

Department of Sociology

General Interest Courses

Students with a general interest in sociology are invited to enroll in one or more of the courses offered. Students should plan to take SOCI 1006 first, since this is normally a prerequisite for other sociology courses.

Minor in Sociology

Any 18-credit hours in sociology courses constitutes a Minor in Sociology.

Major in Sociology

Students majoring in sociology require a total of 36 credit hours in Sociology, including the following required courses:

- SOCI 1006 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 2013 Research Methods
- SOCI 3013 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3023 Modern Sociological Theory
- SOCI 4013 Senior Seminar

Honours in Sociology

The Honours program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in independent sociological research under supervision. Completion of the Honours program is the normal preparation for graduate school. Normally, students must have a grade point average of B in sociology courses to enter the Honours program. Application for admission to the Honours program in sociology should be directed to the Chair of Sociology. Students honouring in Sociology require a total of 48 credit hours in sociology, including the following required courses:

- SOCI 1006 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 2013 Research Methods
- SOCI 2023 Statistics
- SOCI 3013 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3023 Modern Sociological Theory
- SOCI 3033 Seminar in Research Strategies (recommended)
- SOCI 4006 Honours Thesis
- SOCI 4023 Honours Workshop
- SOCI 4033 Advanced Sociological Theory

To earn an Honours degree, a student must obtain a minimum 3.0 grade point average on 48 credit hours of sociology courses including the required courses, and a minimum B grade on the Honours Thesis (SOCI 4006).

Course Numbers

Guide to numbering system:

- 1000s introduction – open to students with no prior credits in sociology
- 2000s open to students who have 6 credit hours in sociology at 1000 level
- 3000s open to students who have 6 credit hours in sociology at 2000 level
- 4000s open to students who have completed required courses for the Major in sociology – specifically SOCI 2013 and SOCI 3013 and SOCI 3023
- Last digits represent number of credit hours for the course
- Students who do not have the number of credit hours in sociology required for senior courses, may be admitted at the discretion of the instructor.

SOCI-1006. Introduction to Sociology

A survey course that introduces students to the discipline of sociology with particular reference to Canadian Society. This course examines theories and research concerning the nature of social order and conflict in industrial society; the relations between important structures or elements of society, including the economy, family, education, religion, complex organizations, racial and ethnic groups, and the dynamics of social change. Several major theoretical approaches in sociology are compared throughout the course.

SOCI-2013. Research Methods (NATI)

An introduction to the main research techniques used in sociology. The course will include practical experience in research design, methods of data collection, sampling procedures, and analysis of data.

SOCI-2023. Introduction to Statistics (NATI)

An introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. The main emphasis will be on the use and meaning of the principal statistics used in sociology and social work. **Note:** This course may not be taken for credit by students who already have received credit for an introductory statistics course in another discipline at STU or from another university.

SOCI-2106. Canadian Society

The purpose of this course is to give the student an understanding of the operation and functioning of the society in which we live. The configuration of Canadian institutions is analyzed in terms of their historical patterns of development.

SOCI-2116. Sociology of Atlantic Canada

This course is designed as an introduction to the sociological study of Atlantic Canada. The first term focuses on the development of the Maritimes and Newfoundland from mercantile societies to under-developed regions within the centralized Canadian economy. The second term focuses on the contemporary structure, problems, and issues of Atlantic Canadian society.

SOCI-2123. Introduction to Sociology of Globalization

Introduction to Sociology of Globalization explores social conditions characterized by global economic, political, cultural, and environmental interconnections and flows that cross existing political borders. Therefore, it challenges our existing conceptualization of an international world of borders and nation states. The course explores the concept of globalization and its relevance to our lives. Types of empirical topics covered include contemporary global inequalities; environmental problems; transnational communities and families;

transnational migration; the effect of globalization on gender, race, ethnicity, and religion; transnational social movements; and the women's movement. Prerequisites: SOCI-1006. Introduction to Sociology or instructor's permission.

SOCI-2213. Society and Ecology

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of environmental problems and the issues they raise, using C. Wright Mills' notion of the 'sociological imagination.

SOCI-2313. Deviance (WSGS) (CRIM)

This course reviews theory and research with a focus on the social basis of deviance, deviance construction, and the consequences of social reactions to selected forms of deviance.

SOCI-2323. Sociology for Cyborgs: The Social Organization of the Internet

This course is a critical introduction to the social, political, economic, and cultural organization of the Internet. The purpose is to provide media literacy tools to penetrate beneath its commonly experienced surfaces. The focus is on "who organizes the Web": its commercialization and the potential for democratization of its "users." An important goal is discovering "the academic Web" as a resource for both Liberal Arts education and lifetime learning.

