

Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers undergraduate and graduate programs in community development planning and sociology.

The Sociology program is designed to develop professional sociologists who are broadly educated in substantive areas of sociology and well-trained in theory and methods. The Master of Arts degree program in sociology provides a curriculum that enables students to analyze, critically evaluate, and engage in the discovery of solutions to problems that evolve from patterns of human social interaction. The graduate program prepares students for advanced study (e.g., Ph.D.) in sociology, criminology, law, and social welfare.

The Community Development Planning program is dedicated to cultivating future leaders in urban and regional planning to tackle complex challenges in communities through innovative academic instruction, research design experiences, and sustainable development. Graduates are equipped with comprehensive planning knowledge, skills, and ethical practices necessary to enhance both the natural and built environments.

Instructional Organization

Program	Degree Offered
Community Development Planning	MCDP
Sociology	BA, MA

Requirements for a Minor in Sociology (18 SCH)

Required Courses

SOCG 1301	General Sociology	3
SOCG 4373	Sociological Theory	3
Four (4) Sociology courses, 2000 level or higher.		12
Total Hours		18

Organizations and Honor Societies

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society

Membership in *Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) International Sociology Honor Society* is open to sociology majors of junior standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA. AKD promotes excellence in scholarship, research, and social and intellectual activities leading to the improvement of the human condition.

Sociology Club

The purpose of the Sociology Club is to inform students around campus community about the field of Sociology through informative seminars, research endeavors, social events that promote interaction between students and faculty, and to raise awareness about social issues. The Organization's Slogan is "Real Recognizing Real" which was Sociology students' characterization of what they felt they stood for—Real students Recognizing Real Issues—and attempting to address issues impacting the PVAMU campus community.

Courses

SOCG 1301 General Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Introduction to the discipline. Focus on why and how sociologists study social and cultural phenomena such as inequality, race and ethnicity, gender, populations, family, political behavior, deviance, and social change.

SOCG 1306 Social Problems: 3 semester hours.

Application of sociological principles to major social issues and problems in contemporary and global society with particular emphasis on the United States.

SOCG 2301 Sociology of Marriage and Family: 3 semester hours.

Study of families as social institutions. Focus on social facts and theories of the size, composition, and life cycle of families, family violence, family diversity, family change, and myths about the family.

SOCG 2302 Black Families: 3 semester hours.

Students will be introduced to the diverse institutional, cultural, and historical issues relating to the past and present life circumstances of Black American families. Some comparisons will be made with families in Africa and the Diaspora.

SOCG 2306 Gender and Sexuality: 3 semester hours.

An exploration of how socializing agents such as the family, media, sports, school, work and religion aid in the development of gender roles, gender identity and gender inequality.

SOCG 2319 Sociology of Minorities: 3 semester hours.

Sociological study of traditional minorities (race, ethnicity, and religion) and new minorities (gender, sexual orientation and disability).

SOCG 2326 Social Psychology: 3 semester hours.

Uses major social psychological perspectives to analyze human behavior and the importance of others in determining self-perception, attitudes, motivation, conformity, communication, altruism, and aggression.

SOCG 3300 Social Statistics: 3 semester hours.

Presentation of sociological data and introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics for social science majors. Includes computer applications. Prerequisites: MATH 1314 or MATH 1332 or MATH 1113 or MATH 1103.

SOCG 3301 Urban and Rural Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Study of human settlement patterns, including the origin and development of cities, types of cities, urban political economy, spatial distribution of lifestyles, urban problems and recent trends in urbanization. Examines globalization and the rise of mega-cities and homelessness.

SOCG 3303 Social Inequality: 3 semester hours.

A consideration of the research findings describing the American class structure. Special attention is given to the various strata, the determinants of membership in these strata, lifestyles and life changes associated with social position and with changes in position.

SOCG 3305 Addiction and Substance Abuse: 3 semester hours.

This course examines the biological, psychological and social forces as causal factors of addiction and examines various types of addictive behavior such as: drugs, alcohol, food, love/sex, gambling and technology.

SOCG 3306 Sociology of Drug Use and Abuse: 3 semester hours.

Historical and contemporary analysis of patterns of use and abuse of legal and non-legal drugs in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Social-psychological impact of abuse, dependence, and addiction. Evaluation of consequences and treatment.

SOCG 3307 Conformity, Deviance, and Identity: 3 semester hours.

Analyzes social conformity, societal sanctions, and social control in relationship to the Sociological study of deviance, and identity. Applies theoretical explanations of deviance and identity to explore the intersection of social control, race/ethnicity, social class, and gender.

