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# Sociology

In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE:** Nasatir Hall 203  
**TELEPHONE:** (619) 594-5449  
**FAX:** (619) 594-1325  
**E-MAIL:** [schandle@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:schandle@mail.sdsu.edu)  
<http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsusoci/sociology.html>

## Faculty

Phillip T. Gay, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology,  
Chair of Department  
Robert E. Emerick, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology  
Charles F. Hohm, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Associate Dean of the  
College of Arts and Letters  
Bohdan Kolody, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology  
Paul Wong, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Dean of the College of Arts  
and Letters  
James L. Wood, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology  
Robert E. Buck, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
Shelly E. Chandler, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, Emeritus  
(Graduate Adviser)  
Ruth X. Liu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
Norma Ojeda, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
Jana L. Pershing, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
Sheldon X. Zhang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology  
Jill Esbenshade, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Michael A. McCall, M.A., Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Paul W. Sargent, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Jung M. Choi, Ph.D., Adjunct Associate Professor of Sociology,  
Director of University Honors Program

## Associateships and Assistantships

Graduate teaching associateships and graduate assistantships in sociology are available to a limited number of qualified students. Application blanks and further information may be obtained from the department office.

## General Information

The Department of Sociology offers graduate work leading to the Master of Arts degree in Sociology. Research facilities provided by the Department of Sociology include a well-equipped Social Science Research Laboratory for use by the faculty and graduate students. Faculty in the Department of Sociology are involved in a wide range of research activities with a focus on applied sociological research. Regular opportunities exist for participation in these projects by graduate students within the department.

## Admission to Graduate Study

Students will be admitted for the fall and spring semester. For fall admission, application packages must be received and complete by April 15. For spring admission, application packages must be received and complete by November 1.

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the University with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin. The graduate advisory committee may consider conditionally classified standing for students whose preparation is deemed insufficient. They will be required to complete specified courses in addition to the minimum of 33 units required for the degree.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the University application available at <http://www.csumentor.edu>.

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Department of Sociology  
(Attention: Graduate Adviser)  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-4423

- (1) GRE scores (official notification);
- (2) Three letters of recommendation;
- (3) A personal statement;
- (4) A writing sample (preferably an academic paper). If this is not available, send an extended, three to five page personal statement. See application information on the Department of Sociology home page at <http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsusoci/sociology.html>.

Applicants should obtain a current information brochure from the department office for detailed information.

Meeting all the indicated criteria does not guarantee admission to the program, since admission is also dependent on the facilities and resources available in the department.

## Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. Students must take at least three of the four 600-level core courses (Sociology 601, 602, 603, and 604) and must achieve a minimum "B" (3.0) grade average by the end of the first year in the master's program and no less than a B- grade in each core course. A student may seek exemption from a maximum of two core courses by passing an examination in the respective areas.

## Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 22081)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree, as described in Part Two of this bulletin, students must complete an approved graduate program in sociology (general or applied). While six units of electives may be taken in other departments, these courses must be acceptable for master's degree credit in the particular departments in which they are offered and be approved by the graduate adviser. Students must include in their graduate program at least 18 units of sociology courses from the list of 600- and 700-numbered courses. Sociology 799A (Thesis) and an oral examination on the thesis are required. The student will be expected to relate the narrower concerns of the thesis to a more comprehensive treatment of theoretical and methodological issues. Before the student proceeds with the thesis, approval must be obtained based upon a detailed thesis proposal, usually undertaken through Sociology 797.

There is no foreign language requirement, but students who wish to pursue a doctorate at another university are advised to acquire a reading knowledge of one or two foreign languages.

The Master of Arts degree in sociology is obtained with a specialization in one of the following areas:

**General Sociology.** Students master theory and methods with an emphasis on surveying the discipline in preparation for teaching or more advanced graduate study.

Courses required for the general sociology specialization: 33 units to include 15 units of core courses, Sociology 600, 601, 602, 603, and 604; a minimum of six additional units in sociology courses from the list of 700-level seminar courses; Sociology 799A (Thesis); and a minimum of nine additional units, chosen from 500-, 600-, and 700-numbered courses (a maximum of six units may be selected from other departments, with approval of the graduate adviser).

**Applied Sociology.** Students master theory and methods, but with an emphasis on applying social theory and methods to specific real-world research problems, in preparation for employment as applied researchers in academic and non-academic settings.

Courses required for the applied sociology specialization: 33 units to include Sociology 600, 601, 602, either 603 or 604, 760, 796; one 3-unit 700-level seminar; six units of Sociology 597 (to be arranged with faculty and graduate adviser); 799A; and three elective units from courses numbered Sociology 500-700.

## Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Sociology (SOC)

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

#### SOC 505. Applied Sociological Research (3)

Prerequisites: Sociology 250 and Sociology 407 or 408.

Types and methods of applied sociological research; and an overview of their application in substantive areas. Practical research skills.