SOCI-2333. The Sociology of Chinese Women in Literature and Film

This course explores the sociology of women and China in recent literature and film, particularly in recent work by women in China and of those Chinese origins in Western countries. Topics include the 20th century migration, settlement and early family experiences. The novels focus on three generations of families and illustrate the traditional expectations for women within China and in North America. The films include recent works by Chinese filmmakers that comment on women's place in pre-revolutionary and modern society.

SOCI-2416. Inequality in Society (WSGS)

This course explores existing patterns of social inequality and debates concerning the possibility and desirability of greater equality. Taking a theoretical and historical focus, this course examines the changing nature of inequality in contemporary Canadian society in the context of globalization. Throughout, we develop our understanding of how different forms of inequality - particularly social class, gender and race - intersect. One section of the course may have a service learning requirement, where students engage in volunteer work in the community, and then reflect upon their experiences through reading, writing, and discussion.

SOCI-2423. Social Problems I - Sociological Perspectives (WSGS)

The various perspectives used by sociologists to examine social problems will be described and evaluated. Concrete social problems will be used as examples of these perspectives.

SOCI-2433. Social Problems II - Canadian Social Problems (WSGS)

Several current Canadian social problems will be examined from the perspectives used in SOCI 2423. These problems include: poverty, minorities, Canadian identity, the effects of urbanization, and technology, etc. Prerequisite: SOCI 2423.

SOCI-2443. Race and Ethnic Relations (PEAC)

This course examines theories and descriptions of race and ethnic relations, focussing on the general concepts of the role of race and ethnicity in social organization and stratification. Concrete situations in contemporary social systems will be discussed.

SOCI-2513. Sociology of Communication

This course will consider the mass media, (principally print and electronic), its place in, and impact upon Canadian society. Various perspectives and related research will be considered with respect to the control and ownership of the media, the social organization of the production of news, facts, statistics, and other messages; and the themes expressed in the popular culture as conveyed by the media. Underlying concerns are the social construction of what-is-taken-to-be reality and the language that is used in the conveying of messages.

SOCI-2523. Sociology of Aging (WSGS) (GERO 2113)

This course will explore the comparative situation of older women and men in different cultures and different historical periods within Western societies. The cultural and social-structural determinants of their changing status will be examined through alternative theoretical perspectives within sociology. The social construction of 'elderly' as a status will be explored through how older people are perceived, described, talked about, and interacted with, in everyday behaviour and how these relations may be 'negotiated' by the elderly themselves. The political economy of aging focuses upon disparities of income, and the determinants and effects of poverty on the lives of older people.

SOCI-2543. Sociology of Religion

This course focuses on the relations between the beliefs and institutionalized practices that people hold sacred, and contemporary community life. The students explore the contradictory trends of mass secularism and the rise of religious fundamentalism, and the practices through which people collectively mobilize to sustain, challenge, and change religious identities. The question raised by Durkheim is explored: If religion expresses and reinforces community solidarity, how can modern societies accommodate religious diversity? A further question is: How are religions implicated in political struggles, the women's movement, nationalism, and war?

SOCI-2613. Sociology of Gender (WSGS)

This course will focus on particular aspects of the social processes that shape, and are shaped by female and male social roles such as gender and power, gender and social structure of work, and feminist social movements.

SOCI-2623. Women in the Third World (ECON 2303) (WSGS)

This course will critically examine the role of women in the Third World. It will concentrate largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power.

SOCI-2633. Sociology of the Family (WSGS)

A critical analysis of various conceptual frameworks in family research, and a cross-cultural analysis of marriage and the family, both past and present. Particular attention will be paid to the current developments in marriage arrangements, changes in the meaning of marriage and the family, as well as the future of the family.

SOCI-2643. Selected Topics on the Political Economy of Women (ECON 2223) (WSGS)

This is a seminar course examining selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty.

SOCI-2653. Sociology of Health

This course provides an introduction to sociology of health and illness. We will analyze the social construction of medical knowledge, the dominant mode of understanding health and

illness in our society; experiences of health and illness; the social foundations of health inequalities—how and why patterns of health, illness and mortality reflect class, gender, sexuality, racial and ethnic divisions; the formal institutions that define and manage health and health care; and the consequences of medicalization. Prerequisite: SOCI-1006. Introduction to Sociology.