SOCG 3310 Sociological Research Methods: 3 semester hours.

Introduction to methods of sociological research including experiments, survey research, secondary analysis, and observation.

SOCG 3315 African American Urban Life: 3 semester hours.

This course examines African Americans as agents in shaping the urban experience in the United States. Examples will be drawn from communities such as Harlem, NY, the Central Avenue districts of Los Angeles, Chicago's south Side and the Auburn Avenue districts of Atlanta, as well as others. Prerequisites: SOCG 1013 or SOCG 1301.

SOCG 3320 Sociological Theory: 3 semester hours.

Critical survey of major sociological theories from classical to contemporary schools of thought.

SOCG 3322 Political Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Comparative analysis of political development and political participation including voting behavior, public opinion, political parties and elites; political power and resource distribution in groups, organizations, institutions, communities, and societies.

SOCG 4301 Religions in the African Diaspora: 3 semester hours.

Examines the historical progression of traditional African spirituality and cultures across various regions beyond Africa; and historical trends that have shaped the repression of African Diasporic religious life within its social context. Topics within the course will include the following: religious syncretism, black theology, black secularism, freedom movements, repatriation and the role of religious institutions in containing civil society.

SOCG 4302 Special Topics in Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Intensive study of specialized topics in sociology and contemporary social issues. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

SOCG 4303 Introduction to Black Sociology: 3 semester hours.

A survey of theoretical paradigms and social structures and their impact on primarily black people with generalization to broader human behavior.

SOCG 4304 Collective Behavior and Social Change: 3 semester hours.

Examines the spontaneous behavior of impermanent, unstructured collections of people, including crowds, disaster, revolutions and social movements.

SOCG 4307 Global Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Study of the interaction of culture, technology and environment in the evolution of social life from hunting and gathering bands to global society. Explores recent theories of global society in the post-cold war world.

SOCG 4309 Race Relations: 3 semester hours.

Wide range explorations of the dynamics of inter-group relations including historical and sociological factors in race and ethnic relations. An examination of politico-economic and societal development processes that serve to maintain social positions in contemporary society.

SOCG 4310 Sociology of Entrepreneurship: 3 semester hours.

This course takes a sociological approach to explore entrepreneurship and organizations at various from levels of analysis. This course examines concepts of organizational structure, capital including human, cultural, and financial; the navigation of legitimacy, uncertainty and risk; as well as the role of race, class, gender, discrimination, and racism within organizations.

SOCG 4314 Environmental Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Examines the relationship between humans and the natural world from a historical and cultural perspective exploring the issues of human progress and development, cross-cultural comparisons, the relationship between humans, animals, the land and raw materials, and current environmental problems and potential solutions.

SOCG 4315 Clinical and Applied Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Applies sociology concepts, theory, and methods to analyze and engage challenges facing business, government, non-governmental organizations, and groups. Students will apply a sociological approach to research, identify social problems, and propose solutions in hands-on projects to local community organizations and business to propose solutions.

Prerequisites: SOCG 3310.

SOCG 4376 Sociology Internship: 3 semester hours.

Placement in governmental agency, nonprofit organization or business for supervised experience in applied sociology. May require health examination or security clearance.

SOCG 4378 Senior Seminar in Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Final integration of the major works of theory and research in sociology including subfields. Comprehensive exam and major paper required. Restricted to majors and must be taken the semester prior to graduation.

SOCG 4399 Independent Study: 3 semester hours.

Readings, research, and/or field work on selected topics.

SOCG 5312 Social Statistics: 3 semester hours.

This course is designed to enhance students' statistical knowledge of measurement of central tendency, z-test, t-tests, and analysis of variance, correlation techniques and regression analysis.

SOCG 5321 Classical Sociological Theory: 3 semester hours.

Major sociological contributions of the classical theorists including but not limited to Thomas Hobbes, Auguste Comte, Alexis de Tocqueville, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Harriet Martineau, W.E.B. DuBois, and Jane Addams, providing the foundation for contemporary theory.

SOCG 5322 Research Methods: 3 semester hours.

Advanced instruction in sociological research requiring a detailed treatment of qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection and analysis. Written paper based on original research required.

SOCG 5324 Urban Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Examines the social structure of cities and the adjustment people make to urban conditions. Urban neighborhoods, population groupings, social processes, trends and problems are treated in the light of historical, ecological and social factors. A review of selected problems including urban tensions and the persistence of local ties such as family and ethnicity are explored.

SOCG 5326 Sociology of Education: 3 semester hours.

Exploration of knowledge in society and its relationship to the social structure and individual consciousness; how the social attributes of groups as well as individuals affect the production, ordering, and presentation of information as well as the form knowledge takes in a particular society.

