SOCIETY

Undergraduate Program Information

The undergraduate major in sociology is broad in scope. It prepares students for a variety of public and private sector employment opportunities including market research, personnel management, human relations, law enforcement and health services. Successful students often use their major as pre-professional preparation for advanced degrees in law, business, education, counseling and other social science based careers. Courses are offered both online and on campus.

Graduate Program Information

The program is designed to prepare students for doctoral study in sociology as well as employment in research and applied areas of the field. In addition to the on-campus program, we also offer an online MA for students who are unable to attend in person. Through small seminars, on campus graduate students engage in discussions of subjects that often result in thesis and internship topics. In online seminars, small classes allow for in-depth discussions that can generate ideas for research as well as knowledge for applied work environments. In both online and on-campus settings, faculty members and students work toward the mutual goal of developing the full potential of each student.

The Southwest and Border Region

Our unique location attracts faculty and students who are interested in peoples of the southwest, particularly Hispanics/Latinos and Native Americans. In addition, our proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border provides an ideal laboratory for the examination of such issues as globalization, transnational migration and the consequences of border development.

Social Inequality

Our faculty members examine the intersection of race, class and gender oppression in their teaching and research, with special attention to educational, rural/urban, ecological and global disparities. One goal of this examination is to address social problems such as poverty and racial/ethnic inequality.

Program Options and Requirements

Students seeking a master’s degree in sociology should have taken undergraduate courses in methods and statistics or their equivalent. Students who have not taken these courses should complete them before beginning their graduate study or as soon as possible in consultation with the sociology graduate director.

Graduate students in sociology have two program options, thesis or non-thesis. Faculty consider the students special interests and career plans in advising regarding their choice of program options. The thesis option is typically selected by students who intend to pursue a Ph.D. degree, while the non-thesis option is commonly pursued by those desiring immediate employment in research and applied areas in business, government, education, social welfare and health. The non-thesis coursework only option is currently the only option available for on-line MA students. All students must pass a final MA student's examination.

Degrees for the Department

Sociology - Master of Arts (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-master-arts)

Minors for the Department

Contemporary Social Studies - Undergraduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/sociology/contemporary-social-studies-undergraduate-minor)

Sociology - Undergraduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-undergraduate-minor)

Professor, David G. LoConto, Department Head

Professor LoConto; Associate Professors Ortiz, Rice, Steinkopf-Rice, Way; Assistant Professors Arnett, Newby, Pelak; College Assistant Professor Hovey; Emeritus Professor Hoffman, Loustaunau

D. LoConto, Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University) – classical American social thought, popular culture, social psychology; S. Arnett, Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) – education, race and ethnicity, social inequalities; K. Hovey, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico) – rural and urban communities, social control, criminological theory; C. A. Newby, Ph.D. (University of Texas at Austin) – race/ethnicity/minority relations, immigration, demography; D. Ortiz, Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) – social movements, political sociology, Latin America; C. Pelak, Ph.D. (Ohio State University) – social inequalities, race and ethnicity, sociology of sport; J. Steinkopf-Rice, Ph.D. (Washington State University) – gender, globalization, communities; J.C. Rice, Ph.D. (Washington State University) – environment, society and technology, political sociology; S. Way, Graduate Program Director, Ph.D. (University of Arizona) – education, gender, juvenile delinquency.

SOC 101G. Introductory Sociology
3 Credits
Introduction to social theory, research, methods of analysis, contemporary issues in historical and cross-cultural contexts. Covers groups, deviance, inequality, family, gender, social change, and collective behavior.

SOC 201G. Contemporary Social Problems
3 Credits
Introduction to the fundamentals of social analysis through the analysis of contemporary American social problems. Emphasis on methods of analysis and cross-national comparisons showing that the social problems studied are common to all societies. Covers racism, violence, poverty, crime, health care, and substance abuse.

SOC 258. Current Issues in Marriage and Family
3 Credits
Examination of contemporary American family life, including courtship, marriage, divorce, and child rearing. Community Colleges only.

SOC 262. Issues in Death and Dying
3 Credits
Major personal and social issues related to the process of dying in our culture. Community Colleges only.

