI 1303</b> Intro to Computer Applications	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

	Hours
<b>Major: Sociology (30 hours)</b>	
<b>SOCI 1301</b> Intro to Sociology	3
<b>SOCI 2302</b> Social Problems	3
<b>SOCI 3312</b> Statistical Methods	3
<b>SOCI 3380</b> Social Research Methods	3
<b>SOCI 4380</b> Sociological Theory	3
<b>SOCI 4390</b> Senior Seminar in Sociology	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> elective	3
<b>Minor (minimum 18 hours)</b>	
	3
	3
	3
	3
	3
	3
<b>Major/Minor</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Core Curriculum Courses</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

**Chapel 80 attendances required**

**Writing Proficiency Exam – Must have completed 75 hours and ENGL 1301 and 1302**

**Note: Must complete a minimum of 124 hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to graduate. 42 advanced hours (3000 and 4000-level required).**

**DEGREE: B.B.S.** **MAJOR: SOCIOLOGY**

Foundational Curriculum	Hours
<b>Effective Communication</b>	
<b>ENGL 1301</b> Freshman Writing I	3
<b>ENGL 1302</b> Freshman Writing II	3
<b>COMM 1301</b> Speech Communication	3
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	
<b>MATH 1301</b> or recommended	3
<b>Fitness Education</b>	
<b>FSSC 1170</b> Wellness for Life	1
<b>FSSC</b>	1
<b>FSSC</b>	1
<b>Fine Arts &amp; Leisure</b>	
<b>FINE ARTS</b> from Art, Music, Theatre	3
<b>ENGL 230X</b> World, English, or American Lit	3
<b>Biblical Studies</b>	
Six hours including at least 3 hours of BIBL	6
<b>BIBL 1301</b> Old Testament Survey	
<b>BIBL 1302</b> New Testament Survey	
<b>CHST 1311</b> Intro to Christianity	
<b>MNST 1321</b> Christianity in Cultural Context	
<b>THEO 1331</b> Intro to Christian Thought	
<b>THEO 1331</b> Intro to Christian Ethics	
<b>Humanities</b>	
<b>Humanities</b> (see SOCI 4380 in major)	
<b>Natural &amp; Physical Sciences</b>	
<b>4 hr lab</b>	4
<b>Other Science</b>	3
<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</b>	
12 hrs from: HIST, ECON, POLS, or PSYC, (at least two fields)	3
	3
	3
<b>Technological Competency</b>	
<b>CSCI 1303</b> Intro to Computer Applications	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

	Hours
<b>Major: Sociology (30 hours)</b>	
<b>SOCI 1301</b> Intro to Sociology	3
<b>SOCI 2302</b> Social Problems	3
<b>SOCI 3312</b> Statistical Methods	3
<b>SOCI 3380</b> Social Research Methods	3
<b>SOCI 4380</b> Sociological Theory	3
<b>SOCI 4390</b> Senior Seminar in Sociology	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> advanced elective	3
<b>SOCI</b> elective	3
<b>Minor (minimum 18 hours)</b>	
	3
	3
	3
	3
	3
	3
<b>Major/Minor</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Core Curriculum Courses</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

**Chapel 80 attendances required**

**Writing Proficiency Exam – Must have completed 75 hours and ENGL 1301 and 1302**

**Note: Must complete a minimum of 124 hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher to graduate. 42 advanced hours (3000 and 4000-level required).**