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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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Sociology provides the theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding how societies function and how they change over time. Sociologists are interested in the causes and consequences of processes such as the social construction of groups and identity, the evolution of culture, intersubjective meanings, intergroup relations, and hierarchies and social norms. They conduct research on individual behavior and outcomes such as educational attainment, jobs and careers, religious commitment, and political involvement; interpersonal processes such as intimate relationships, sexuality, social interaction in groups, and social networks; the behaviors of organizations and institutions; the causes and consequences of group differences and social inequality; and social change at the societal and global level.

The Sociology major provides both a solid foundation for students interested in careers in the social sciences and a strong background for a variety of professions in which knowledge about social processes and how societies work is relevant. Many recent graduates have gone on to law school, medical school, or graduate programs in public health, business, education, urban planning, criminology, or sociology. Others work in finance, consulting, publishing, marketing, city planning, teaching, research, and advocacy.

The Sociology department offers four undergraduate programs leading to the B.A. degree: (1) the standard program focuses on sociological concepts, theories, and methods; (2) a combined program allows students to combine sociology with a concentration in another field; (3) a concentration in markets and society focuses on the cultural frameworks, social ties, and social institutions that give rise to markets and that shape economic behavior; (4) a concentration in health and society emphasizes social processes as they affect health and medicine. Students interested in the major are encouraged to contact the director of undergraduate studies early in their academic careers to discuss potential options.

Prerequisite Students interested in the Sociology major should complete either a freshman seminar or at least one introductory course (numbered SOCY 110–149) by the end of the sophomore year. This course may be applied toward the requirements of the major. The director of undergraduate studies can waive the introductory course requirement for students who demonstrate adequate preparation for advanced course work in sociology. All students interested in the Sociology major should meet with the director of undergraduate studies no later than the beginning of the junior year to elect a program of study.

Division of courses Courses in Sociology are divided by level, with introductory courses numbered from 110 to 149, courses in sociological theory from 150 to 159, courses in sociological methods from 160 to 169, intermediate courses from 150 to 299, advanced courses in the 300s, and individual study and research courses in the 400s. Freshman seminars are numbered below 100 and count as introductory or intermediate courses. In addition, qualified students may petition to enroll in graduate courses, with permission of the instructor and the director of graduate studies. A list of graduate courses and descriptions is available from the director of undergraduate studies.

Credit/D/Fail courses A maximum of two courses taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the requirements of the major.

Program I. The standard major The requirements for the standard major are:

1. Thirteen term courses in sociology (including the prerequisite and senior colloquium), of which normally no more than two may be drawn from outside the Sociology department. At least one must be an introductory Sociology course or a substitute approved by the director of undergraduate studies, but no more than two introductory courses may count toward the total.
2. Two courses in sociological theory and two in sociological methods, normally completed by the end of the junior year. SOCY 151, Foundations of Modern Social Theory, and 152, Topics in Contemporary Social Theory, are the required courses for theory. SOCY 160, Methods of Inquiry, and one additional Sociology course numbered SOCY 161–169 are required for methods. Other methods courses from outside the department can be approved at the discretion of the director of undergraduate studies. Students planning to study abroad in their junior year are strongly encouraged to begin meeting the theory and methods requirements in their sophomore year. They should also discuss the options for their course of study with the director of undergraduate studies before finalizing their plans.
3. One advanced seminar in Sociology (SOCY 300–399).
Program II. Sociology with another subject

The combined program allows students to unite the study of sociology with the study of another discipline or substantive area, and to design a program that satisfies their own interests and career plans. By the beginning of the junior year, participants in the combined program are expected to consult with the director of undergraduate studies in order to obtain approval for their course of study. The requirements for Program II are:

1. Thirteen term courses (including the prerequisite and senior colloquium), of which at least nine and no more than ten are selected from Sociology, the remainder being chosen from another department or program. At least one must be an introductory Sociology course or a substitute approved by the director of undergraduate studies, but no more than two introductory courses in any department or program may count toward the total. The courses outside Sociology must constitute a coherent unit alone and form a logical whole when combined with the Sociology courses.