SOC 263. Human Sexuality
3 Credits
Introduction to cultural and personal aspects of human intimacy, sexuality and the life cycle, sexual variation, and sexually transmitted diseases. Community Colleges only.

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SOC 263. Human Sexuality
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SOC 273. Sex and Gender
3 Credits
Analysis of changes, behaviors, and stereotypes of women and men in contemporary Western societies. Same as W S 273.

SOC 330V. Introduction to Religious Studies
3 Credits
Provides an overview of old and new methods and theories for the study of religion. Exposure to the ways groups of people in diverse cultural systems construct and change their religious traditions to serve practical and meaningful ends. Same as ANTH 330V and HIST 330V.

SOC 336V. Sociology of Pop Culture
3 Credits
This course will provide students with a sociological look at creation, distribution, and effects of popular culture that have shaped, preserved, and conveyed distorted images of social class, race, gender and history to unwary consumers.

SOC 350. Sociological Foundations
3 Credits
Focus is on becoming a sociologist including career opportunities, thinking critically about society, and conducting sociological inquiry. Emphasis is on identifying and using resources available to sociologists, communication skills for sociologists and acquisition of basic analytic techniques. Restricted to BA Sociology majors.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G or consent of instructor.

SOC 351. Sociological Theory
3 Credits
Analysis of the main historical themes underlying contemporary sociological theory. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 352. Social Research: Methods
3 Credits
An introduction to research design and data collection strategies commonly employed in the social sciences. Topics include experiments, survey research and various other quantitative and qualitative methods. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 353. Sociological Research: Analysis
3 Credits
Elementary data analysis class emphasizing descriptive and inferential statistical techniques commonly employed in the social sciences. Topics range from one variable analysis through regression and correlation analysis of two variables. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 357. Gender and Society
3 Credits
Overview of issues related to gender, including how gender is constructed and reproduced in our society. Gender is examined from social psychological and institutional perspectives. Same as W S 357.

SOC 359. Sociology of the Family
3 Credits
Family patterns, dynamics, and processes in North American and other contemporary families. Emphasis on diversity.

SOC 360V. Introduction to Population Studies
3 Credits
Determinants and consequences of changes in fertility, mortality and migration patterns. Introduction to techniques of demographic analysis. Focus on U.S. and world population issues and their relation to social, cultural, and economic systems.

SOC 361V. Social Issues in the Rural Americas
3 Credits
Same as ANTH 361V.

3 Credits
Identification and analysis of the causes and consequences of social issues in urban environments including poverty, crime, terrorism, urban social policy, suburban flight, disinvestment, and deindustrialization. Special emphasis on global forces affecting global urban environments around the world.

SOC 365. Environmental Sociology
3 Credits
Societal responses to environmental problems including social adjustments to natural and technological hazards, socio-cultural aspects of technological risk and impact assessment, and emergence of environmental social movements.

SOC 371. Race and Ethnic Relations
3 Credits
Dynamics of racial prejudice and patterns of racial and ethnic interaction in the United States.

SOC 374V. Comparative Family Systems
3 Credits
A comparative analysis of family forms and characteristics in various societies. An examination of the diversity of family practices among ethnic and class groups in the United States. Same as W S 374G.

SOC 375. Social Inequality
3 Credits
Analysis of the social distinctions arising from sex, age, occupation, and ethnicity. Emphasis on indicators of social class and patterns of social mobility.

SOC 376V. Social Change
3 Credits
Explanations of autonomous and directed social change as occurring at the individual, organizational, societal, and international levels. Case studies from around the world.

SOC 381. Individual and Society
3 Credits
Ways people influence each other and the mutual interaction of the individual and society. Topics include attitudes, attitude change, conformity, liking and friendship patterns.

SOC 390. Sociology of Childhood
3 Credits
This course examines theories, methods, and empirical research in several areas of the sociology of childhood. Major themes are: (1) how social structure constrains children’s lives, (2) how children negotiate, share, and create culture, and (3) how children’s experiences vary within and across societies.
SOC 391. Crime and Society  
3 Credits  
Analysis of crime at the interpersonal, organizational, and social structure levels in society. Exploration of contemporary images of crime in mass media. Examination of connections between race, class, gender, and crime in U.S. society.

