



## Student Advising Guidelines for the Department of Sociology

### Advising Information

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Students are advised to officially declare a major and to obtain a Program of Study by the beginning of the sophomore year. As with all students in the College of Liberal Arts, our students will initiate the Program of Study through the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advisor (Morton Hall, Room 220) but they are encouraged to first consult with the Sociology Department Chair or any member of our faculty. The Department of Sociology is located in Morton Hall, Room 344, phone 256.824.6190, email [soc@uah.edu](mailto:soc@uah.edu). Students planning to attend graduate school in sociology should consult closely with a faculty member to determine courses that may be beneficial.

### Sociology Major

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The College of Liberal Arts awards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. The degree program includes: (1) general education requirements, (2) major courses, (3) a minor or cognate, (4) elective courses in order to reach a minimum of 128 total hours. In addition to the General Education Requirements (GER) for the B.A., students who major in sociology must complete 34 hours of sociology courses. There are four required courses (five for transfer students) and 21 of the 34 credits must be at the 300-level or above.

#### Required Sociology Courses: 13 hours (16 for transfer students)\*

- SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 202 Research Methods
- SOC 302 Sociological Theory
- SOC 303 Statistics for the Social Sciences (4 hrs)
- *\*Transfer students only: SOC 206 Marriage and Family*

#### Sociology Electives: 21 hours (18 for transfer students)

- 6 hours in Sociology at any level (3 hours for transfer students)
- 12 hours in Sociology at level 300 or above
- 3 hours in Sociology at level 400 or above

*Students are strongly encouraged to take SOC 202, 302, and 303 early in their program.*

### Suggested Courses for Career Tracks

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#### For students planning careers in social services:

- SOC 102 Analysis of Social Problems
- SOC 206 Marriage and Family
- SOC 306 Sociology of Gender
- SOC 319 Deviance and Social Control
- SOC 325 Sociology of Education
- SOC 330 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- SOC 375 Social Psychology
- SOC 410 Sociology of Childhood
- SOC 435 Sociology of Social Movements

#### For students planning careers in law or government policy:

- SOC 102 Analysis of Social Problems
- SOC 302 Sociological Theory
- SOC 319 Deviance and Social Control
- SOC 325 Sociology of Education
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- SOC 435 Sociology of Social Movements
- SOC 480 Sociology of Science and Technology

#### For students planning careers in business and industry:

- SOC 306 Sociology of Gender
- SOC 330 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- SOC 415 Sociology of Globalization
- SOC 480 Sociology of Science and Technology

## Sociology Minor

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A student developing a minor in sociology with a major in another discipline must complete 21 hours of sociology courses, including SOC 100. A minimum of 12 hours should be in courses numbered 300 or above. Sociology courses may also be used in conjunction with courses from other disciplines to form a cognate area of study. Such a program should be developed with the advice of the sociology faculty and approved by the chair of the student's major department.

## Sociology for a Second Area of Study

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Students majoring in elementary education may select sociology as their second area of study. (See the major requirements in the Department of Education's section of the UAHuntsville undergraduate catalog). To meet university requirements, students must complete a minimum of 18 hours in sociology, 12 of which must be above the 300-level in sociology. Courses should be chosen with the help of the education advisor and approval of the chair of the Department of Sociology. The recommended program is:

1. SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
2. SOC 206 Marriage and Family
3. SOC 325 Sociology of Education
4. 3 additional courses in sociology at the level of 300 or above

(The following courses are especially useful for teachers: SOC 306, SOC 410, SOC 319, SOC 330, SOC 350, SOC 375)

## Student Club and Honorary Society

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### Student Sociological Association (SSA)

The Student Sociological Association is a democratic, student-run organization whose purpose is to promote the study of sociology and to sponsor social and intellectual activities that will serve to enrich its members' study of sociology, aid students of sociology in their preparation for careers after graduation, and contribute toward the improvement of our community as well as the human condition. SSA is always open to suggestions for new activities and encourages people who are enthusiastic about making a difference in our community to join. For information contact the SSA faculty advisor in the Department of Sociology at 256.824.6190.

### Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)

Epsilon of Alabama was chartered in 1976 as UAHuntsville's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the National Sociology Honorary Society. Membership requirements for AKD include the following: express a demonstrated interest in sociology or be a major or minor in sociology; be in the top 35% of your class; have a GPA of at least 3.0 over all of your UAHuntsville sociology courses; have completed at least four sociology courses at UAHuntsville. There is a one-time fee for lifetime membership, which includes a one-year subscription to the journal *Sociological Inquiry*. For information contact the AKD faculty advisor in the Department of Sociology at 256.824.6190.

## Sociology Courses

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### SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology (3 hrs)

Perspective methods, concepts, and general findings of the sociologist. Historical and conceptual development of sociology.

### SOC 105 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 hrs)

Origin and development of human ways of life with emphasis on cross-cultural variations in human behavior, belief systems, social institutions, and cultural change.

*Note on prerequisites: The sociology courses listed below are open only to students who have completed SOC 100. With the exception of SOC 303 and SOC 435, there are no other prerequisites (but see recommendations preceding 400-level courses below).*

### SOC 102 Analysis of Social Problems (3 hrs)

Sociological interpretation of contemporary social problems as they relate to significant trends in complex societies.

### SOC 202 Research Methods (3 hrs)

Broad and balanced background in various types of social research methods. Fundamental logic and specific techniques in conducting research.

**SOC 206 Marriage and Family (3 hrs)**

Examines the family as a social institution, including its structure and function in U.S. society as well as cross-cultural comparisons of family arrangements.

