



# SOCIOLOGY AT UAH



## THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR: FOUR OPTIONAL TRACKS

**CS** COMMUNITY SERVICES

**ES** ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

**LJ** LAW AND JUSTICE

**GS** GLOBAL STRUCTURES

**Preparing Students for Lives  
of Service in a Connected World**

The world is too big  
for a narrow education.

**Study Sociology at**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



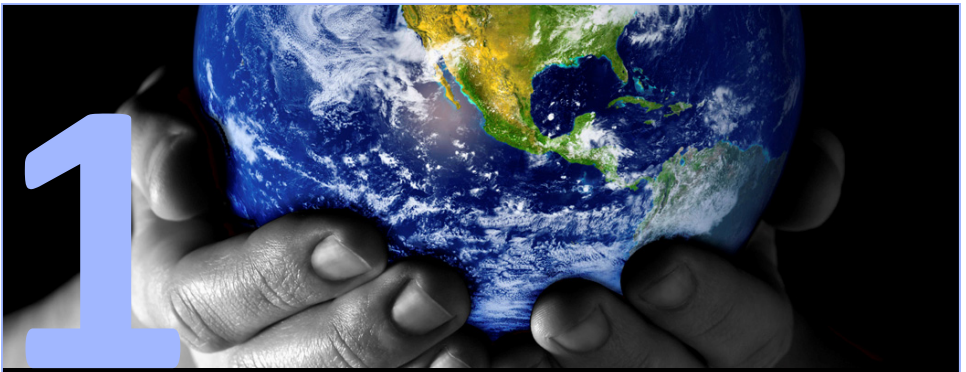
# SOCIOLOGY AT UAH

The UAH Department of Sociology offers students two avenues for pursuing a B.A. in Sociology:

- 1 The Classic Sociology Major**
- 2 A Sociology Major with a specialty track**

This pamphlet is designed to help students determine which of the available options best fits their aspirations and interests.

**Preparing Students for Lives  
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# THE CLASSIC SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

**The Classic Sociology Major** is designed to meet the needs of students who have a general interest in the field of sociology and who want the freedom to choose a wider variety of sociology courses unconstrained by the more specific requirements of tracks. The “Classic” is also a good choice for students considering graduate school in sociology or a related discipline, and those nearing the end of their programs who need to complete their degrees quickly, in just two or three semesters (see “Fast Track” at the end of this brochure).

**The Classic Sociology Major requires 34 credits distributed in the following manner:**

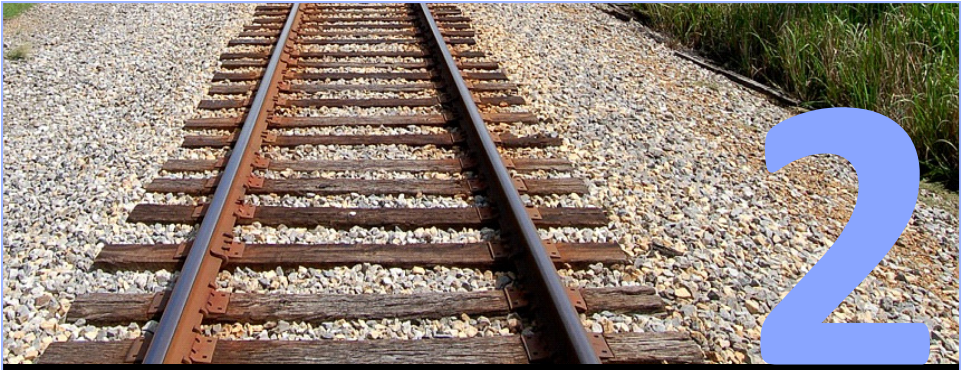
**Core Major Courses:**

- SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology\*
- SOC 301 Research Methods
- SOC 302 Sociological Theory
- SOC 303 Statistics for the Social Sciences

**Electives within the major:**

- 6 hours in Sociology at any level
- 12 hours at 300 level or above
- 3 hours at 400 level or above

*\*Charger Foundation Course*



## SOCIOLOGY MAJOR WITH SPECIALTY TRACK

Our **Sociology Tracks** are opportunities for students to focus their studies in areas of particular importance or interest to them. Sociology Tracks are good ways for sociology majors to add value and enrichment to their degree programs, but they are not for everyone. An overall GPA of 2.50 or greater is required to enter a track. In order to complete a track, one must graduate with a 2.50 GPA in Sociology courses and overall. Compared to the Classic Sociology Major, completing a track requires more planning, commitment, and credit hours. Thus, not all students will pursue a track, but those who do will find it to be a rewarding component of their sociology degree.

