SOCIOMETRY

Department Website: http://sociology.uchicago.edu

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The discipline of sociology encompasses a diversity of substantive interests, theoretical orientations, and methodological approaches. The phenomena studied by sociologists range from face-to-face interaction in small groups to the structure of the modern world system. They include the historical emergence, stabilization and disintegration of institutions, practices and symbolic forms, stratification and mobility, demographic change, processes of gendering, urban/rural/suburban communities, race and ethnic relations, mass media, and the social dimensions of such areas as education, family life, law, the military, political behavior, science, and religion. The methodologies of the field range from experimentation, survey research, and ethnography to archival research and mathematical model building.

The knowledge sociology provides for the understanding of human relations and social organization has made it attractive for students considering careers in such professions as business, education, law, marketing, medicine, journalism, social work, politics, public administration, and urban planning. As a basis for more specialized graduate work, it affords entry to careers in social research in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as into business enterprises, private foundations, and research institutes. Sociology also provides an excellent foundation for students who are planning academic careers in any of the social sciences. The program is designed, therefore, to meet the needs of a very diverse group of students.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Although no special application is required for admission to the sociology program, students are required to (1) inform the sociology department and their College adviser when they decide to enter the program and (2) complete an enrollment form that is available in the department office. Students may enter the sociology program at any time during their second year but no later than the beginning of Spring Quarter of their third year. Students must complete any one of the general education social science sequences before declaring a sociology major.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the required introductory sociology courses as early as possible.

Students are encouraged to select a faculty member to serve as an adviser. In addition, each student is assigned to a preceptor. Students should address technical questions regarding the program (e.g., required courses, petitions) with the preceptor or the program chair. Students may wish to contact their faculty adviser to address general questions regarding the discipline of sociology or to design an individualized program of study.
Course Requirements

Students pursuing a BA degree in sociology are expected to complete the following requirements.

The Introductory Courses

a. Social Theory

SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change and SOCI 20005 Sociological Theory. These required courses acquaint students with some of the fundamental problems and analytic perspectives of the field of sociology.

SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change. The central objective of this course is to introduce students to the sociological study of individuals in the society, or how individual actions are shaped by their relation to and position in the social structure while contributing to this structure and its change. A central preoccupation is to articulate the linkage between the individual/micro level and the social/macro level. We focus on sociological approaches to the American society, its position in the international structure and its principal dimensions: race and ethnicity; age, gender, and social class.

SOCI 20005 Sociological Theory. Drawing on the classics as well as on contemporary works in sociological theory, this course raises questions about the nature of "theory work" and its relation both to philosophic analysis and empirical research. Authors include Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Dewey, Parsons, and Merton.

b. Methodology

Students are required to take at least one of the following methodology courses.

SOCI 20001 Sociological Methods. This course introduces the philosophy and practice of social research. Working from the idea that the research process is fundamentally a critical dialogue, we first explore questions of causality and the epistemology of social research. We then study the basic practices that are a component of all methods of social research through an in-depth examination of interviews, ethnography, surveys, and archival research. Students spend the quarter working on a series of assignments that culminates in a research proposal for the BA thesis.

SOCI 20111 Survey Analysis I. This course teaches students how to analyze and write up previously collected survey data: basic logic of multivariate causal reasoning and its application to OLS regression, percentage tables, and log odds. We emphasize practice in writing. This is not a course in sampling methods.

SOCI 20140 Qualitative Field Methods. This course introduces techniques of, and approaches to, ethnographic field research. Emphasis is placed on quality of attention and awareness of perspective as foundational aspects of the craft. Students conduct research at a site, compose and share field notes, and produce a final paper distilling sociological insight from the fieldwork.

c. Statistics

SOCI 20004 Statistical Methods of Research. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to widely used quantitative methods in sociology and related social sciences. Topics include analysis of variance and multiple regression, considered
as they are used by practicing social scientists. Substitutes for this course are STAT 20000 Elementary Statistics or higher.

