

# Sociology

---

## College of Arts & Sciences

The Sociology graduate program offers Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Plan A or B are both options for the Master's degree. Graduate students pursuing a Ph.D. Choose an area of specialization related to the following faculty areas of expertise: Crime, Law, and Deviance; Global Work and Politics; Rural, Environmental, and Community Sociology; Health and Medical Sociology; and Social Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender. Additionally, students must demonstrate competence in theory and methods prior to taking the qualifying examination in their specialization area.

To aid in financing graduate education, a number of assistantships are available to qualified students. Outstanding students may compete for fellowships.

Sociologists at the University of Kentucky in the Departments of Sociology, Community and Leadership Development (in the College of Agriculture, Food, & Environment), and Behavioral Science (in the College of Medicine) carry on a substantial variety of research projects, consultative activities, extension education programs, and community services. Specialized experience and training are available to graduate students in rural sociology at the Agricultural Experiment Station and opportunities for applied sociology experience are available in the Cooperative Extension Service.

Assistantships and traineeships in health-related areas are available to graduate students in Behavioral Science in the College of Medicine.

Opportunities for multidisciplinary work exist in conjunction with centers and programs at the University of Kentucky including African American and Africana Studies, Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies, the Center for Research on Violence Against Women, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, Prevention Research Center, Center on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Center for Poverty Research, the Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research, Committee on Social Theory, International Studies, and Gender and Women's Studies. Assistantships and traineeships are also available to qualified sociology graduate students through these centers and programs.

### Admission Requirements

The percentile rankings of the three components of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must average (mean) at least 50 percent. The following additional materials are required to apply for admission to the graduate program in Sociology, and should be sent directly to the Graduate School's ApplyYourself site. Any inquiry on the program requirements and the admission process should be directed to: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, 1515 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027:

- A statement of goals and reasons for pursuing an advanced degree in sociology. It is helpful if applicants also address the field(s) of interest within sociology they may wish to pursue in their graduate studies.
- A sample of writing, preferably in the form of a term paper, an extensive essay, or a draft of a senior thesis. If the applicant has completed a master's degree, she or he may submit one or two chapters from the master's thesis. Please do not submit a copy of the entire master's thesis.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Application form for fellowships and assistantships, if the applicant wishes to be considered for a teaching assistantship, research assistantship, traineeship, or fellowship. This application form is available at: <https://soc.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/application.pdf>.

## Course Descriptions

### SOC 506 SOCIOLINGUISTICS. (3)

This course is an advanced survey of current areas of research in sociolinguistics. Topics include dialectology, language variation and change, interactional sociolinguistics, language and gender, bilingualism, and language contact. Prereq: LIN 221 or LIN 222 or SOC 101 or ANT 220. (Same as ANT/LIN 506.)

### SOC 508 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS. (3)

This course is an introduction to the methods used in various approaches to discourse and textual analysis. The approaches examined include Speech Act Theory, Conversation Analysis, Ethnographic Discourse Analysis, Discourse Pragmatics, Interactional Sociolinguistics, Variation Analysis, and Critical Discourse Analysis. Special attention is given to practical experience analyzing both spoken and written discourse. Prereq: LIN 221 or LIN 222 or SOC 101 or ANT 220. (Same as LIN 508.)

### SOC 517 RURAL SOCIOLOGY. (3)

A sociological study of the issues relevant to rural communities. Topics may include transformations in rural communities; the agrifood system; and the natural environment in the U.S. and the world. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only. (Same as CLD 517.)

### SOC 534 SOCIOLOGY OF APPALACHIA. (3)

A sociological study of selected social issues facing Appalachian communities, with an emphasis on placing regional political economy, society and culture in a global context. Prereq: Sociology, Anthropology or CLD senior major or minor; Appalachian Studies minor; graduate student status; or consent of instructor. (Same as ANT/CLD 534.)

### SOC 539 ADVANCED TOPICS IN CRIME, LAW AND DEVIANCE (Subtitle required). (3)

A sociological study of a special topic central to the scientific study of crime, law or deviance. Topics may include deviant subcultures; substance use; social control of crime; sociology of law; and philosophies of punishment. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only.

### SOC 541 ADVANCED TOPICS IN WORK, ORGANIZATIONS, AND ECONOMY (Subtitle required). (3)

A sociological study of selected topics related to work, organizations, and the economy. Topics may include economic sociology; sociology of occupations and professions; and sociology of organizational administration. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only.

