

Sociology

Sociology studies various aspects of human interaction and social phenomena. The sociology major addresses sociological issues pertaining to self; social groups; social and cultural values; family and community relations; economic and political relations; stratification based on race, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual stratification; the rural-urban divide; and the nature of social organizations. The comparative/historical approach of the program enables students to analyze these issues not only in the United States but also comparatively at the global level. Furthermore, sociology addresses how social structures influence human beings at both the micro and macro level through the use of logic and varied scientific methodologies.

The sociology curriculum addresses the educational objectives of students who wish to: 1) develop skills in critical thinking and analysis; 2) learn the ways in which sociological thinking can contribute to one's active and constructive participation in society; 3) master scientific principles and methods to analyze and evaluate data in order to understand the social world; and 4) apply sociological theories and methods to social public policy, community development, and social justice initiatives.

After completing the sociology requirements, students will be able to apply sociological analysis in real world situations; critically evaluate explanations of human behavior using evidence and scientific methods; and employ critical thinking skills in conducting sociological research and conveying ideas and findings to the public.

Career Opportunities

Graduates in sociology will be prepared to seek careers in: 1) local and state governments, community-based organizations; and 2) research positions in government, private businesses and corporations, organized labor and labor-management councils. In addition, the program provides the basis for graduate studies in sociology leading to teaching and research positions in higher education.

For more information on possible careers:

- Careers in Sociology-American Sociological Association (<http://www.asanet.org/career-center/careers-sociology/>)
- American Sociological Association-What Sociologists Do? (<http://www.asanet.org/career-center/careers-sociology/what-sociologists-do/>)
- American Sociological Association-21 (http://asa.enoah.com/Bookstore/Career-Publications/BKctl/ViewDetails/SKU/ASAOE500C14/?_ga=2.137056624.1957649176.1523143301-223521765.1514149726)st
Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology

See the Graduate section (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/graduateprograms/>) of this *Catalog* for more information on Graduate programs offered at Mount Mercy.

Sociology Major

Required:

GS 225	How To Find Out Anything: Intermediate College Research	2
SO 122	Introduction to Sociology	3
SO 251	Sociological Theories	3
SO 315	Methods of Social Research	3
SO 441	Senior Seminar	3
Sociology Electives		18

GS 138	The Final Journey: Death & Dying
HS 210	Introduction to Public Health
HS 215	Introduction to Epidemiology
SO 155	Social Problems
SO 176	Deviant Behaviors
SO 183	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
SO 200	Introduction to Gender Studies
SO 202	Marriage & the Family: Intimate Relationships
SO 225	Aging in America
SO 235	Social Inequalities
SO 240	Medical Sociology
SO 310	Human Sexuality
SO 330	Global Race Relations
SO 342	Sociology of Mental Health & Illness
SO 343	Global Health
SO 344	Gender & Health
SO 400	Special Topics in Sociology
SO 420	Social Movements
SO 430	Internship in Sociology
SO 445	Independent Study in Sociology

Total Hours **32**

Academic Requirements

Students must maintain a grade of C or above (C- does not count) in each required course for the major and minor.

Note: Students planning to pursue teacher education should follow the program guidelines within the Education (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/curriculum/education/>) section of this *Catalog* and contact an advisor in the education division for assistance. Students cannot double major in Sociology and Sociology - Education.

Sociology Minor

Required:

SO 122	Introduction to Sociology	3
or SO 155	Social Problems	
Sociology Electives ¹		15

Total Hours **18**

¹ Any course with the SO prefix. See full list on the Sociology Major tab. Can include GS 138 The Final Journey: Death & Dying, HS 210 Introduction to Public Health, HS 215 Introduction to Epidemiology

Academic Requirements

Students must maintain a grade of C or above (C- does not count) in each required course for the major and minor.

The following is the typical sequence of courses required for the major*:

Freshman

Fall	Hours	Winter	Hours	Spring	Hours
SO 122 (Self & Society Domain)	3	SO 310 (Holistic Health Domain [or Elective])	3	SO 183 (or other Global Awareness Domain course)	3

SO 155 (or other Self & Society Domain)	3	Math Competency	3
Writing Competency	4	Literature Domain	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
		Elective	3
	13	3	15

Sophomore

Fall	Hours	Winter	Hours	Spring	Hours
GS 138 (or SO Course [choose from elective options])	3	SO 310 (Holistic Health Domain [or Elective])	3	SO 251	3
HS 210 (or SO Course [choose from elective options])	3			SO Course (choose from elective options)	3
Historical Roots Domain	3			Natural World Domain	4
Fine Arts Domain	3			Elective	3
Elective	3			Elective	3
	15		3		16

Junior

Fall	Hours	Winter	Hours	Spring	Hours
GS 225	2	Elective		3 SO Course (choose from elective options)	3
SO 315	3			SO Course (choose from elective options)	3
Philosophy Domain	3			Religious Studies Domain	3
Elective	3			Elective	3
Elective	3			Elective	1
	14		3		13

Senior

Fall	Hours	Winter	Hours	Spring	Hours
SO 430 (or SO Course [choose from elective options])	3	Elective		3 SO 441	3
Elective	3			ME 450	1
Elective	3			Elective	3
Elective	3			Elective	3

		Elective	3
	12	3	13

Total Hours: 123

Note: Elective courses could be used for a second major, a minor, a course of interest, internship or study abroad experience.

