SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

Sociology is the study of social life and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies. Because all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from intimate families to hostile mobs; from crime to religion; from the divisions of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of emotions.

The Sociology major is designed to provide students with a broad liberal arts education and a greater understanding and insight into the social systems and processes that bear upon everyday lives. Opportunities for students with Bachelor’s degrees in Sociology are quite varied. Some go on to work for human service agencies; others work in personnel, criminal justice, and urban planning; others enter graduate programs in sociology, education, law, medicine, or social work. Toward these ends, all students are encouraged to become skilled in the use of computers and libraries.

Requirements for the Major in Sociology

Prerequisites (State Mandated Common Prerequisites)

Students transferring to USF should complete the A.A. degree at the community college. Some courses required for the major may also meet General Education Requirements thereby transferring maximum hours to the university. If students transfer without an A.A. degree and have fewer than 60 semester hours of acceptable credit, the student must meet the university’s entering freshman requirements including ACT or SAT test scores, GPA, and course requirements.

The transfer student should also be aware of the immunization, foreign language, and continuous enrollment policies of the university.

Students should complete two lower level introductory courses in Sociology prior to entering the university. If these courses are not taken at the community college, they must be completed before the degree is granted. A grade of “C” is the minimum acceptable grade. Students are encouraged to take the following prerequisites, or major, support, or elective courses, if available, during the program of study at the community college, and when feasible in General Education/Gordon Rule courses.

STA 2122 Social Science Statistics (3)
SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology (3)
WST 3015 Introduction to Women’s Studies (3)

Specific Coursework in the Sociology Major

The major consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours of Sociology coursework plus ISS STA 2122: “Social Science Statistics” or its equivalent. All university-wide regulations regarding transfer credits and credits needed for graduation apply, at least 27 of the 36 hours of coursework in Sociology must be USF credits. Only courses in which a grade of “C” or better is attained will count toward the minimum hours although lower grades are included in calculating the major GPA.

The minimum of 36 credit hours in Sociology must include the following four core courses (12 hours):

SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology (May be replaced with an upper level sociology elective if a total of 12 or more hours of sociology coursework is completed before declaring a Sociology major)
SYA 3010 Classical Theory
SYA 3300 Research Methods (Prerequisite: STA 2122 or Social Science Statistics or its equivalent)
SYA 4910 Senior Seminar (Students earning a grade less than “C” in this course must take an additional course in Sociology. In that event, the minimum number of Sociology credits is 39)

The remaining 24 hours of sociology coursework may be comprised of any of the courses offered by the Sociology department with the exception of SYG 2412 “Marriage.” This course counts toward the total number of hours needed to graduate but it does not count toward the minimum number of sociology hours needed for the major. No more than three hours of SYA 4910 Individual Research may count toward the 36 hour minimum.

Students are encouraged to make an appointment to talk with the Sociology Department Undergraduate Advisor when they have questions about major requirements or about which electives offered each semester would best meet their educational and career goals.

Requirements for the Minor in Sociology

A minor in Sociology consists of a minimum of 18 credit hours in Sociology, at least 12 of which must be USF credits. Minors must take SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology and SYA 3010 Classical Theory. No more than three hours of SYA 4910 “Individual Research” may count toward the 18 hour minimum; SYG 2412 “Marriage” does not count toward the total number of minimum hours for the minor. Only courses in which a grade of “C” or better is attained will count toward the minimum hours.

While students do not declare a Sociology minor until application for graduation, they are encouraged to make an appointment with the Sociology Department Undergraduate Advisor if they wish to discuss which Sociology electives offered each semester would best meet their educational and Honors Program in Sociology.

The purpose of the Honors Program in Sociology is to provide exceptional undergraduates with advanced, individualized training in research and writing, as well as more direct contact with faculty mentors. Students in the Honors Program can expect more intensive work and greater challenges than sociology students in the senior year ordinarily face; yet, a student is not admitted to the program without the confidence of faculty in his or her ability to complete the Program. The rewards upon successful completion of the program include advanced training in research design, data collection, analysis, and scholarly writing--all experiences beyond those normally given to sociology majors. Assuming the student is in good standing at the time of application to graduate school, a letter from the Honors Program director outlining the Program’s requirements and special features will be sent to each graduate program to which s/he applies. Upon successful completion of the Honors Program requirements, the student’s transcript will state that the student graduated with Honors in Sociology.

Requirements for Admission to the Honors Program

1. Completion of the following courses by the end of the Semester II of the junior year with a Grade point Average of at least 3.5:
   SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology
   SYA 3010 Classical Theory
   SYA 3300 Research Methods
   SYA 3301 Research Methods

2. An overall Grade Point Average of 3.2 or higher.

3. Completion of at least 72 semester hours by the start of the program in Semester I.

4. At least one course in the substantive area of the student’s preliminary research interests, by the time of or during Semester I of the program. If during Semester I, the student must have documentation that the course will be offered at the 3000, 4000, or 5000 level, and that s/he will be able to enroll in the class. If at all possible, this course should be in Sociology, although, in some instances, the director may approve a course outside the department.

5. Tentative agreement by a faculty member to serve as chair of the thesis committee. This faculty member should indicate her/his willingness in a letter of recommendation to the director of the Honors Program.

Successful completion of the Honors program requires
completion of the Sociology program with a GPA of 3.5 or better, completion of Honors Seminar and Honors Colloquium, and completion of Honors Thesis. See Sociology Undergraduate Advisor for more information.