### SOC 543 ADVANCED TOPICS IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (Subtitle required).

A sociological study of selected topics related to politics and government. Topics may include national and supra national government; citizenship; contestation; political parties, social movements; strategic protests; ideology; identity; and globalization. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only.

### SOC 550 ADVANCED TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY (Subtitle required). (3)

A sociological study of topics, theories, or research findings from selected sociological subfield. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtopics. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only.

### SOC 565 INDEPENDENT WORK. (1-3)

Independent sociological study of a topic under the supervision of faculty. Students must identify both a project topic and a sociology faculty mentor who has agreed to supervise this project. A learning contract must be filed in the department in order to receive a grade for this course. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prereq: Graduate student status; undergraduates with consent of instructor only.

**SOC 603 SEMINAR IN TEACHING SOCIOLOGY. (1-3)**

A pedagogical and professional development seminar to prepare skillful, effective sociology instructors. Prereq: Graduate standing in sociology or consent of instructor.

**SOC 610 PROSEMINAR IN COMPLEX ORGANIZATION. (3)**

A systematic examination of the sociological concepts, literature and current developments in the field of complex organizations. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

**SOC 622 TOPICS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION. (3)**

An examination of a subset of evaluation methods, topics, and problems. An introductory course in the area with minimal emphasis on quantitative methods. The course is designed to: provide a perspective from which evaluation studies may be viewed; and, to provide experiences for those who will learn from or conduct evaluations. Prereq: Consent of instructor, and a basic course in statistics or research. (Same as ANT/EDP/EPE 620.)

**SOC 630 PROSEMINAR IN DEVIANT BEHAVIOR. (3)**

A systematic examination of the sociological concepts, literature, and current developments in the field of deviant behavior. Prereq: Graduate standing; SOC 436 or equivalent.

**SOC 635 SEMINAR IN SOCIAL INEQUALITIES. (3)**

This course provides a graduate-level introduction to sociological theory and research on social inequalities and stratification. It includes both classic and contemporary works on topics such as political economy, the state, domination, democracy, work, poverty, welfare, resistance, class, race, ethnicities, and gender. The course serves as a foundational course for graduate students with interests in social inequalities, and is required for Sociology graduate students seeking a specialization in this area. Prereq: SOC 650 or SOC 651 or consent of instructor. (Same as AAS 635.)

**SOC 637 SOCIOCULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (3)**

Examination of social, cultural and economic conditions in lesser developed countries. Discussion of the various socioeconomic and cultural theories of change and developments, and of alternative policies for the world of the future. Considers the possible roles for social scientists in policy formulation and application. Prereq: Six graduate credits in social sciences or consent of instructor. (Same as ANT 637.)

**SOC 640 SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, AND DEVELOPMENT. (3)**

An in-depth examination of the interrelations between science, agriculture, and development. Both domestic and international issues are explored. Prereq: Graduate standing in the social or agricultural sciences. (Same as ANT/CLD 640.)

**SOC 641 GENDER ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT. (3)**

An examination of gender issues in domestic and international development. Prereq: Graduate standing in the social or agricultural sciences or permission of the instructor. (Same as ANT 641.)

**SOC 642 THE SOCIOLOGY OF WORK, OCCUPATIONS AND LABOR MARKETS.**

This course examines the theories of work and occupations; the industrial structure of the labor force,

the nature of mental and manual labor; the structure of labor markets including underemployment, unemployment, and segmentation; occupational mobility and status attainment; worker resistance and informal groups; worker participation and teamwork; labor and management relations; and state and national legislation regarding work, conflict, safety, and discrimination. Prereq: Graduate standing in sociology or other graduate department.

**SOC 645 TOPICS IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY. (3)**

This course examines how states, capital, and other relevant social groups interact to produce new or stabilize old frameworks for work or other aspects of society. Its topics may include many different areas including: employee representation; health and safety issues; race and gender discrimination; corporate relocation and the international division of labor. No matter what topic chosen for the course, the basic aspects of political sociology including pluralist, elite, neo-corporatist, and citizenship theories will be covered. Prereq: Graduate standing in sociology or other graduate department.

