

Sociology Overview

The Sociology faculty strive to promote social awareness, active citizenship and critical thinking within and beyond our own culture. Courses are designed to emphasize the importance of the sociological perspective in work and life roles in a global world. Many students take sociology courses to develop personal skills and to learn about other cultures and societies. Students enroll in sociology courses to fulfill Minnesota Transfer Curriculum requirements and graduation requirements.

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SOCI 1710 Introduction to Sociology

This course introduces students to sociology: the systematic study of human interaction and society. Major theoretical perspectives and research methods of sociology will be examined. The primary goal is to create an awareness of, and appreciation for, the range of social and cultural variations throughout the United States and worldwide, stressing characteristics shared by all people. Readings and social science examples will be drawn from cultures around the world, including the pluralistic culture of the United States. Another focus of the class is to dispel common myths and stereotypes surrounding society and human behavior. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 7) 4C/4/0/0

SOCI 1720 Social Problems

This course introduces students to modern issues of societal concern, including social problems that have endured over time and those that have emerged as societies modernize and cultures change. The influence of globalization on cultures around the world will be discussed. Specific topics include: inequalities of race, class, gender, age, and sexual orientation, modern family issues, crime and violence, drugs, war and terrorism, global health, environmental factors affecting society and culture, poverty, and population growth. Critical thinking skills will be developed through class discussions, debates, and course assignments. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 8) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1730 Sociology of Families and Relationships

This course introduces students to the central ideas, challenges, theoretical perspectives and the diversity of human relationships, marriages and families. Global perspectives regarding families and the diversity of intimate relationships in contemporary societies will be discussed. Topics in this course could include the origins of marriage and diverse patterns of love, conflict, sexuality, parenting, single-hood, interpersonal violence, divorce, extended families and gender roles. Reading and examples will be drawn from societies around the world. Common myths and challenges related to stereotypes of the "typical" family and "functional" relationships will be explored. Critical thinking skills will be developed through class discussions, debates and course assignments. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 7) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1740 Sociology of Work

Sociology of Work introduces students to theories, issues and perspectives about work and workplaces in a global economy. The course explores occupations and professions in historical and contemporary settings. The interdependence of economic, social and political factors that shape and change the nature of work are covered within a global context. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 8) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1760 Mass Media and Society

This course provides students with a general understanding of how mass media operates in society and the influence of media messages in the areas of print media, recordings, radio, film, advertising, public relations, digital media and the Web. The course will emphasize basic definitions and the functions of mass media forms and practices; the impact of mass media on society; and major theoretical perspectives and research methods of sociology will be used to analyze various examples of media. Specific areas of discourse explored in this course may include racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, stereotypes, discrimination, violence, and crime. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC: Goal 5) 4C/4/0/0

SOCI 1765 Sociology of Crime and Deviance

This course will offer students an introduction to the sociological study of crime and deviance. We will examine the major types of crimes, such as violent crime, property crime, cybercrime, white-collar crime, and organized crime. This course will cover major sociological theories used to explain crime and deviance. Students will also learn about the relativity of deviance, how power, social control, and labeling are used to socially construct definitions of deviance, and the consequences of being labeled deviant. Topics in deviance may include suicide, mental illness, obesity, body modification, substance abuse, and sexual diversity. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 7) 3C/3/0/0

Information is subject to change.
This course information is not a contract.

SOCI 1766 Juvenile Delinquency

This course is designed to familiarize students with the sociological study of juvenile delinquency in the United States, while simultaneously cultivating an historical and international perspective on delinquency. Topics include the nature of delinquency, means of measuring delinquency, theoretical understandings of delinquency, societal influences upon and responses to delinquency, as well as the development of the juvenile justice system. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of “C” or better or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC Goals: 5 & 9) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1772 Introduction to Criminal Justice

This course will introduce students to the major components of the American Criminal Justice System, specifically the police, corrections and the courts. Students will discuss the various types of crime and how crime is measured. Additional topics may include: a brief history of crime and punishment, the development of the criminal justice system, causes of crime and victimization, styles of policing, levels of the court system, philosophies of punishment, juvenile justice and prison life. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of “C” or better or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 9) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1774 Introduction to Corrections

This is an introductory course designed to provide students with an overview of the problems and ethical dilemmas that face America’s correctional system. The institution of corrections is not only a study of our prison system but is, in fact, the study of a complex network of societal relationships and institutions. This course examines the history, present, and future of U.S. corrections. The role of penitentiaries, prisons, jails, and grass roots organizations is explored along with the concepts of punishment, rehabilitation, retribution, restoration and transformation. (Prerequisite(s): Grade of “C” or better in READ 0721 or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 9) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1776 Probation, Parole and Alternative Sentencing

This course is designed to introduce students to the fields of probation and parole. We will examine a variety of community-based correctional practices and strive to understand the roles of individuals who work within community programming. Most importantly, we will begin to gain an understanding of those individuals who receive the services of these fields. The ultimate goal of this course is for students to develop their ability to critically examine a diverse range of correctional programming. (Prerequisite(s): Grade of “C” or better in READ 0721 or appropriate assessment score) (MnTC: Goals 5 & 9) 3C/3/0/0

SOCI 1790 Special Topics in Sociology

This course is designed to present additional or unique material and learning experiences within a specified discipline. The course will be based on student need, flexibility, and may be designed to meet various transfer and pre-major course requirements. Please see a current Course Schedule for complete course details. (Prerequisite(s): READ 0721 with a grade of “C” or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goal 5) Variable credits 1-6

SOCI 2720 Social Psychology

This course focuses on social psychological theories and research to analyze how an individual’s thoughts, feelings, and actions influence other people, social settings, and institutions. Specific emphasis will be placed on the ways in which an individual’s cognitive processes affect their emotions and behaviors as well as their interpretation of social interactions. Topics include perception, attribution, socialization, attitudes, conflict, altruism, groups, power, conformity, prejudice, collective behaviors, and social movements. (Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1710 or SOCI 1710. READ 0721 with a grade of “C” or better or appropriate assessment score.) (MnTC: Goal 5 & 7) 4C/4/0/0