SOC 392. Juvenile Delinquency  
3 Credits  
Nature, extent, and causes of juvenile delinquency; juvenile justice; modern methods of treatment; programs of prevention.

SOC 393. Youth and Society  
3 Credits  
Comparative historical analysis of social, economic and cultural forces affecting young people. Emphasis on organizational and institutional effects on the well being of children and young adults.

SOC 394V. Sports and Society: A Global Perspective  
3 Credits  
A critical examination of sports in a global context, emphasizing the social and cultural factors that shape the world of sports and the consequences of sports for societies. Course examines issues of social inequality, violence, media and corporate influence, religion and sports, and the student-athlete experience.

SOC 401. Introduction to Sociological Practice  
3 Credits  
The application of sociological theory and research method. May be taught as service learning course. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: SOC majors.  
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G, senior standing or consent of instructor.

SOC 409. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
3 Credits  
This is a holistic view of community development with an emphasis upon how economic development efforts can become more inclusive and sustainable. Topics include examining what ‘community’ means, community development versus economic development, and alternative economic activities.  
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 430. Social Movement Theory  
3 Credits  
Overview of key theories in past and present social movement research. Includes a focus on rational or spontaneous choice theories, resource mobilization, and new social movement theories. Theoretical perspectives focus on analyses of case studies including women’s movement, civil rights, and environmental movements.

SOC 448. Special Topics  
3 Credits  
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

SOC 449. Directed Readings  
1-3 Credits  
Individual readings or research for either majors or nonmajors. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.  
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

SOC 457. Gender, Science, and Technology  
3 Credits  
How gender, science and technology are interrelated social constructions. Science and technology are examined as social institutions. Explanations for different rates of participation based on race, class and gender are explored. Same as: W S 467.

SOC 458V. Comparative Global Family Systems  
3 Credits  
The study of families around the world. The comparison will include how capitalism and power differentials have affected the course of family history, gender relations, and family life today.

SOC 459. Advanced Issues in Sex and Gender  
3 Credits  
Comprehensive examination of current gender identity and gender stratification issues. Same as W S 459.

SOC 460. Sociology of Religion  
3 Credits  
Examination of religion in its social context to understand the intricate relations of religion, culture and U.S. society. Recommended preparatory courses: SOC 101G, SOC 273, SOC 376, ANTH 125G.

SOC 464. Human Society and the Environment  
3 Credits  
This course explores the relationship between human societies and the natural environment, with an emphasis on both sustainable human and environmental relationships.  
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 465V. Environmental Sociology  
3 Credits  
Advanced examination of societal responses to environmental problems including social adjustments to natural and technological hazards, sociocultural aspects of technological risk and impact assessment, and emergence of environmental social movements.

SOC 470. Sociology of Latinos/as in the United States  
3 Credits  
In-depth analysis of the dynamics of prejudice, discrimination, and patterns of intergroup interaction in the U.S.

SOC 471. Advanced Race and Ethnic Relations  
3 Credits  
Advanced examination of racial and ethnic relations of religion, culture and U.S. society. Recommended preparatory courses: SOC 101G, SOC 270, SOC 371, or HIST 367.

SOC 472. Comparative Global Family Systems  
3 Credits  
The study of families around the world. The comparison will include how capitalism and power differentials have affected the course of family history, gender relations, and family life today.

SOC 473. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
3 Credits  
This course examines international migration as a social process, focusing on the American experience. Students will examine historical and comparative literature on immigration that puts contemporary questions about policy and immigrant assimilation into a broader sociological perspective.  
Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 474. Sociology of Organizations  
3 Credits  
Sociological models of formal organizations relevant to business, education, government, healthcare, military, and religion. Focus on internal organizational structure and dynamics plus the reciprocal relationship between organizations and their operating environment.