2. Two courses in sociological theory and two in sociological methods, normally completed by the end of the junior year. SOCY 151, Foundations of Modern Social Theory, and 152, Topics in Contemporary Social Theory, are the required courses for theory. SOCY 160, Methods of Inquiry, and one additional Sociology course numbered SOCY 161–169 are required for methods. Other methods courses from outside the department can be approved at the discretion of the director of undergraduate studies. Students planning to study abroad in their junior year are strongly encouraged to begin meeting the theory and methods requirements in their sophomore year. They should also discuss the options for their course of study with the director of undergraduate studies before finalizing their plans.

3. One advanced seminar in Sociology (SOCY 300–399).

4. A one- or two-term senior essay in which the student integrates sociology and the other subject chosen. Students in the intensive major write a two-term senior essay and attend a yearlong biweekly colloquium (SOCY 493, 494). Students in the nonintensive major take one additional 300-level seminar in Sociology and write a one-term senior essay in SOCY 491.

Program III. Concentration in markets and society

Students in the markets and society concentration gain a broad understanding of markets and their relationship to social networks, religion, the state, and culture. Students explore the field of economic sociology, develop insights into market logics and economic outcomes, and develop skills in network analysis. Application is required to the markets and society concentration, using a form downloaded from the Sociology department Web site (http://sociology.yale.edu). Requirements for the concentration are:

1. Thirteen term courses in sociology (including the prerequisite and senior colloquium). At least one must be an introductory Sociology course or a substitute approved by the director of undergraduate studies, but no more than two introductory courses in any department or program may count toward the total. Up to four courses may be drawn from outside the Sociology department, with approval from the director of undergraduate studies.

2. Two courses in sociological methods, one in network analysis (e.g., SOCY 167, Social Networks and Society) and another in statistics (e.g., SOCY 162, Methods in Quantitative Analysis).

3. SOCY 321, Sociology of Markets. A different seminar may fulfill this requirement with approval from the director of undergraduate studies.

4. One additional intermediate or advanced course in economic sociology. Suitable courses include SOCY 219, Economic Sociology; SOCY 318, Debates over Capitalism; and SOCY 395, Wealth and Poverty in Modern China. An intermediate or advanced course in economic anthropology (e.g., ANTH 346, Anthropological Approaches to Capitalism) or a course in economic history or behavioral economics may fulfill this requirement with approval from the director of undergraduate studies.

5. At least one intermediate or advanced course in microeconomics (e.g., ECON 121 or 125).

6. A one- or two-term senior essay integrating sociology with business, markets, or economic behavior. Students in the intensive major write a two-term senior essay and attend the yearlong biweekly colloquium (SOCY 493, 494). Students in the nonintensive major take one additional 300-level seminar in Sociology and write a one-term senior essay in SOCY 491.

Program IV. Concentration in health and society

Students in the health and society concentration gain a broad understanding of how supraindividual factors such as socioeconomic inequality, demographic processes, neighborhood environments, cultural norms, and social networks affect health and medical care. Students explore the fields of medical sociology, stratification, demography, and network science. The core courses in the concentration satisfy the social science requirements of premedical programs while also providing a solid foundation for students interested in public health, health policy, and global health. Application is required to the health and society concentration, using a form downloaded from the Sociology department Web site (http://sociology.yale.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/health-and-society-application). Requirements for the concentration are:

1. Thirteen term courses in Sociology (including the prerequisite and senior colloquium). Up to five course credits may be drawn from outside the Sociology department, with approval from the director of undergraduate studies.

2. SOCY 126, Health of the Public, the gateway course for the concentration.

3. SOCY 151, Foundations of Modern Social Theory, is highly recommended.
4. A course in statistics: SOCY 162, Methods in Quantitative Sociology, or STAT 103, Introduction to Statistics: Social Sciences, or GLBL 121, Applied Quantitative Analysis, or a higher-level statistics course approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

5. SOCY 160, Methods of Inquiry, or a comparable course approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

6. In order to build a broad base of interdisciplinary knowledge on health, students may take up to five course credits from outside the Sociology department. It is recommended that students select at least one course credit from the following: BIOL 101, Biochemistry and Biophysics; BIOL 102, Principles of Cell Biology and Membrane Physiology; BIOL 103, Genes and Development; BIOL 104, Principles of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; MATH 112, Calculus of Functions of One Variable I (or higher-level Mathematics course); ECON 170, Health Economics and Public Policy.