SOCI-2723. Global Sociology

Global Sociology explores social conditions characterized by global economic, political, cultural, and environmental interconnections and flows that cross existing political borders. Therefore, it challenges our existing conceptualization of an international world of borders and nation states. The course explores the concept of globalization and its relevance to our lives. Types of empirical topics covered include contemporary global inequalities; environmental problems; transnational communities and families; transnational migration; the effect of globalization on gender, race, ethnicity, and religion; transnational social movements; and the women's movement.

SOCI-2733. Special Topics

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and particular needs of students.

SOCI-3013. Classical Sociological Theory

A study of the classical tradition in sociological thought focussing on those theorists whose ideas constitute the foundation of contemporary sociological analysis. This will include a consideration of the work of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, among others.

SOCI-3023. Modern Sociological Theory

A study of modern developments in sociological theory, focussing on major trends and their interrelationships, and on contemporary theoretical issues and controversies. Prerequisite: SOCI 3013.

SOCI-3033. Seminar in Research Strategies

This course helps students learn what original research entails from its initial conception to its completion. It highlights the techniques and strategies successful researchers use to develop their research questions; select an appropriate research design and data collection method(s); meet university research ethics requirements; ensure the research is socially relevant and completed in a timely manner. Students are expected to design a research project and write a proposal outlining their plans. This exercise allows students to gain an appreciation of the research design process and the components of research. For some students the proposal will be the initial work towards an honours thesis; for others it will be a model for the preparation and planning of research in other courses or outside academia. After taking the course students should feel prepared to undertake research projects in any academic, government, research, or policy setting.

SOCI-3043. Qualitative Research Methods (HMRT) (RELG) (PSYC) (GERO)

This course is intended for 3rd-year Honours students who are considering using qualitative analysis in the research for their Honours thesis. It will address theoretical foundations of qualitative analysis, research ethics for qualitative researchers, and provide hands-on experience in developing a research question and collecting and analyzing data using basic qualitative techniques including observation, in-depth interviewing, and unobtrusive measures.

SOCI-3113. Political Sociology

The focus of this course is on the type of political system known as liberal democracy. Particular emphasis is placed on the historical genesis of liberal democracy, on its structural dynamics, and on the role of the working class within the system. The examination includes an analysis of the sources of stability and cleavage governing the development of liberal democracies. Finally, the functioning of liberal democracies is contrasted with that of communist political systems.

SOCI-3123. Social Movements

The emphasis of this course is on one specific type of social movement - movements of political protest. Two sorts of questions are emphasized: (1) the structural conditions conducive to the development of movements of political protest and (2) the factors conditioning the actual mobilization of protest. Although the social movements examined are diverse, ranging from the Rumanian rebellion in 1907 to the rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada, special emphasis is placed on the almost simultaneous appearance of both left and right wing populist protest in Western Canada.

SOCI-3133. Sociology of Work

The sociology of war explores organized mass violence across societal boundaries. Topics include the rise of the military-industrial complex, cultures of militarism, the political economy of war in the context of global struggles to control resources, and the active practices that militarize religious and ethnic identities, moralize political and economic conflicts, and impose dominant justifications onto the conduct of war.

SOCI-3153. Sociology of War

Competing theories about the origin and nature of war from different disciplines and traditions are introduced, and a sociological approach to war as an intersocietal political institution of long-standing which extends across the evolution of many social systems is developed. The effect of the institution of war on contemporary societies is examined, the utility of war in the age of nuclear weapons is questioned, and the social movements that have arisen to challenge the institution of war are scrutinized.

SOCI-3163. Development Issues

This course focuses on current concerns, debates, and issues regarding social, economic, and political change in an effort to better understand varying levels of development throughout the world. The course examines different development models, theories, and goals. The course pays particular attention to historical processes and prospects for the future. Topics may include: the debt crisis, food security and GMO foods, over/underconsumption, the social impacts of structural adjustment programs, and the global economy.

SOCI-3173. Women and Education

With the rise of neo-conservative governments in Canada, we see changes in schooling and higher education due to the restructuring of government finances and privatization. By beginning from the standpoint of women engaged in mothering, classroom teaching, graduate studies and university teaching, this course examines the impact of re-structuring on gender, ethnicity and class in the classroom and in higher education.

SOCI-3183. The Relation to the Other

What if society was not a thing or a being, but instead consisted of the relation to the other? The course examines the relation to the other in selected writings of some of the following: George Herbert Mead, Alfred Schutz, Erving Goffman, Edmund Husserl, Emmanuel Levinas

and Jacques Derrida. We also look to film, literature, popular culture and everyday life for instances of the relation to the other.