Upon completion of a track, the Sociology Department will provide students with a Confirmation of Track Completion, as evidence of their accomplishment. However, tracks are not “certificate programs” and do not appear on the official UAH diploma. All sociology program graduates receive the same degree—a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

The four tracks, discussed on the following pages, are:

- CS** The Community Services Track
- ES** The Environmental Social Science Track
- LJ** The Law and Justice Track
- GS** The Global Structures Track





# THE COMMUNITY SERVICES TRACK

If you would like to put your sociological education to work helping people, **The Community Services Track** may be right for you.

The centerpiece of this track is the Community Services Internship (SOC 395). This internship is designed to give students the opportunity to volunteer in a non-profit organization and thereby learn what it is like to work there, gain some experience, and make personal connections. Of course, it is a college course, so part of the internship involves reading and writing.

The other courses in this track are those most likely to include a focus on people confronting a variety of difficult situations in their lives, such as divorce, single-parenthood, discrimination, poverty, language and cultural barriers, imprisonment, psychiatric diagnoses, and other difficult circumstances.

The CS Track is also a good way to prepare for graduate programs in non-profit management, public policy, or social work.



**“a career in helping people . . .”**

**The CS Track requires 40 credit hours distributed in the following manner:**

**Core Major Courses** (SOC 100,\* 301, 302, 303) plus:

**All of these courses:**

SOC 102 Social Problems\*

SOC 105 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology\*

SOC 206 Marriage and Family

SOC 395 Community Services Internship

**Four of these courses:**

SOC 306 Sociology of Gender

SOC 319 Sociology of Deviance and Social Control

SOC 325 Sociology of Education

SOC 330 Sociology of Ethnicity and Race

SOC 350 Social Stratification

**One of these courses:**

SOC 435 Social Movements

SOC 431/469 Environmental Justice

**Recommended additional courses:**

FL 101, 102\*

PY 201, 433

*\*Charger Foundation Course*



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE TRACK

Are you concerned about the environment? Interested in the relationship of social life to such hot topics as climate change, sustainable agriculture, wildlife conservation, recycling practices, or green energy? If so, then you should consider **The Environmental Social Science Track**.

Environmental social science is the study of community in the largest possible sense. This community includes humans, other species, land, air, water, and the planet as a whole. Environmental sociology studies the co-evolution and complex interdependence of humans and the natural world, examining how the environment conditions and influences human societies, and conversely, how societies impact and alter their environments. This includes studying social responses to environmental change and disruption, such as public opinion of environmental issues, environmental social movements, environmental policy, and more.

The required courses in the ES Track are those sociology courses that either deal directly with environmental sociology or address issues most central to environmental sociology—that is, those courses that best help in developing an advanced comprehension of the social structures that impact the causes and consequences of environmental problems, as well as responses to them (such as global inequality, or racial discrimination, globalization, and social movements).





# “the relationship of social life to the environment . . .”

**The ES Track comprises 41 credits distributed in the following manner:**

**Core Major Courses** (SOC 100,\* 301, 302, 303) plus:

**All of these courses:**

- SOC 102 Social Problems\*
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- SOC 369 Environmental Sociology
- SOC 469 Environmental Justice
- ESS 111 Climate and Global Change\*
- ESS 210 Collapse of Civilizations

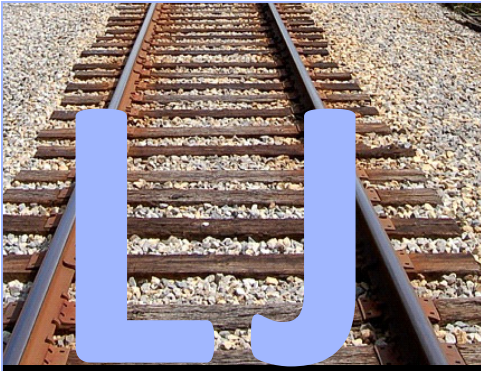
**Three of these courses:**

- SOC 105 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology\*
- SOC 150 Sociological Perspectives on Science and Technology\*
- SOC 330 Sociology of Ethnicity and Race
- SOC 415 Sociology of Globalization
- SOC 435 Social Movements
- SOC 480 Sociology of Science and Technology

**Recommended additional courses:**

- ESS 407 Environmental Problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- HY 369 American Environmental History

