

# SOCIOLOGY

## Department of Sociology

**Chairperson:** F. Carson Mencken

**Graduate Program Director:** Kevin D. Dougherty

Sociology is the science that studies the social relations of people. It is a scientific approach to understanding human groups and human interaction. From families to neighborhoods to nation-states, human life is spent in the company of others. The theories and methods of sociology provide a means to analyze the social nature of human existence and work toward a world that is more tolerant, equitable, and inclusive.

### Graduate Degrees in Sociology

The department offers two graduate degrees in sociology: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Arts (M.A.).

Although students are admitted directly to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program, they will pursue a Master of Arts in sociology. The M.A. program is available only to students who are initially admitted to the Ph.D. program. Students entering the program with graduate level work or a graduate degree from an accredited institution will have that work evaluated by the admissions committee and have a maximum of nine semester hours of graduate course work applied toward their graduate work at Baylor University.

The three areas of concentration in the doctoral program are community analytics, health and society, and sociology of religion. The first two years of the program have roughly the same requirements for all areas of emphasis. During the last three years students move into the more specialized areas.

### Admission Requirements

- B.A. (or equivalent)
- GPA predictive of success in this graduate program
- Personal statement of interest
- Three letters of recommendation
- Writing sample
- An interview with the sociology graduate admission committee, usually during recruitment event in February-March
- Expressed areas of academic/research interests compatible with those of the faculty

At the end of the second year, students are expected to have completed research resulting in a journal article or its equivalent. This paper is regarded as a Master's thesis equivalent.

- Sociology, M.A. (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-ma/>)
- Sociology, Ph.D. (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/>)
  - Community Analytics Concentration (Sociology, Ph.D.) (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/community-analytics-concentration/>)
  - Health and Society Concentration (Sociology, Ph.D.) (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/health-society-concentration/>)
  - Sociology of Religion Concentration (Sociology, Ph.D.) (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/sociology-religion-concentration/>)

[institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/health-society-concentration/](https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/health-society-concentration/))

- Sociology of Religion Concentration (Sociology, Ph.D.) (<https://catalog.baylor.edu/graduate-school/curriculum-departments-institutes-instruction/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-phd/sociology-religion-concentration/>)

## Sociology (SOC)

### SOC 5303 Social Measurement and Causal Modeling (3)

Advanced multivariate statistical techniques; causal modeling; problems of research design, validity, and reliability. The course also involves the utilization of social science computer programs in the analysis of large-scale survey data.

### SOC 5310 Social Demography (3)

A survey of demographic change, issues, and methods as they impact our social world. Emphasis is on the social and cultural aspects of demography, as well as the impact of the changing population in society.

### SOC 5312 Social Science Data Analysis (3)

Cross-listed as PSC 5312

This is a data-intensive course designed to acquaint students with the wide variety of available data types and sources for social science research. Students learn to access, analyze, and critique these various data types. In analyzing these data, we begin with simple univariate distributional statistics and progress through bivariate regression and correlation.

### SOC 5314 Regression Analysis for the Social Sciences (3)

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5312

Regression analysis with continuous, categorical, and count outcomes, including ordinary least squares (OLS), logistic, ordered logistic, multinomial logistic, Poisson, and negative binomial regression.

### SOC 5320 Seminar on the Community (3)

Theories of community structure and dynamics, methods community analysis, and techniques for community change.

### SOC 5330 Evaluative Research (3)

Cross-listed as GRT 5330

Conceptual, methodological, and administrative aspects of program evaluation. Problems of translating research findings into policies and programs are explored.

### SOC 5332 The Sociology of Health: Health Delivery Systems (3)

Cross-listed as GRT 5332

Special health problems of the aged person, with particular stress on related social factors and the strengths and weaknesses of existing health care systems. Alternate models for meeting the health needs of the aged are considered.

### SOC 5336 The Family in Later Life (3)

Cross-listed as GRT 5336, SOC 5334, SWO 5336

See SWO 5336 for course information.

### SOC 5341 Introduction to Sociology of Religion (3)

Acceptance into the graduate program. Introduction to the main theories and empirical studies in the sociology of religion.

### SOC 5342 Data Sources and Publishing in Sociology (3)

Introduction to various data sources, accompanied by training in how to publish research.

### SOC 5343 Theory in the Sociology of Religion (3)

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341; or consent of instructor

In depth analysis of the major social theories of religion.

**SOC 5345 Sociology of Power (3)**

Overview of the concepts, theories, and methods for studying power in human social life. Topics include power, oppression, inequality, the state, protest, and social change. Students read original texts, engage in critical thinking exercises, and write research papers.

**SOC 5354 Seminar in Family Sociology (3)**

Review of theoretical frameworks used in the study of family sciences. Emphasis is on classical and emerging approaches and the use of theory in research and program development.

**SOC 5357 Seminar in Comparative Sociology (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 6307 and 6314

This in-depth introduction to comparative sociology begins with a philosophical discussion of what constitutes comparative research and the criteria for social causation. Next, it examines the strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical approaches to comparative sociology. Third, it analyzes important contemporary comparative studies.