Note: See the Curriculum section (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/curriculum/#corecurriculumtext>) for more information on Portal, Competency, Domain, and Capstone courses.

***Disclaimer**

The course offerings, requirements, and policies of Mount Mercy University are under continual examination and revision. This *Catalog* presents the offerings, requirements, and policies in effect at the time of publication and in no way guarantees that the offerings, requirements, and policies will not change.

This plan of study represents a typical sequence of courses required for this major. It may not be applicable to every student. Students should contact a department faculty member to be sure of appropriate course sequence.

Courses**SO 122 Introduction to Sociology: 3 semester hours**

This course introduces students to sociology, the core issues of the discipline, and the way sociologists analyze social behavior. In addition to mastering basic concepts and principles, students will learn a great deal about American society and how to analyze ordinary experience from a sociological perspective. (Offered fall and spring semesters).

SO 155 Social Problems: 3 semester hours

This thematic course introduces the student to a sociological understanding of various social issues such as inequalities of class, gender and race; problems of work and unemployment, economic restructuring and downsizing; environmental problems; homelessness and poverty; and inadequacy of the health care system to name a few. Students will have the opportunity to critically evaluate the root causes of social problems both at the national and global levels, analyze and interpret data, and work within groups to develop skills for problem solving and social policy planning.

SO 176 Deviant Behaviors: 3 semester hours

This course examines various theories and explanations of deviant behavior, ranging from individual to societal-level instances of non-conformity, such as: crime, mental illness, and the way we label individuals - and behaviors - as such. In addition, the course provides a sociological understanding of crime: what we consider criminal, our responses to it, and its impacts on society. Prerequisite: SO 122 or SO 155.

SO 183 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology: 3 semester hours

This course focuses on the study of human behavior within various social contexts, as well as the development of a wide array of cultural traits and belief systems in human communities. By studying distinctive forms of social relations and universal and particular aspects of human culture, students are exposed to the fallacies of cultural and racial superiority of western societies over the rest of the world, particularly primitive cultures.

SO 200 Introduction to Gender Studies: 3 semester hours

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Gender Studies. It is designed to help students develop a critical framework for thinking about questions relating to gender and the ways that gender is constructed and institutionalized. The course will provide social, cultural, historical, and political perspectives on gender and its construction. We will explore the intersections among gender, race, class, sexuality, nation, and ability in multiple settings and contexts. Taking an interdisciplinary approach to a variety of questions, we will consider the distinctions between sex and gender, feminist theories, the making of masculinity, sexuality and the body, the gendered economy, intersectionality, health and science, and the challenges of feminist activism across nations.

SO 202 Marriage & the Family: Intimate Relationships: 3 semester hours

This course examines intimate partner relationships and families as expressed throughout time and place in contemporary American society. It provides an analysis of intimate partnerships and families over the life course as social institutions with changing functions and structures. Attention will be given to intimate partnerships and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships across diverse groups and social settings. Students will gain insight into the influences of religion, politics, culture, education, and economics on individual and family-level well-being.

SO 225 Aging in America: 3 semester hours

This course constitutes an overview of gerontology, including the major theories used to explain the physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of aging. As the one inequality all people face, the study of aging and ageism - known as social gerontology - examines the transformations in the life course of older adults and the impacts on those they encounter. Drawing from an historical perspective, the course explores current issues and trends related to finances and retirement, health, living environments, social justice, and politics. Prerequisite: SO 122.

SO 235 Social Inequalities: 3 semester hours

This course provides an analysis of various forms of social stratification and inequality through an interdisciplinary approach, grounded in sociological theory. Examination of dimensions of inequality include: race, class, gender, status and political parties, and the way in which economic and political systems shape access to wealth and resources in the United States and abroad. Prerequisite: SO 122 or SO 155.

SO 240 Medical Sociology: 3 semester hours

This course is a study of the medical profession as a societal institution in regard to the effects of the norms and beliefs of society. Areas analyzed include the social factors involved in the physical and mental health areas, the norms and roles of health care professionals in the treatment process, environmental and occupational health, non-physician providers, and cross-cultural reforms in response to the health care crisis. Prerequisite: SO 122 (Offered alternate years).