SOC 477. Sociology of Education  
3 Credits  
Socio-political and economic factors that shape the structure and operation of educational institutions in modern complex societies. Socio-historical development of the school as a microcosm of society, with examples from American and other school systems.
SOC 479. Sociology Perspectives on the U.S.-Mexico Border
3 Credits
Theoretical perspectives and current research on the U.S.-Mexico border region, including topics such as migration, identity, health, gender, and environment.

SOC 480. Diversity in Alternative Families
3 Credits
Cross-cultural examination of diversity among and within families; analysis of family diversity includes consideration of the theoretical frameworks, ideological commitments, personal experiences, and methodological approaches to examine family life.

SOC 481. Social Deviance
3 Credits
Theoretical approaches to the study of social deviance with emphasis on critical theories. Exploration of forms of deviance in society. Examination of social construction of deviance within mass media and systems of social control.

SOC 482. Advanced Individual and Society
3 Credits
Examines reciprocal relationship between individual and society. Topics include socialization, social influence and persuasion, group structure and performance, altruism, aggression, interpersonal attraction, group cohesion and conformity, and inter-group conflict.

SOC 486. Power and Politics in America
3 Credits
This course provides an introduction to the study of Political Sociology with a focus on the United States. Political Sociology studies the social bases of politics and political systems and facilitates the understanding of the processes and consequences of power distributions in the United States.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 101G.

SOC 489. Globalization
3 Credits
Analysis of the globalization process. Covers theories of globalization, the global economy, political globalization, global culture, transnational social movements, transnational migration and world labor market, global cities, and local-global linkages. Same as GOVT 469.

SOC 491. Criminological Theory
3 Credits
Schools of thought, contrasting approaches, and contemporary efforts in theory construction relevant to adult and juvenile offenders.

SOC 496. Internship
1-6 Credits
Supervised participation in an appropriate community setting. Taught with SOC 596. May be repeated up to 9 credits. Consent of Instructor required. S/U Grading (S/U, Audit).

SOC 501. Perspectives on Sociology
3 Credits
Overview of the field, subfields, and faculty available for students at NMSU. Emphasis on theories and research currently being developed in the Sociology program. Graded: S/U. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Soc majors. S/U Grading (S/U, Audit).

SOC 509. Advanced Seminar in Community Development
3 Credits
This is an advanced seminar addressing a holistic view of community development with an emphasis upon how economic development efforts can become more inclusive and sustainable.

Prerequisite(s): Graduate student standing.

SOC 530. Advanced Social Movement Theory
3 Credits
Overview of key theories in past and present social movement research. Topics include a focus on rational or spontaneous choice theories, resource mobilization, and new social movement theories. Theoretical perspectives focus on analysis of case studies including women’s movement, civil rights, and environmental movements.

SOC 548. Graduate Special Topics
3 Credits
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes.

SOC 549. Special Research Problems
1-3 Credits
Individual analytic or experimental investigations. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.

Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

SOC 551. Issues in Advanced Quantitative Analysis
3 Credits
Advanced methods of sociological analysis are examined in detail. Restricted to: SOC majors.

SOC 552. Seminar in Classical Social Theory
3 Credits
Analysis of classical social thought within the discipline. Restricted to: Soc majors.

SOC 553. Seminar in Sociological Research
3 Credits
Exploration of research methods, issues, and practical application. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Soc majors.

SOC 558. Seminar: Sociology of the Family
3 Credits
The family in various societies; evolution of the American family.

SOC 559. Graduate Seminar in Sex and Gender
3 Credits
Comprehensive examination of current gender identity and gender stratification issues. Same as W S 559.

SOC 560. Advanced Sociology of Religion
3 Credits
Examination of religion in its social context to understand the intricate relations of religion, culture and U.S. society.

SOC 564. Seminar in Human Society and the Environment
3 Credits
This is an advanced seminar exploring the relationship between human societies and the natural environment, with an emphasis on both sustainable human and environmental relationships.

Prerequisite(s): Graduate Student Status.

SOC 565. Advanced Environmental Sociology
3 Credits
Advanced examination of societal responses to environmental problems including social adjustments to natural and technological hazards, sociocultural aspects of technological risk and impact assessment, and emergence of environmental social movements.