**SOC 302 Sociological Theory (3 hrs)**

Development of discipline of sociology in terms of major trends of sociological theory, past and present, and major theoretical problem areas. Nature of sociological theory in relation to other disciplines.

**SOC 303 Statistics for the Social Sciences (4 hrs)**

This course is an introduction to social statistics with an emphasis on quantitative analysis of survey and census data. Topics covered include descriptive statistics, random sampling, estimation and hypothesis testing with an emphasis on t-tests, chi-square, correlation and regression. This course will provide students with a working familiarity of SPSS, analysis of social science datasets, ability to read and comprehend published statistics, and write-up statistical results. (An additional lab fee is assessed for this course). Prerequisite: 3 hours college math.

**SOC 306 Sociology of Gender (3 hrs)**

An examination of the different perspectives used in the sociological analysis of gender and of the current research addressing gender stratification. The analysis includes the institutional consequences of gender construction in the United States and cross-culturally, as well as the effects on women and men as members of society.

**SOC 319 Deviance and Social Control (3 hrs)**

Examines several approaches to studying deviant behavior and its social control, with emphasis on the social construction of deviance and societal reactions to it. The focus is generally on deviation and control in the U.S.

**SOC 325 Sociology of Education (3 hrs)**

Education as a social institution; its structure, function, and role in contemporary life. (Same as ED 325).

**SOC 330 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3 hrs)**

Among other issues, examines the historical relationship between race, ethnicity, and economic class/opportunity; and the social construction of ethnicity and race. The emphasis is on race and ethnicity in the U.S. with some discussion of international issues.

**SOC 340 Special Topics (1-3 hrs)**

Nontraditional topics of current sociological interest. Title of course and number of credit hours when offered, will appear in course schedule along with prerequisites necessary for admission to course. May be taken more than once for credit as long as subtitles differ. In recent years we have been able to offer special topics courses on sport and medical sociology.

**SOC 350 Social Stratification (3 hrs)**

Theoretical questions and frameworks for understanding social stratification. Comparison of different types of stratification systems across time and in different societies.

**SOC 375 Social Psychology (3 hrs)**

Fundamental principles of group processes, social influence, and group structure. Development of group solidarity, cohesion, intergroup conflict and cooperation, communication, leadership, opinion, propaganda, and suggestion. Prerequisite: SOC 100 or PY 101,102. (Same as PY 375).

**SOC 376 Mass Media in America: Theory and Criticism (3 hrs)**

Mass communication theory, history of American mass media, and criticism of contemporary forms and functions of mass media of communication in the United States. (Same as CM 430).

**SOC 390 Readings and Individual Research (3 hrs)**

Supervised readings or in-depth research or both in area of specialized interest to student or instructor. Permission of instructor. May be taken twice for credit with advisor's approval.

*The department strongly recommends that the following 400-level courses be reserved for those who have taken several sociology courses and have junior or senior standing, or have permission of the instructor. Some courses may have other prerequisites.*

**SOC 410 Sociology of Childhood (3 hrs)**

Examines the main sociological theories and studies related to the meaning and construction of childhood. Include topics such as the historical development of childhood as a separate stage of life, the impact of state intervention and social policies on the experiences of childhood, the social construction of issues like child abuse, and the interface of parenting and other social roles.

**SOC 415 Sociology of Globalization (3 hrs)**

Critical exploration of the processes of modernization and globalization and their impact on cultures, economies, and environments of developing societies. Topics include history and theories of development and case studies that examine the linkages among gender, class, culture, and development.

**SOC 435 Sociology of Social Movements (3 hrs)**

This course explores various organized movements for social change. Questions addressed include the origins and causes of such movements, the cultural, social and political contexts that impact movements, how movements mobilize people to become active, and strategies and tactics. Other topics include organizational factors and resource mobilization, social networks, collective identity and community building, social movement framing (i.e. persuasive rhetoric and argumentation), ideology, the decline of movements, and what "success" means for a social movement. Prerequisites: SOC 202 and SOC 303.

**SOC 440 Sociology of Religion (3 hrs)**

Among other issues, examines sociological theories of religion, religious organization, religion and social change, and new religious movements, with emphasis on religion in the U.S.

**SOC 480 Sociology of Science and Technology (3 hrs.)**

This course examines the ways in which social and cultural processes constitute the sciences and technological systems, and the ways in which scientific and technological advances shape cultures and societies on a global scale.

**Sociology Faculty**

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**Mitch Berbrier****mitch.berbrier@uah.edu**

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Indiana University, 1996

Research Methods, Race and Ethnicity,  
Deviance, Social Movements**Nancy Finley****nancy.finley@uah.edu**

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 1982

Marriage and Family, Sociology of Gender,  
Sociology of Childhood**Mark P. Jones****mark.p.jones@uah.edu**

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, 2005

Science, Technology, and Biomedicine,  
Sociological Theory**Jason M. Smith****jason.smith@uah.edu**

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, 2006

Sociology of Education, Social Statistics, Sociology of  
Sport, Research Methods, Urban Sociology,  
Demography**Bhavani Sitaraman****bhavani.sitaraman@uah.edu**

Associate Professor

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 1990

Social Statistics, Anthropology, Cultural Change, Religion

**Teresa M. Terrell****teresa.terrell@uah.edu**

Adjunct Associate Professor

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 2007

Community and Urban Sociology, Race and Ethnicity,  
Social Movements

Updated 12-03-2010

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