**SOC 5374 Sport in the Social Context (3)**

Cross-listed as HP 5374

See HP 5374 for course information.

**SOC 5379 Graduate Research Methods (3)**

An introduction to the logic and application of sociological research methods. Students learn key methodological principles as well as prominent quantitative and qualitative research designs.

**SOC 5381 Advanced Research Methods (3)**

Research projects under direct supervision of a faculty member. Although specific methodological areas will vary by project, content analysis, controlled experimental design, sampling, survey analysis, computer skills, and statistical techniques, will be emphasized.

**SOC 5386 Community Based Research (3)**

In this course students acquire first-hand experience in operationalizing a community-driven research project which includes the design, execution, and delivery of a final report to the community stakeholders.

**SOC 5390 Summer Writing Practicum in Sociology (3)**

Students spend the summer working with a faculty supervisor to improve their scholarly writing in the areas of framing a testable hypothesis, operationalizing and measuring concepts, and writing to the broader discipline. A publishable research article is the goal of the course.

**SOC 5391 Advanced Sociological Theory (3)**

Seminar on recent developments in sociological theory. Discussions will include critical evaluation of major theoretical systems, the development and use of paradigms, and the process of theory construction.

**SOC 5392 Leisure Well-Being in Later Life (3)**

Focus on how to create leisure opportunities to contribute to well-being of individuals in later years. Students will be involved in developing innovative approaches to leisure experiences for senior adults. Lab experience required.

**SOC 5395 Sociopsychological Aspects of Counseling Adults (3)**

Cross-listed as GRT 5395

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 4393 or PSY 4355 and SOC 4395; or consent of instructor

Adult development and socialization from the perspective of counseling interventions. Opportunities to develop counseling skills with middle-age and older persons will be provided along with appropriate supervision.

**SOC 5397 Methods in Aging Research (3)**

Cross-listed as GRT 5397, SWO 5397

See SWO 5397 for course information.

**SOC 5398 Advanced Sociological Theory II: Detailed Investigations of Contemporary Theory (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5391

This seminar builds on Advanced Sociology Theory with detailed investigations of contemporary theory. In particular, discussion focuses on how to utilize social theory in research.

**SOC 5V71 Special Topics in Sociology (1-6)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Designed for students who wish to study with a professor in an area of sociology not covered by a formal course. Students will contract with professor regarding study and number of semester hours.

**SOC 5V97 Seminar in Teaching (1-6)**

Supervised teaching experience. The student will teach SOC 1305 under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. Lesson plans, syllabi, handouts, lecture examples, etc., will be discussed before and after classes. Videotaping of selected classes will provide media for critique and growth.

**SOC 5V99 Thesis (1-6)**

Research, data analysis, writing, and oral defense of an approved master's thesis. At least six hours of SOC 5V99 are required.

**SOC 6083 Proseminar in Sociology (0)**

Pre-requisite(s): Enrolled in Department of Sociology's Ph.D

Program. This seminar aids students in professional development.

Weekly speakers discuss current research, publishing, teaching, and important topics/events in the sociology of religion. The course is pass/fail and required of all students pursuing a Ph.D. with an emphasis in sociology of religion. Course may be repeated 12 times.

**SOC 6301 Focus Group Research (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Students will apply information gathered from a review of the current literature to conduct a focus group research project under the supervision of the instructor. Students will conduct all phases of a focus group research project including design, sampling, administration and analysis.

**SOC 6303 Telephone Surveys (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Students will acquire knowledge of telephone survey techniques and use this information to conduct a telephone survey under the supervision of the instructor. Special emphasis will be given to issues of non-contact, refusals, demographic and behavioral screens, and random digit versus add a digit techniques.

**SOC 6307 Statistical Methods for Survey Research (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

An introduction to several multivariate statistical techniques appropriate for the analysis of discrete qualitative social science survey data measured at the nominal level of measurement. Emphasis in the course is on logic regression, log linear analysis and latent class/latent structure analysis. Application to major social science data sets will be made.

**SOC 6310 Mail Surveys (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Students will design, conduct, and analyze a mail survey in this course. Special emphasis will focus on questionnaire construction, question design, sampling techniques, cover letters and research identity, and other special problems unique to self-administered surveys.

**SOC 6314 Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Sociology (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5312 and 6307; or equivalent

This course covers cutting-edge data analysis techniques used in the top-tier sociology journals.

**SOC 6317 Community Spatial Analysis (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5312

Geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial modeling techniques are applied to contemporary community issues and social problems such as inequality, poverty, housing, employment, economic development, demographics, and transportation. Particular emphasis is placed on government and other sources of current data for community analysis.

**SOC 6318 Sampling Techniques (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Three hours of statistical methods

Planning, execution, and analysis of sampling from finite populations. Simple random, stratified random, ratio, systematic, cluster, sub sampling, regression estimates, and multi-frame techniques are covered.