#### SOC 522. The Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101. Recommended: Sociology 421.

Comparative study of selected family systems in the past and present. Comparative analysis of major social and demographic changes in marriage and family in post-industrial nations and less developed countries. Cross-cultural comparisons of family arrangements in contemporary America by social classes and racial-ethnic groups.

#### SOC 531. Working and Society (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Structure and change in labor force, nationally and internationally. Social drama of work: self, roles, conflict, subcultures. Includes exploration of student work experiences, workers in the community, literacy, and film depictions of work worlds.

#### SOC 532. Workers, Managers, and Bureaucracy (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Sociology of work in formal organizations. From classic theories on division of labor, industrial capitalism, and bureaucracy, to transformation of work in the twentieth century. Experiences of workers and managers in the U.S. and other societies.

#### SOC 537. Political Sociology (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Social organization of political processes. Power and authority, social class, primary groups, collective behavior, social change, and other sociological factors considered in their relationships to political processes.

#### SOC 539. Sociology of Education (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Social organization of education in the United States and other societies. Structure and functions of educational institutions. Formal and informal education. Class, ethnic, and other social factors affecting the educational process. Implications of educational decision making and testing.

#### SOC 543. Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Historical sociology of the American criminal justice system. Development and functions of police, criminal courts, prisons, parole, and probation. Theories and ideologies of punishment and rehabilitation. Review of contemporary research.

#### SOC 555. Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society (3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Contemporary migration to the United States, especially from Latin America and Asia. Political and economic migration. Immigrant and refugee adaptation. Theoretical controversies, research applications, and policy implications.

#### SOC 596. Current Topics in Sociology (1-3)

Prerequisite: Sociology 101.

Selected specialized, controversial or currently relevant topics in sociology. Maximum opportunity provided for student initiative in determining course content and procedures. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

#### SOC 597. Investigation and Report (3) I, II

Prerequisites: Fifteen units in sociology and consent of instructor. Analysis of special topics in sociology. Maximum credit six units.

### GRADUATE COURSES

#### SOC 600. Proseminar in Sociology (3)

Prerequisite: Conditional graduate standing.

Elements of profession of sociology and sociological research procedures. Connection between theoretical perspectives and appropriate research methods. Practice in scientific sociological writing styles to develop a master's thesis proposal.

**SOC 601. Advanced Social Theory: Core Course (3)**

Prerequisites: Conditional graduate standing, Sociology 401.

Systematic treatment of the original European and American classic sociological writing and an overview of the major developments in contemporary social theory.

**SOC 602. Advanced Research Methods: Core Course (3)**

Prerequisites: Conditional graduate standing; Sociology 406, 407, or 408.

Problems and techniques in social research with stress on philosophy of science, theory building, research design, measurement, and data analysis including fundamental critiques and alternatives.

**SOC 603. Advanced Social Psychology (Sociological Approaches): Core Course (3)**

Prerequisites: Conditional graduate standing, Sociology 410.

Investigation and analysis of original works in classical social psychological theory focusing on implications for research on topics such as socialization, motivation, perception, role, self, interaction and symbolic processes.

**SOC 604. Advanced Social Organization: Core Course (3)**

Prerequisites: Conditional graduate standing, Sociology 430.

Concepts, theories and findings concerning structure and change in society, institutions, formal organizations, the community and small groups. Special attention given key concepts of culture, stratification, division of labor, power, bureaucracy, role relationships and interaction.

**SOC 695. Topics in Directed Readings (3)**

Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent registration in at least one core course or one seminar.

Selected reading providing coverage of social theory, social disorganization, social organization, social institutions, social psychology (sociological approaches), community research methods, population and demography, or special topics. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 696. Experimental Topics (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Intensive study in specific areas of sociology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit of six units of 696 applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

**SOC 700. Seminar in Social Theory (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 401 and 407.

Classics of sociology, American social theory, theory construction, application of theory to research, theoretical models, sociology of knowledge, special topics. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 730. Seminar in Social Institutions (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 407 and 430.

The family and kinship, political organization, economic organization, religion, education, industry, occupations and professions, social stratification, special topics. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 740. Seminar in Social Psychology: Sociological Approaches (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 407 and 410.

Socialization, role theory, motivation, perception, self, social context of personality, attitude theory, interaction, language and symbolic process, social types, collective behavior, small groups, special topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 743. Seminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice Theory (3)**

Prerequisites: Graduate standing, 12 graduate units, Sociology 401.

History of criminological theory and review of leading contemporary theories of crime and criminal justice with focus on interconnection among social context, theory, and policy making.

**SOC 760. Seminar in Research Methods (3)**

Prerequisites: Sociology 401 and 407.

Analysis of methods used in current sociological research, including evaluation of reported findings. Discussion of research designs appropriate to particular types of projects. Evaluation of research in progress by members of the seminar. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 796. Field Practicum (3) Cr/NC**

Prerequisites: Sociology 601, 602, and either 603 or 604.

Supervised field placement in community agency. Application of sociological theories and methods to policy and research needs of agency. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 797. Research (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisite: Sociology 407.

Independent investigation of special topics. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisite: Consent of staff, to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

**SOC 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

**SOC 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the University; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.