d. Additional Courses

Students must take seven additional courses in sociology or related fields, and at least four of these must be in sociology. These courses must be selected in consultation with the program chair. They may be drawn from any of the 20000-level courses in sociology and, after completing SOCI 20002 Social Structure and Change, from any 30000-level courses in sociology that have not been cross listed with undergraduate numbers.

e. Senior Seminar

SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar

f. BA Honors Paper

SOCI 29999 BA Honors Paper. This course is open only to students who are applying for honors.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Two of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20002</td>
<td>Social Structure and Change</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20005</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or approved substitute

One of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20001</td>
<td>Sociological Methods</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20111</td>
<td>Survey Analysis I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20140</td>
<td>Qualitative Field Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 20004</td>
<td>Statistical Methods of Research</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four sociology courses (one may be a reading and research course)  

Three approved courses in sociology or related fields (one may be a reading and research course) *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 29998</td>
<td>Sociology BA Thesis Seminar</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Total Units 1200

* Students must submit a general petition form to the program chair for approval. With a few exceptions, courses offered in the Division of the Social Sciences are accepted. Other courses with significant social science content may also be accepted.

** Students who are applying for honors must also register for SOCI 29999 BA Honors Paper for a total of thirteen courses.

BA Paper

During their fourth year, students majoring in sociology are expected to complete an original project of sociological inquiry on a topic of their choice, culminating in a final paper from twenty to forty pages in length. The project is an independent
research project in which questions are formulated and data are collected and analyzed by the student. Recent projects have included studies of comparative order and disorder in urban neighborhoods in Chicago, immigration and national identity in Germany and Guatemala, processes of gendering in various workplaces, the role of emotions in social theory, the decisions that boys and girls make about what math courses to take in high school, homosexuality and AIDS in South Africa, hegemonic discourses of whiteness in women’s magazines, emerging forms of social interaction on the Internet, church leadership transition among Korean immigrants, the power of public rhetoric in public housing, role models among Mexican-American youth, gender roles in families of graduate students, peer pressure and teenage pregnancy, and attitudes toward immigration.

The senior project is researched, discussed, and written in the context of the senior seminar (SOCI 29998 Sociology BA Thesis Seminar), which is a required yearlong course. While students are required to attend the senior seminar in Spring Quarter of their third year and in the Autumn and Winter Quarters of their fourth year, they may register for the seminar in any one of the three terms. (Students who plan to study abroad during Spring Quarter of their third year should consult with the Undergraduate Program Chair well in advance of the trip.) The completed thesis is submitted during Spring Quarter of their fourth year.

In general, the senior project is written under the guidance of the preceptors of the department. Students who wish to be considered for honors must consult the program chair at the beginning of Spring Quarter of their third year. They will then choose an individual faculty member under whose supervision they will write their thesis. These students may register for additional reading courses (SOCI 29997 Readings in Sociology); however, only two sociology reading/research courses can be counted toward the courses required for the sociology major. Students must obtain consent of the program chair if they wish to register for more than one reading and research course to complete the BA paper.

**GRADING**

All courses required for completion of the sociology program must be taken for quality grades. This includes Reading and Research courses with the exception of SOCI 29999 BA Honors Paper, which may be taken for P/F grading with consent of instructor.

**HONORS**

If their cumulative GPA is at or above 3.25 and their GPA in the major is at or above 3.5, students may be nominated for graduation with honors on the basis of the excellence of their thesis. The thesis must be based on substantial individual research conducted under the guidance of a faculty member, and it must be evaluated both by the student’s adviser and by the program chair at A- or A. Students who are applying for honors must also register for SOCI 29999 BA Honors Paper for a total of thirteen courses.
Declaring a Sociology Major

Before declaring a sociology major, students should discuss their plans with their College adviser. They must then complete the enrollment form, which includes a short entry survey and is available in the Office of the Department of Sociology (SS 307). Students may enter the program at any time during their second year, but no later than the beginning of Spring Quarter in their third year.

Handbook

Students interested in pursuing the BA degree in sociology are encouraged to read the brochure *Undergraduate Program in Sociology*, which is available in the Office of the Department of Sociology (SS 307).