**SOC 6320 Sociological Covariance Modeling (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5314

Introduction to sociological applications of covariance structure analysis, including reciprocal effects and correlated equations involving personal and social factors. Recursive and nonrecursive models with and without latent variables are taught and implemented.

**SOC 6323 Qualitative Methods (3)**

Training in qualitative research methods, including interviewing, content analysis, participant observation, and case studies. Students gain experience conducting, analyzing, and reporting qualitative research.

**SOC 6325 Needs Assessment (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

An introduction to community needs assessment in which available data (e.g. crime rates, poverty levels) and newly created data (e.g. elite surveys, program inventories) are combined to estimate various levels and types of community needs. Emphasis is on all facets of needs assessment including need definition, data selection, data creation, analysis, interpretation and presentation.

**SOC 6331 The Sociology of Religiosity (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341 or consent of instructor

Introduction to the measurement and definition of religiosity.

**SOC 6332 The Sociology of Religious Organizations (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341; or consent of instructor

Analysis of how religious organizations change, including membership dynamics, authority systems, and congregational cultures.

**SOC 6333 Religion, Politics, and Society (3)**

Analysis of religious change at the societal level with an emphasis on church-state relationships.

**SOC 6334 The Sociology of Religious Deviance (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341; or consent of instructor

Analysis of deviant religious groups with an emphasis on defining religious deviance and explaining group membership.

**SOC 6335 Religion, Morality and Social Change (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341; or consent of instructor

Analysis of the role of religion in creating, sustaining and challenging the moral order of societies, and how cultural change can affect religion's moral impact.

**SOC 6336 Religion, Race and Gender (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5341; or consent of instructor

Analysis of the interconnections of religion with race and gender with an emphasis on how race, ethnicity and gender have shaped religion and been shaped by religion.

**SOC 6340 Face to Face Surveys (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Students will develop and conduct a face-to-face survey under the direction of the instructor. In this process, students will train interviewers in the interpersonal dynamics of interviewing which comply with current federal guidelines concerning the protection of human subjects. In addition, the issues of dialects, illiteracy, and multicultural awareness will be addressed.

**SOC 6345 Sociology of Regional Processes (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5391; or equivalent; or consent of instructor

This course examines in detail sociological theories of regional growth and development. Students will gain a working knowledge of the core assumptions of each perspective along the structure-agency continuum. In addition, students will do significant readings of empirical research in this field, and conduct an original empirical study.

**SOC 6350 Seminar in Human Resource Management (3)**

Cross-listed as MGT 5336

See MGT 5336 for course information.

**SOC 6351 Seminar in Population Health (3)**

An examination of individual differences in health and well-being in the United States. Focuses on (1) health disparities by socioeconomic status, gender, race/ethnicity, and age; and (2) biological and sociological theories of illness and disease. Risk factors for poor health and coping resources that enhance mental and physical well-being are identified.

**SOC 6357 Health Inequalities in America (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): SOC 5314

A seminar focused on critiquing a wide selection of recent scientific articles on health and society. Chosen articles will deal with social inequalities in health observed in the United States and other advanced nations.

**SOC 6360 Demographic Techniques (3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

An introduction to the various models of demographic projection and modeling including linear regression, ratio techniques and cohort component. Emphasis is on mastery of base data acquisition and model construction to determine demographic trends and predict population levels, crime rates and disease patterns.

**SOC 6363 Directed Readings in Sociology (3)**

Students spend the summer working with a faculty supervisor to prepare for the PhD Preliminary Exam. Students review major sociological theories, research methods, and dominant research in one substance area.

**SOC 6384 Religion and Family Life (3)**

Focuses on the ways religion influences family life in the context of significant family change in the United States. Specific topics include how religious institutions have responded to changes in family life, sexual behavior, marriage and fertility timing, cohabitation, gender roles, parenting, marital quality, and divorce. Also examines how family life influences religious commitment.

**SOC 6391 Grant Writing and Proposal Development (3)**

Provides intensive exposure to the technical and political aspects of grant writing and proposal development. Emphasis is placed on defining proposal ideas to match funding sources, researching private foundations, corporations and government funding agencies, and developing successful proposals. Participants will prepare a grant proposal during the course, which will be submitted to an appropriate private or public agency.

**SOC 6V37 Special Topics in the Sociology of Religion (1-3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

Analysis of special topics in the sociology of religion. The course may be repeated once when the content varies.

**SOC 6V71 Special Topics (1-3)**

Pre-requisite(s): Consent of instructor

A social research project in selected areas of sociology. The project must be approved by the members of the graduate faculty supervising the student. A final journal-quality paper summarizing the research effort and findings must be submitted to the instructor. This course may be repeated up to six times for credit up to a total of eighteen semester hours provided the research area is different.

**SOC 6V99 Dissertation (1-6)**

Supervised research for the doctoral dissertation. A total of at least twelve semester hours is required for completion of the dissertation.