SO 251 Sociological Theories: 3 semester hours

This course attends to the basic theoretical issues in sociological theory, including an analysis of the key theorists Marx, Weber and Durkheim. This course also provides an overview of modern social theories such as conflict, structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, and postmodernism. Prerequisite: SO 122.

SO 310 Human Sexuality: 3 semester hours

This course examines cutting edge scholarship on the sociology of sex, gender, and sexuality. Because these are major organizing principles of contemporary social life, we will examine gender and sexuality from multiple levels of analysis including the meaning and experience of the body, self, and identity, social groups and networks, as well as social organization with in our major social institutions. We also discuss how gender intersects with other social statuses, such as race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, and nationality to reproduce inequalities and power relations. Prerequisites: SO 122, SO 155, SO 183, or SO 200.

SO 315 Methods of Social Research: 3 semester hours

Provides an understanding of a scientific approach to knowledge building with an emphasis on teaching students to be critical consumers of research. Examines quantitative and qualitative methods and applications used in social sciences research including data analysis, program evaluation, and ethics and diversity in social worlds. Prerequisite: junior status; recommended SO 122.

SO 330 Global Race Relations: 3 semester hours

This course includes an in-depth examination of major conceptual views and theoretical perspectives on race and ethnicity. Within a critical historical and comparative framework, the course will trace the roots of modern race relations in the United States as well as in other countries, including Canada, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Palestine, and Israel, and South Africa. Recent theories of race relations that link colonialism and capitalist development to racism, prejudice and discrimination also will be discussed. Prerequisite: SO 122.

SO 342 Sociology of Mental Health & Illness: 3 semester hours

Sociology of Mental Health & Illness examines sociological theories and research pertaining to the definition, experience, and treatment of mental disorders. Sociological research on mental health and illness has a wide scope; therefore, this course will focus on three primary areas within sociological research: the definition and measurement of mental illness, social origins of mental health and illness, and personal, community, and societal-level responses to mental illness. Prerequisite: SO 240.

SO 343 Global Health: 3 semester hours

This course will explore the unequal distribution of health and illness around the world. It will focus on four major areas: global health issues; sociological perspectives on global health disparities; comparative healthcare systems; and professional approaches to national and cross-national health problems. Prerequisite: SO 240.

SO 344 Gender & Health: 3 semester hours

Gender & Health introduces students to various ways in which the social construction of health and illness - particularly surrounding gender and gendered assumptions about bodies - impacts an individual's health. Topics discussed include: the gendering of health issues, gendered hierarchies in healthcare, and issues of inequality and empowerment in health and medicine. This course is taught from a critical feminist perspective. Prerequisite: SO 240.

SO 400 Special Topics in Sociology: 3 semester hours

This course will expose students to a variety of topics of sociological significance which are not usually discussed in regular departmental course offerings. Topics may vary and include: sociology of war, peace, and justice; movies and society; popular culture; the political economy of modern architecture and planning; and sociology of development and underdevelopment. Students may complete more than one topics course in consultation with an academic advisor. Prerequisite: SO 122.

SO 420 Social Movements: 3 semester hours

The purpose of this course is to offer an introduction to social movement studies. We review the main approaches developed in this field, including collective behavior theory, resource mobilization theory, political process theory, new social movement theory, collective action framing and culture, and contentious politics. We will discuss the ways in which emotions, organizations, resources, politics, discourses, and symbols facilitate and/or hinder protests and social movements; as well as, apply these ideas to a number of domestic and global social movements and revolutions. Prerequisite: SO 122 or SO 155, offered alternate years.

SO 430 Internship in Sociology: 3 semester hours

Majors who are juniors or seniors are required to fulfill the requirements for an experiential learning and field experience in sociology. In consultation with their faculty advisor, students shall assess their academic and vocational qualifications, develop a resume, and conduct a search for an internship position. Information on available internship sites will be available both at offices of career development and the sociology department chair. During the field experience, students will have a structured plan of reading, writing journals and reports, and a term paper. The objective of the term paper is to relate relevant sociological principles to the field experiences. Internships should be arranged in advance with a departmental faculty sponsor. Prerequisite: SO 122 or SO 155.

SO 441 Senior Seminar: 3 semester hours

A capstone course which allows students to do independent research and explore a topic of their choice, and also involves students in the examination of and discussion of cutting-edge issues in sociology. Open to non-majors with instructor consultation. Prerequisite: SO 122 or SO 155 and senior status.

SO 445 Independent Study in Sociology: 3 semester hours

With approval of their advisor and the department coordinator, juniors or seniors may schedule an independent study course in a sociological topic of their interest. No more than two independent study courses may be scheduled during the last two years of study. Credit is variable (1-3 semester hours), depending on the scope of the topic. Prerequisite: SO 251 and SO 315.