SOCG 5328 Aspects Of Poverty: 3 semester hours.

Presentation of several theoretical perspectives on poverty in American society. Past, current, and proposed solutions of poverty are discussed.

SOCG 5333 Crime and Society: 3 semester hours.

A survey of the historical and contemporary explanations of phenomena of crime and criminal behavior from the perspective of contemporary theories and the analysis of evidence supportive of various theoretical positions. Crime measurement and crime statistics are also discussed, as are the techniques for crime analysis.

SOCG 5335 Seminar in Race Relations: 3 semester hours.

Wide range exploration of the dynamics of inter-group relations including historical and sociological factors in race and ethnic relations. An examination of politico-economic and societal development processes that serve to maintain social positions in contemporary society.

SOCG 5341 Contemporary Sociological Theory: 3 semester hours.

Basic ideas of contemporary sociological theory: structuralism, functionalism, conflict, symbolic interaction, exchange; includes but not limited to the works of Parsons, Merton, Mead, Cooley, Goffman, Coser, Dahrendorf, Marcuse and Habermas and their application to current research.

Prerequisites: SOCG 5321 or SOCG 5213.

SOCG 5342 Social Inequality: 3 semester hours.

Analysis of the nature of social stratification and its relation to other aspects of society: distribution of influence and wealth occupational structural, family relations, religious and educational institutions, minority problems, and cultural patterns. Comparison between open class, caste and other arrangements. Sources of mobility and change in stratification systems. Also addresses the impact of different forms of ranking and the consequent inequalities that arise.

SOCG 5344 Social Movements: 3 semester hours.

Examination of theories and research on social movement and social change; historical and contemporary social movements in the United States and elsewhere; collective violence and protest; terrorism and social and political revolutions.

SOCG 5345 Complex Organizations: 3 semester hours.

Introduces students to the critical examination of modern organizations, the nature of bureaucracy and its effect on personality, social relations, group dynamics and social change. Examines bureaucratic arrangements and processes in a variety of organizational context such as corporations, universities, unions, professionals associations, government bureaus and religious institutions. The role of power in bureaucratic settings and exchanges is explored.

SOCG 5346 Special Topics: 3 semester hours.

Seminar on specialized topics in sociology. Subject matter may vary by semester. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

SOCG 5352 Black Family: 3 semester hours.

This course is designed to explore the Black family from a number of different perspectives. We will research and discuss how institutions affect family structure, relationships, socioeconomic conditions, health and other factors. Different theoretical frameworks will be used to explain the historical and contemporary status and experiences of Black families in the United States.

SOCG 5355 Sociology of Gender and Sex Roles: 3 semester hours.

Analyzes the social significance of gender through the exploration of the theoretical nature of women's oppression and inequalities between women and men. A cross-cultural analysis of the development of gender roles and an examination of contemporary gender inequality in terms of gendered work patterns, labor force participation, and occupational mobility as well as alternatives to conventional division of labor by sex in society.

SOCG 5361 Thesis: 3 semester hours.

A candidate for the Master of Sociology is required to prepare a thesis under the direction of a faculty thesis committee. The thesis must be orally defended and approved by all members of the faculty thesis committee before the degree is conferred. The student must register for thesis each semester until satisfactorily completed.

SOCG 5362 Thesis: 3 semester hours.

A candidate for the Master of Sociology is required to prepare a thesis under the direction of a faculty thesis committee. The thesis must be orally defended and approved by all members of the faculty thesis committee before the degree is conferred. The student must register for thesis each semester until satisfactorily completed.

Prerequisites: SOCG 5321 or SOCG 5213.

SOCG 5372 Black Sociology: 3 semester hours.

Examines the contributions of black sociological theorists, public intellectuals, and methodologists including but not limited to selected topics such as Black Marxism, the Atlanta Laboratory School, Postcolonial Studies, Black Feminism, and Critical Race Theory providing the foundation for contemporary theory.

SOCG 5382 Graduate Capstone: 3 semester hours.

Serves as the culminating experience for non-thesis MA students. This course will allow graduate students to develop writing and presentation skills, and integrate past learning.

SOCG 5383 Media Studies: 3 semester hours.

Explores how various avenues of the media impact human behavior with a focus on theory and themes such as: race, gender, class, culture, technology and globalization.

SOCG 5384 Urban Field Research: 3 semester hours.

The course is designed to provide theoretical foundations for and guided practical experience in conducting field research in urban settings.

SOCG 5399 Independent Study: 3 semester hours.

Readings, research, and/or field work on selected topics.