SOCI-3223. Globalization and Gender

Globalization and Gender will examine how definitions of gender and sexuality are reproduced, negotiated and deployed in the context of globalization and transnational flows. Through a critical inquiry into a variety of texts, i.e. theoretical texts, ethnographic case studies and analysis of media representation, students will examine the topics of citizenship, global labor flows, migration, militarization, neoliberalism and the construction of the gendered global subject. They will study both the opportunities and challenges that are inherent in postcolonial and transnational feminist scholarship and activism. Prerequisite: SOCI-1006 Introduction to Sociology or instructor's permission.

SOCI-3263. Capitalism and the Emergence of Modern Culture

The course explores how the emergence of new forms of commerce and production gave rise to new cultural ideas and social formations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis is placed on the historical emergence of taken for granted themes in modern culture. This will enable students to better appreciate current developments in culture and in our economic system. Students who have completed Sociology 3193 in Fall 2011 or Fall 2012 cannot enrol.

SOCI-3313. Sociology of Law (CRIM)

This course critically examines law from various sociological perspectives, with particular reference to Canada. The course is designed to cover sociological jurisprudence and selected theories of law, as they relate to family, administrative, labour, criminal and other types of law. Prerequisite: SOCI 2313.

SOCI-3323. Sociology of Women and Law (WSGS)

This course explores the relationship of women to the state and to law. The ways in which criminal and family law influence gender relations in society are analyzed, including the implications of legal intervention and non-intervention in family relations. Sex-specific and sex-related legislation concerning such issues as sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and affirmative action, are also examined. Theoretical concepts and issues, such as the position of women within capitalism, patriarchy, sexuality and reproduction, formal and informal control, are addressed.

SOCI-3333. Social Control and Social Justice

This course will investigate the various theories and practices social control exercises in the regulation of social life; specifically, how it is realized through institutional, organizational and bureaucratic processes associated with professionalization, medicalization and victimization. The course will also examine the relationship between the processes of social control and the repression of social justice for people in varying social circumstances.

SOCI-3413. Employment Equity Policy and Gender Inequality at Work (WSGS)

This is an advanced course on the organization of gender inequality in the labour force. It begins by studying how gender segregation is organized in the occupations of teaching, clerical work, and other professions. The course examines from a sociological perspective, the federal and provincial government policies which are aimed at the equal and fair treatment of individuals regardless of sex: pay equity legislation, employment equity programs, contractual provisions and human rights legislation on fair employment practices

SOCI-3513. Sociology of Education

The focus of this course will be on the nature of the relationship between school systems and the broader societies of which they are a part. This will be done with two purposes in mind: (1) to determine both the structural configuration and the functions of education in contemporary society and (2) to demonstrate the effects of this relationship on the internal functioning of schools. A variety of theoretical perspectives on conceptualization of the school-society connection are examined. Of particular concern are structural functionalism, cultural reproduction theories, and theories of correspondence. Each is considered in some detail, especially in terms of the constraints and limitations placed on education by the social structure.

SOCI-3523. Sociology of Knowledge

This course is concerned with the social organization of knowledge. The focus is on the political and public social processes and contexts in which local and ruling forms of knowledge are produced. For the purposes of this course, knowledge may range from common sense and popular culture to ideology, science, and information. Topics may include the connection between knowledge and power and how they are controlled by states, corporations, and professions, and the implications of the nature and distribution of print and electronic information. This course combines discussion of major theorists with an examination of current issues.

SOCI-3553. Sociology of the Body

This course explores the interaction between society and the body. It begins with an examination of classical and contemporary theories of the body, and then explores special issues with regard to the development of the civilized body, as well as gender, sexuality, marginalization, deviancy, chronic illness and disability.

SOCI-3563. Sociology of Music (FNAR)

This course combines a number of macro- and micro-sociological perspectives on music. The former refers to the wider socio-cultural context in which music is produced, distributed, and listened to. It includes the social functions and uses of music ranging from rituals and ceremonies to its political-economic organization in cultural industries. Forms of music, such as the functional harmony vs. the Afro-American traditions, are related to forms of society. Micro perspectives analyze how performers create and make music together in terms of the interaction among musicians, audience, and conductor. The practices of improvisation and maintaining synchrony will be examined principally in both classical and jazz contexts. Prerequisite: permission of the course instructor or the Director of the Centre for Musical Arts, UNB.