*\*Charger Foundation Course*

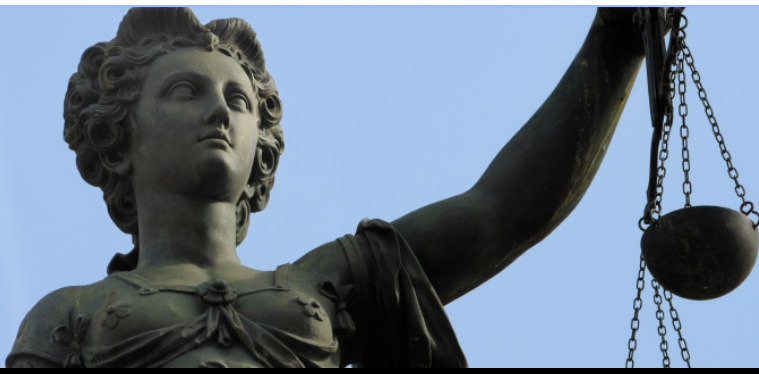


## THE LAW AND JUSTICE TRACK

Family Law, Civil Rights Law, Environmental Law, Immigration Law, and Public Defense Law are just some of the legal specialties that can benefit from a sociological perspective. **The Law and Justice Track** is designed for students interested in working in the legal sector—defined broadly to include lawyers, paralegals, community organizers, and social justice advocates.

Admission to law school ordinarily requires a Bachelor's degree in any subject, and many sociology majors at UAH and elsewhere have become successful lawyers. Understanding the social world is a necessity for the practice of most types of law. For example, family lawyers frequently work on divorce proceedings; courses such as Marriage and Family and Sociology of Gender offer a valuable background. Whereas other majors may focus on the mechanics of passing or implementing laws, or on legal argumentation, theory, or analysis, sociology uniquely focuses on the real-world conditions of people subject to laws and how those conditions and people's actions give rise to new laws or the repeal of old ones. The most important benefit of a grounding in sociology is preparing lawyers and advocates for working with social science data. Court cases and other forms of litigation regularly involve expert testimony from social scientists about research in a given field. Lawyers must understand how to interpret research if they are going to properly represent their clients.

\* In addition to your sociology advisor, students in the LJ Track should also consult with the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Pre-Law advisor.



## “a foundation for working in the legal sector . . .”

**The LJ Track requires 40 credit hours distributed in the following manner:**

**Core Major Courses** (SOC 100,\* 301, 302, 303) plus:

**All of these courses:**

- SOC 102 Social Problems\*
- SOC 206 Marriage and Family
- SOC 319 Deviance and Social Control
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- PHL 201 Introduction to Logic\*
- PSC 101 American Government\*

**At least one of these courses:**

- SOC 306 Sociology of Gender
- SOC 325 Sociology of Education
- SOC 330 Sociology of Ethnicity and Race

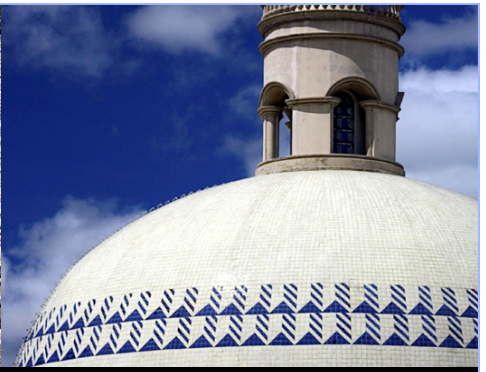
**Plus:**

- One 400-level course in Sociology

**Recommended additional courses:**

- CM 316 Legal Argument
- PHL 434 Political Philosophy
- PSC 452 American Constitutional Law

*\*Charger Foundation Course*



# THE GLOBAL STRUCTURES TRACK

We often hear that we live in a global village, a world in which what we eat or wear, how we play, where we work, and what we watch are increasingly shaped by forces outside our own society. Wars, environmental problems, unemployment and outsourcing of jobs, and immigration are a few topics that cannot be understood without exploring the global institutions and processes that link our society to others in the world. Many of our students are particularly curious about the connections among people around the globe, and how humans can peacefully live in a world with vast differences in cultures, values, religious beliefs, attitudes, income, wealth, and natural resources. In this spirit, the courses in **The Global Structures Track** focus on comparative, cross-cultural, and global aspects of social life.