**SOC 646 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE. (3)**

This seminar focuses on literature pertaining to collective, extra-institutional efforts to form new or maintain old forms of social order in the United States and other countries. While specific content might vary in response to instructors' interests and department demands, attention will be given to such issues as movement emergence, maintenance, and transformation, labor and resource mobilization, social networks, organization cultures, movement identities and ideologies, social problems construction, strategies and tactics development, as well as the relative success of social movement activities. The seminar can include illustrative material from a variety of social movements and counter-movements (e.g., political, lifestyle, religious, etc.) Prereq: Graduate standing in sociology or other graduate department.

**SOC 650 CONCEPTS AND THEORIES IN SOCIOLOGY. (3)**

Consideration of central conceptual issues underlying the construction of various sociological theories and their explanatory frameworks. A systematic exploration of the development and application of central conceptual frameworks of the discipline. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

**SOC 651 CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY.(3)**

Intensive examination of the ideas and continuing significance of leading nineteenth century sociological theorists. The work of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel or Mead is given particular attention. Discussion concerns the contents of their writings, the sociohistorical context in which they were developed, and their applicability to contemporary society. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

**SOC 653 FAMILY THEORY. (3)**

A survey and critical evaluation of family macro and micro theories. The course will include (a) a historical perspective on the development of family theory; (b) the prevalent macro theories/conceptual frameworks in use in the field; and (c) current trends in the development of micro, or middle-range, family theories. Prereq: FAM 652. (Same as FAM 653.)

**SOC 661 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION. (3)**

A study of schooling and education using basic analytic paradigms of sociology. Emphasis on schools as formal organizations and education in a changing, technologically oriented and stratified society. Prereq: SOC 101 or equivalent. (Same as EPE 661.)

**SOC 665 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION. (3)**

Course is designed to help students design, implement, and evaluate educational and social programs using a logic-based framework. (Same as CLD 665.)

**SOC 675 THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY. (3)**

This course is designed to explore the dynamics of community development and leadership communication within both geographic-bounded communities and communities of taste. (Same as CLD 675.)

**SOC 680 SOCIAL INVESTIGATION. (2)**

This course is a core research design course in the Sociology graduate program. The primary objectives are to: (a) help you understand the process of social science research and (b) build your skills to develop an original research project in sociology or related social science disciplines. The course is organized around “sociology in action”, covering such topics as developing effective research questions, selecting appropriate research methods and theoretical framing, writing and revising a proposal, acquiring an IRB approval for your research, and developing and managing your research budget and time. Prereq: Graduate student standing, or consent of instructor.

**SOC 681 RESEARCH DESIGN AND ANALYSIS. (3)**

Problem definition and delimitation, design appropriate to problem and data, and selection of appropriate analysis techniques; critical examination of representative research studies. Prereq: Elementary statistics.

**SOC 682 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS. (1-3)**

A focused treatment of one or more issues, topics, or problems in sociological methods such as time-series analysis, causal analysis, participant observation, conduct of experiments, sociohistorical methods, scale construction, etc. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: SOC 681 or equivalent.

**SOC 684 FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH METHODS.(3)**

A critical analysis of the concepts, methods, and practices of farming systems research. Design and carry out an FSR project. Prereq: Graduate standing in the social or agricultural sciences. (Same as ANT 684.)

**SOC 685 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THEORY AND PRACTICE. (3)**

This course examines the application of our conceptual understanding of community and organizational dynamics to community development that builds upon assets and encourages local involvement. (Same as CLD 685.)

**SOC 691 SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. (3)**

This seminar will analyze the transformation of agriculture and the food system in the historical context of increased globalization. Emphasis is given to key historical transitions, changing social relations surrounding production and consumption of food, and shifts in regulations and policy at the local, national, and/or international levels. Such emphases provide a framework for understanding the historical roots and future prospects for the socioeconomic problems confronting contemporary U.S. and global agriculture and food economies. Prereq: Graduate standing, or consent of instructor. (Same as AEC/CLD 691.)

**SOC 730 SPECIAL TOPICS IN DEVIANT BEHAVIOR. (1-3)**

A focused treatment of one or more issues, topics, or problems in the field of deviant behavior such as delinquency, sociology of law, criminal justice and corrections, radical criminology, or methodological issues in deviance research. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: SOC 630 or equivalent or consent of instructor.

**SOC 735 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL INEQUALITIES. (3)**

Advanced study of topics of current importance in the study of social inequalities and stratification. May be repeated under different subtitles to a maximum of 12 credits. Prereq: SOC 635 or consent of instructor.