SOCI-3573. Sociology of Art and Culture (FNAR)

Employing both classical and contemporary sociological perspectives, this course explores the nature of art in society by looking at how art objects are produced, distributed, and consumed. Theoretical perspectives are related to historical and contemporary examples from a range of artistic media (e.g., pictorial art, film, photography, literature, and music) to expose the interplay between art and society. The relationship between the fine arts and popular culture are examined, as well as the role of technology in the various arts.

SOCI-3613. Special Topics: Sociology of Sport

This course will unpack issues associated with sport in North America. Students will be asked to critically engage with sport practices as they intersect various social phenomena

including identity, nationalism, the body, colonialism, and the family. Students will examine how power operates through the various practices associated with sport and will consider the potential, and consequences, of using sport for social change.

SOCI-3693. Discourse and Society

Discourse analysis is the study of language in use, and is thus distinguished from approaches that treat language formally and structurally, as an abstract system of signs and symbols. We examine instances of written and spoken language that occurs in a wide range of contexts, including: everyday conversations among friends, encounters between professionals and clients, the activities of creating, disseminating and consuming mass-mediated texts, and governmental and corporate settings where policies are established, monitored and changed. Combining a theoretical and practical orientation, the course draws primarily on the work of sociologists, but also includes that done by scholars in disciplines such as sociolinguistics, psychology, anthropology, semiotics and literary studies. A basic premise of the course is that in our so-called information or knowledge-based global society, a critical awareness of discursive practices is becoming a prerequisite for democratic citizenship.

SOCI-3723. Special Topics

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and particular needs of students.

SOCI-3733. Special Topics

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and particular needs of students.

SOCI-3913. Sociology of Disease

This course will explore the social construction of disease in modern medicine. We will examine the process of medicalization, focusing on the classification of human experience into disease categories; medical authority to diagnose and treat disease; the ways in which disease categories validate or invalidate experiences of illness; and the effects of being labeled as diseased. These topics will be explored through sociological analyses of specific diseases, including diseases that are contested and stigmatized. Prerequisite: SOCI-1006 Introduction to Sociology.

SOCI-3973. Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Analysis (SCWK)

Framed around three key approaches to narrative this course will provide students with the basis on which to develop their understanding of narrative and their skills in narrative analysis. The three approaches are: the narrative study of lives; the narrative analysis of texts; and, the analysis of narrative dynamics. Through these approaches students will be introduced to the work of key narrative thinkers. The course, in content and delivery, reflects the inter-disciplinary nature of narrative.

SOCI-4006. Honours Thesis

The Honours thesis is a scholarly essay or research paper on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty committee composed of a Thesis Supervisor and another advisor. When completed, the thesis is read and graded by this thesis committee. A minimum grade of B is required.

SOCI-4013. Senior Seminar

The senior seminar is a one-semester course, required for a Major degree in sociology, which is to be taken in the final year of study. The course is organized around substantive

issues, with different sections devoted to different topics. The issues are addressed as puzzles or lines of inquiry that explore current concerns. Students are expected to bring the knowledge they have acquired of the competing traditions of sociological inquiry to bear on the theme. This course will be conducted as a seminar, with students taking responsibility for researching, presenting, and discussing material. Regular attendance and active participation will be emphasized. 1st and 2nd semesters. Limited enrolment (approximately 15) in each section.

SOCI-4023. Honours Workshop

This is a required course for Honours students in their final year. Enrolment is restricted to Honours students. The course is organized around two sets of activities: 1) workshops oriented to the development of knowledge and skills directly applicable to the process of thesis research, covering such topics as ethical decision-making in social research, practical problems in collecting and analyzing research material, writing in social research and 2) student presentations of thesis proposals, progress reports, and final results. Entry of non-Sociology students is with permission of instructor.

SOCI-4033. Advanced Sociological Theory

A critical examination of selected orientations from contemporary sociological theory. The implications of these perspectives for both the nature of sociological inquiry and the prevailing models of society are considered. Prerequisite: SOCI 3013, 3023.

SOCI-4043. Independent Study

A program on independent study under the direction of a member of the faculty selected by the student. It is designed for students who wish to pursue an area of special interest through reading, research, and writing.

SOCI-4053. Independent Study

A program on independent study under the direction of a member of the faculty selected by the student. It is designed for students who wish to pursue an area of special interest through reading, research, and writing.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.

UNB Courses Available

The University of New Brunswick offers a number of courses in sociology which are not available at St. Thomas. Students at St. Thomas are eligible to take these courses with the approval of the Department. UNB courses at the 1000 level shall not normally count as equivalent to SOCI 1006 for a Major in sociology. Students may not count more than 6 credit hours at the 1000 level towards a Major in sociology. For further information, please consult the UNB calendar.