Comparative and global perspectives on social inequality, social structures, and cultures is invaluable to effectiveness in a broad range of work settings where people from different cultural backgrounds interact. If you plan to travel or work abroad, this track may be useful preparation for internships with Fulbright, the Peace Corps, Greenpeace or other international non-governmental organizations. Students in the GS Track are encouraged to seek travel opportunities through the Foreign Languages Department and Global Studies Program. The GS Track is a good way to prepare for a career in foreign service or with international groups that deal with environmental issues, poverty, immigrants, and refugees. It is also good preparation for graduate study in sociology or related international studies fields.



# “comparative, cross-cultural, and global aspects of social life . . .”

**The GS Track consists of 40 credits distributed in the following manner:**

**Core Major Courses** (SOC 100,\* 301, 302, 303) plus:

**All of these courses:**

- SOC 105 Cultural Anthropology\*
- SOC 150 Sociological Perspectives on Science and Technology\*
- SOC 320 Sociology of Religion
- SOC 330 Sociology of Ethnicity and Race
- SOC 350 Social Stratification
- SOC 369 Environmental Sociology
- SOC 415 Sociology of Globalization
- SOC 469 Environmental Justice

**One of these:**

- GS 200 Global Systems and Cultures\*
- FL 101 Introduction to Foreign Language I\*

**Recommended additional courses:**

- FL 102 Introduction to Foreign Language II\*
- GS 199 or GS 399 Study Abroad
- FL 200 Intermediate Foreign Language\*

*\*Charger Foundation Course*





## FAST TRACK THE CLASSIC SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

**Question:** I took ONE sociology course as a GER a long time ago, and now I want to change my major. I need to graduate in less than two years. **Can I complete a sociology major in 1½ or 2 years?**

**Question:** I am transferring from another program, college, or university. I have completed most General Education Requirements, and most of my minor. **Can I complete a sociology major in 1½ or 2 years?**

We understand that some students experience changes in their circumstances that may lead them to this situation—more likely students who realize late that they no longer want to pursue their original major, yet have already invested a lot of time and money in their education.

Can this be done? It is possible but difficult. Success depends on a number of factors: on your academic skills, on precisely how many and which requirements also remain for your minor, General Education, and other requirements. Scheduling is much more difficult: it requires taking what is offered, when it is offered, rather than waiting for a specific course you might enjoy more, or that might better prepare you for your career, or that might better fit your schedule. But it can be done.



# “complete your degree in less than two years . . .”

Here are two examples of how you can “fast track” the Classic Sociology major. These are for illustrative purposes only; each individual case will vary.

## Start in Spring Semester:

### Spring Semester Year I

SOC 102  
SOC 206  
SOC 301

### Fall Semester Year II

SOC 302  
SOC 303  
SOC 300+

### Spring Semester Year II

SOC 300+  
SOC 300+  
SOC 300+  
SOC 400+

## Start in Fall Semester:

### Fall Semester Year I

SOC 102  
SOC 302  
SOC 303

### Spring Semester Year I

SOC 301  
SOC 300+  
SOC 300+

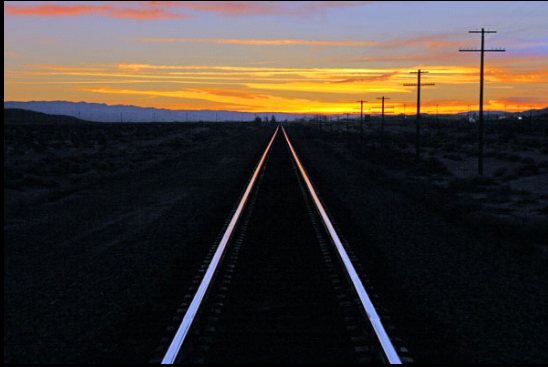
### Fall Semester Year II

SOC 206  
SOC 300+  
SOC 300+  
SOC 400+

\*Fast track assumes SOC 100 has already been completed.

\*Summer course offerings may make completion easier or quicker. We usually offer summer courses but cannot guarantee they will be offered at any given time. Summer teaching is not part of regular faculty requirements (they are expected to be engaged in research and scholarship).

**Successful fast track completion is greatly assisted by regular consultation with your Sociology faculty advisor.**



If you have questions about  
the UAH Sociology Program,  
please send an email to:

Dr. Bhavani Sitaraman, Interim Chair  
Department of Sociology  
sitarab@uah.edu



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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Morton Hall 344, Huntsville, AL 35899

256.824.6190 ■ [www.uah.edu/sociology](http://www.uah.edu/sociology) ■ [soc@uah.edu](mailto:soc@uah.edu)

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