**SOC 737 CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. (3)**

This seminar explores the interrelationships between social processes, development and the environment.

It provides the graduate student with the necessary theoretical and analytical tools to examine the social and cultural processes of environmental degradation and change. Topics include political ecology, health impacts of development, deforestation, resource tenure systems, environmental grassroots movements and large-scale development organizations. Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as ANT 736.)

**SOC 748 MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH.(0)**

Half-time to full-time work on thesis. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: All course work toward the degree must be completed.

**SOC 749 DISSERTATION RESEARCH. (0)**

Half-time to full-time work on dissertation. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: Registration for two full-time semesters of 769 residence credit following the successful completion of the qualifying exams.

**SOC 751 CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY.(3)**

A survey of major theoretical perspectives in modern sociology, focusing on twentieth century developments in European and American sociological theory. The principal contributions of selected theorists are considered and their role in the establishment of contemporary sociology is assessed. Prereq: SOC 651 or consent of instructor.

**SOC 752 SEMINAR IN FAMILY THEORY CONSTRUCTION. (3)**

An advanced seminar focusing on the definition, evaluation and construction of family theory. Inductive and deductive theory construction strategies are surveyed, evaluated and applied. Prereq: FAM 652.

**SOC 766 CONCEPTS IN MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY. (3)**

A review of sociological concepts and methods which have been applied to the study of health and medicine; the contributions of medical sociology to general sociological theory and to concepts and research on health-related problems of society. Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as BSC 766.)

**SOC 767 DISSERTATION RESIDENCY CREDIT.(2)**

Residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.

**SOC 773 TOPICAL SEMINAR. (3)**

Analysis of topics of scientific interest in rural sociology, selected from such fields as the following: criticism of research; sociological factors in land use; migration; rural social ecology of the South; highland societies. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

**SOC 776 SEMINAR IN DEPENDENCY BEHAVIOR. (3)**

The course is designed to explore theories of dependency behavior by examining the concept of dependency as it can be applied to the study of various phenomena including alcohol use and abuse; dependence on other psychoactive substances; institutional dependency; dependency in work settings; and poverty and welfare. Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as ANT/PSY/BSC 776.)

**SOC 777 SEMINAR IN MENTAL ILLNESS CONCEPTS, RESEARCH AND POLICY. (3)**

Advanced study of contemporary concepts of mental health and mental illness, and their historical development; major forms of response to mental illness. Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as BSC 777.)

**SOC 779 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY. (3)**

Each semester some topic in the field of social psychology such as attitudes and beliefs, structure

and function of social groups, social determinants of behavior, leadership, and morale will be studied intensively. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. (Same as PSY 779.)

**SOC 780 SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN SOCIOLOGY. (1-6)**

May be repeated to a maximum of 10 credits.

**SOC 781 QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS II. (3)**

This intermediate statistics course emphasizes the fundamentals of multivariate regression. The goal is to develop a foundational toolkit to model a variety of dependent variables. The course will teach students how to make decisions about how to model data, how to estimate equations, and how to solve common problems with multivariate regressions. This is an applied course that will utilize Stata to analyze quantitative social science data. Prereq: SOC 681, PS 572 or consent of the instructor.

**SOC 785 COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS. (3)**

This seminar will focus on concepts, issues, and research pertaining to health care systems in comparative perspective. It will deal with the following questions. (1) What are the core analytical dimensions of a health care system? (2) How do health care systems connect with the other institutional domains of a society, with its value-system, and with its major cultural and historical trends? and (3) Within the health care system, how are the main constituents of modern medicine related to each other? Prereq: Consent of instructor. (Same as BSC 785.)

**SOC 790 RESEARCH IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY. (1-3)**

Individual graduate research with correlated study of rural social research types and methods. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits.

**SOC 792 RESEARCH IN SOCIOLOGY. (1-6)**

Individual research and reading in particular fields of sociology, under staff supervision. Open to advanced students who are prepared for intensive study beyond that offered in regular classes in each field. May be repeated to a maximum of 10 hours.

**SOC 797 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICUM. (1-9)**

Supervised experiences in the application of sociological concepts and techniques to problems of program development in a community or state agency, organization, or department. Learning contract required. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits. Prereq: Approval of the Director of the Community Development Program