

# Sociology

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Sociology is a fascinating subject which explores patterns and trends in human behavior, society, and culture. Sociology takes a broad and holistic view of the contexts in which individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions operate. This understanding is indispensable to analysis and decision-making in a wide range of social settings and the development of thoughtful and engaged citizenship. Sociologists bring scientific tools and perspectives to understand causes and consequences of contemporary social issues and problems, and analyze the impact of social policies on groups and organizations. The best sociological analyses combine a focus on important details with analyses about how the details relate to "the big picture." A B.A. in Sociology provides a broad foundation for further studies in law, social work, social policy, psychology, criminology, or public health. Analytical and social science research skills prepare students for careers in market research, human services, government, health care, and law. The B.A. Sociology program at UAH emphasizes the development of both *academic* and *applied skills* that can be useful in a wide range of work settings.

The department of Sociology offers the following degree programs:

- Sociology, BA (<http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/sociology/sociology-ba>)

## Mission

We are committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills that derive from a sociological perspective. Our curriculum encompasses core areas in the discipline with courses in sociological theory, social inequality, social institutions, social change and sociological methodology. Students may use the sociological perspective in pursuing further studies in the discipline, at work in diverse settings, and as thoughtful and involved members of their communities. Our instructional mission is enhanced by faculty with active research agendas, who explore a variety of social processes and apply to these studies a variety of research techniques. When they bring their expertise to bear on social issues, the faculty also serve the University and the community at large.

The UAH Department of Sociology offers the B.A. with a major in sociology and a minor in sociology.

Students majoring in sociology may optionally complete one of four informal tracks ([http://www.uah.edu/images/colleges/liberal-arts/Sociology/Tracks\\_Pamphlet\\_9.01-30-2015.pdf](http://www.uah.edu/images/colleges/liberal-arts/Sociology/Tracks_Pamphlet_9.01-30-2015.pdf)):

1. The Community Services Track
2. The Global Structures Track
3. The Environmental Social Science Track
4. The Law and Justice Track

For more information on these tracks, the field of sociology, and the UAH Sociology Department, please consult our webpage, [www.uah.edu/sociology](http://www.uah.edu/sociology).

## Major in Sociology

- Sociology, BA (<http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/sociology/sociology-ba>)

## Minors in Sociology

- Sociology (<http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/arts-humanities-social-sciences/sociology/sociology-minor>)

### SOC 100 - INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY

Semester Hours: 3

An introduction to the critical and scientific study of society, culture, social institutions and social change. Illuminates the social and cultural context of our lives and is useful for exploring contemporary social issues, problems and change in society.

### SOC 102 - ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Semester Hours: 3

Application of the sociological perspective to understanding important contemporary social issues and the social actions and policies that attempt to address them. This course will explore different approaches to understanding the causes of social problems as well as social responses to them.

Prerequisite: SOC 100.

### SOC 105 - INTRO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Semester Hours: 3

Cultural anthropology is one of the four sub-fields of anthropology concerned with a deeper understanding of cultural differences. This course examines cultural diversity in human behavior, social institutions, belief systems, and cultural change from a global and comparative perspective.

SOC 150 - SOCIOLOGICAL PERSP TECH & SCI

Semester Hours: 3

Introduces sociological approach to science and technology; how social factors affect science and technology, and how science and technology affect our lives; the relationship of science and technology to social issues such as those related to class, race, gender, or religion.

SOC 206 - MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Semester Hours: 3

Explores family forms and functions across history and across cultures. Students will learn how the family affects and is affected by other social institutions, recent trends in the American family, the contexts in which marriage and families evolve, and key inequalities within and between families. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 301 - RESEARCH METHODS

Semester Hours: 3

The object of this course is for students to be able to read, interpret, and explain scientific research in social science. Course covers key elements and process of sociological research methods, both qualitative and quantitative.

SOC 302 - SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Semester Hours: 3

This course traces the development of major trends of sociological theory, past and present, and major theoretical problem areas. It also addresses how the socio-historical context within which the texts were written influences the issues and ideas expressed. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 303 - STATISTICS/SOCIAL SCIENCES

Semester Hours: 3

Introduction to the basic quantitative data analysis techniques used by social scientists. Explore the ways researchers use statistics to examine and test ideas about the social world. In the lab, students learn how to use the statistical software SPSS to analyze social science datasets. Prerequisite: SOC 100 and one of the following math courses: MA 107, MA 110, MA 112, MA 113, MA 115, MA 120, MA 171.