SOC 569. Advanced Issues in Sexualities
3 Credits
Various issues in sexualities are addressed through a wide range of theoretical and empirical sociological literatures that involve quantitative and qualitative data. Advanced examination of the ways in which sexuality is constituted in local, cultural and institutional environments.
SOC 570. Advanced Sociology of Latinos/as in the United States  
3 Credits  
In-depth examination and comparative analysis of political and economic issues affecting Latino/a culture and behavior. Topics include the Chicano/a and larger Latina/o movements, the border, immigration, language policies, education, religion, labor and Latina women's issues.

SOC 571. Advanced Race and Ethnic Relations  
3 Credits  
In-depth analysis of the dynamics of prejudice/discrimination and patterns of intergroup interaction in the U.S.

SOC 572. Advanced Sociology of Medical Ethics  
3 Credits  
Major issues in the roles and relationships of health care providers and consumers, problems in communication, malpractice, patients rights, and ethics. Taught with SOC 472 with additional work required at the graduate level.

SOC 574. Sociology of Organizations  
3 Credits  
Sociological models of formal organizations relevant to business, education, government, healthcare, military, and religion. Focus on internal organizational structure and dynamics plus the reciprocal relationship between organizations and their operating environment.

SOC 575. Graduate Social Stratification  
3 Credits  
Advanced examination of theories of stratification and current methods of stratification research. Focus on differences by ethnicity, race, class and gender.

SOC 577. Advanced Sociology of Education  
3 Credits  
Socio-political and economic factors that shape the structure and operation of educational institutions in modern complex societies. Socio-historical development of the school as a microcosm of society, with examples from American and other school systems.

SOC 578. Advanced Sociology of Development and the World System  
3 Credits  
Sociological approach to development and the global system. Theories of development, and underdevelopment; world poverty/inequality; Latin America; Africa and Asia in comparative perspectives; transnational borders/U.S.-Mexico border; current topics. Same as GOVT 577.

SOC 579. Advanced Sociological Perspectives on the U.S.-Mexico Border  
3 Credits  
Theoretical perspectives and current research on U.S.-Mexico border region, including migration, identity, health, gender, and environment.

SOC 580. Diversity in Alternative Families  
3 Credits  
Cross-cultural examination of diversity among and within families: analysis of family diversity includes consideration of the theoretical frameworks, ideological commitments, personal experiences, and methodological approaches to examine family life.

SOC 582. Individual and Society  
3 Credits  
Examines reciprocal relationship between individual and society. Topics include socialization, social influence and persuasion, group structure and performance, altruism, aggression, interpersonal attraction, group cohesion and conformity, and intergroup conflict.

SOC 583. Symbolic Interaction  
3 Credits  
Examination of the interaction of self and the social order including society as process, the negotiation of social order, identity as a social product, role taking and the situated self, the social construction of reality with an emphasis on phenomenology and ethnomethodology.

SOC 586. Advanced Seminar in Power and Politics in the United States  
3 Credits  
This is an advanced seminar addressing the study of Political Sociology with a focus on the United States. Political Sociology studies the social bases of politics and political systems. It facilitates an understanding of the processes and consequences of power distributions in the United States.  
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student standing.

SOC 587. Advanced International Migration  
3 Credits  
This course examines international migration as a social process, focusing on the American experience. Students will examine historical and comparative literature on immigration that puts contemporary questions about policy and immigrant assimilation into a broader sociological perspective.  
Prerequisite(s): Graduate student standing.

SOC 589. Advanced Issues in Globalization  
3 Credits  
Analysis of the globalization process. Covers theories of globalization; global economy; political globalization; global culture, transnational social movements, transnational migration and world labor market; global cities; local-global linkages. Same as GOVT 569.

SOC 596. Internship  
1-6 Credits  
Supervised participation in appropriate occupational setting. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Taught with SOC 496 with additional work required at the graduate level.

SOC 599. Master's Thesis  
6 Credits  
Thesis. Consent of instructor required. Restricted to: Main campus only. Restricted to SOC majors.

Name:  
Office Location:  
Phone: (575) 646-3448  
Website: http://sociology.nmsu.edu