SOC 304 - STATISTICS LAB

Semester Hour: 1

SOC 306 - SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

Semester Hours: 3

Explores how social relationships create, structure and reinforce gender differences and inequalities. Students will learn about the social construction of gender, gender socialization, gender roles, and gender inequalities in income, poverty, occupation, and violence. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 307 - SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Semester Hours: 3

This course examines the relationship between law and society from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Topics include the social organization of legal institutions, cultural meanings of law, and social interactions among different actors in the legal context (police, lawyers, judges, legislators, etc). Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 319 - DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

Semester Hours: 3

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. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 320 - SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Semester Hours: 3

Study of religion as a social phenomenon. The course examines sociological theories of religious behavior, religious beliefs, religion as a social institution, religious organization, new religious movements, and religion and social change.

SOC 330 - RACE AND ETHNICITY

Semester Hours: 3

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. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 340 - SPECIAL TOPICS

Semester Hours: 1-3

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. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 350 - SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

Semester Hours: 3

This course explores the causes and consequences of social stratification (focusing on economic inequality) in the United States, including: wealth and income disparities, labor markets, elites/power, impact of gender and race, privilege and oppression, and economic and social welfare policy.

Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 369 - ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY**

Semester Hours: 3

Examines the ways in which society and the natural environment interact and shape each other. This course engages with the major debates in the field of environmental sociology in order to better understand the challenges and options humans face as we head further into global environmental crisis.

Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 375 - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Semester Hours: 3

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. Prerequisites: SOC 100 or PY 101.

**SOC 376 - MASS MEDIA IN AMERICA**

Semester Hours: 3

Mass communication theory, history of American mass media, and criticism of contemporary forms and functions of mass media of communication in the U.S. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 390 - READINGS & INDIVIDUAL RES**

Semester Hours: 3

Supervised readings or in-depth research or both in area of specialized interest to student or instructor. May be taken twice for credit with advisor's approval. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 395 - COMMUNITY SERVICES INTERNSHIP**

Semester Hours: 3

An experiential-learning course for students who envision working in social service organizations. Internship opportunity is initiated by student and course includes an academic component of readings and assignments agreed upon by student, organizational representative and the internship Coordinator. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 415 - SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION**

Semester Hours: 3

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. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 425 - SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION**

Semester Hours: 3

This course examines education systems and policies from a sociological perspective. We ask what and how students learn, the function of schools in society, results of recent policy decisions, and how educational systems interact with political, economic, cultural and family institutions. Prerequisite: SOC 100 and Junior or Senior Standing.

**SOC 431 - ADVANCED SPECIAL TOPICS**

Semester Hours: 3

Special topics of current sociological interest. Course title, credit hours and prerequisites will appear in course schedule. May be taken more than once for credit as long as subtitles differ. Different from SOC 340 Special Topics in terms of level of expectations and/or, prerequisites. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

**SOC 435 - SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on a variety of issues related to social movements, including questions about the origins and causes of social movements, the cultural, social and political contexts that impact movements, how movements mobilize people, and the use of strategies and tactics. Prerequisite: SOC 100 AND EITHER SOC 202 OR 300 OR 301.

**SOC 439 - COMPLEX ORG INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY**

Semester Hours: 3

Mainstream and critical sociological theories for understanding complex organizations in industrial society. Explores historical development, structure and processes, contradictions and conflict, and alternative forms of organizations in contemporary society. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 444 - SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE

Semester Hours: 3

Examines the cultural dimensions of important social processes including race, class, gender, power, and resistance. Theoretical and empirical analyses of both high and popular cultural forms and processes of cultural production in various social settings. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 455 - SOC OF WORK & OCCUPATION

Semester Hours: 3

Contemporary work situations and experiences. Alienation in work, impact of technological change and bureaucratization, primary work groups and work culture, professionalization, unionization, workers' self-management experiments, work-leisure relationship. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 469 - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Semester Hours: 3

Examination of (1) how social, economic, and political processes at the local and global levels contribute the distribution of both environmental 'goods' (e.g., clean air and water) and environmental 'bad's (e.g., toxic waste and pollution); (2) the principles and strategies of the environmental justice movement; (3) the interrelations between local and global level processes and their impact upon environmental inequality and the efforts and opportunities of the environmental justice movement. Prerequisites: SOC 100.

SOC 480 - SOCIOLOGY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Semester Hours: 3

Explores how social relations produce scientific knowledge, the role of science in politics, how men and women move through careers in science differently, how technologies are socially constructed, and the relationship between culture, technology, and the evolution of civilizations. Prerequisite: SOC 100.

SOC 495 - SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Semester Hours: 3

Senior majors employ skills and knowledge acquired from courses to develop independent research projects. Course is designed to guide the research process with a focus on literature review, hypothesis development, data collection and analysis, and writing of a research article or formal report resulting from an internship. Prerequisite: SOC 301.