7. Two upper-level Sociology seminars selected from the following: SOCY 341, Poverty and Social Welfare Policy in the United States; SOCY 343, Inequality in America; SOCY 361, Demography, Gender, and Health; SOCY 390, Politics of Reproduction; other courses approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

8. A one- or two-term senior essay integrating sociology with health and medicine. Students in the intensive major write a two-term senior essay and attend the yearlong biweekly colloquium (SOCY 493, 494). Students in the nonintensive major take one additional 300-level seminar in Sociology and write a one-term senior essay in SOCY 491.

**Senior requirement for the nonintensive major** Students electing the nonintensive major take one additional seminar in Sociology (SOCY 300–399) and write a one-credit senior essay during the senior year (SOCY 491). The senior essay for nonintensive majors is intended to be an in-depth scholarly review and critical analysis based on secondary sources. Students select an important topic in any sociological field and write a literature review that evaluates what is known about the topic. All nonintensive majors are required to enroll in SOCY 491 to receive credit for the senior essay. To register for this course, students must submit a written plan of study approved by a faculty adviser to the director of undergraduate studies no later than the end of registration period in the term in which the senior essay is to be written. Nonintensive majors are not eligible to graduate with Distinction in the Major.

**Senior requirement for the intensive major** The intensive major gives students an opportunity to undertake a yearlong program of original research resulting in a contribution to sociological knowledge. The yearlong project requires substantial independent research and knowledge of a sociological subfield. Students use research methods such as data gathering through participant observation, in-depth interviewing, administration of small-scale surveys, or secondary analysis of existing data. They may present findings in a variety of forms, from ethnographic narratives to analytical statistics. Students select primary and secondary advisers from the faculty. Students in the intensive major enroll in SOCY 493, 494, Senior Essay and Colloquium for Intensive Majors, during their senior year. The colloquium provides a forum for discussing the research process and for presenting students’ research at various stages. Intensive majors are eligible to graduate with Distinction in the Major if they meet the grade standards for Distinction—see under Honors (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/yale-college/honors) in the Undergraduate Curriculum (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/yale-college) section—and submit a senior essay written in SOCY 493, 494.

**Admission to the intensive major** Candidates for the intensive major should apply to the director of undergraduate studies by the last day of classes in the spring term of their junior year. The intensive major is especially recommended for students considering graduate school or social research. In special circumstances, applications may be accepted through the end of registration period in the first term of the senior year. Applications should include a one-page statement of interest that includes a list of relevant courses taken and identifies a prospective senior essay adviser. Admission is based on performance and promise. The director of undergraduate studies and the senior essay adviser serve as advisers to seniors in the intensive major.

**Requirements of the Major**

**Prerequisite** 1 freshman sem or intro course (SOCY 110–149) or equivalent

**Number of courses** 13 term courses (incl prereq and senior essay)

**Specific courses required** Programs I and II—SOCY 151, 152, 160, 1 addtl course from SOCY 161–169; Program III—SOCY 321; Program IV—SOCY 126, 160

**Distribution of courses** All programs — no more than 2 intro courses; Program I — 1 sem from SOCY 300–399; Program II — 9 or 10 courses in Sociology; 3 or 4 courses from another dept; 1 sem from SOCY 300–399; Program III — 2 courses in methods, as specified; 1 intermed or adv course in economic sociology; 1 intermed or adv course in microecon; Program IV — 1 course in stat, as specified; 2 sems from SOCY 300–399, as specified

**Substitution permitted** Program I — up to 2 courses from other depts; Program III — up to 4 courses from other depts, with DUS approval; Program IV — up to 5 courses from other depts, with DUS approval

**Senior requirement** Nonintensive major — 1 addtl 300-level Sociology sem and senior essay (SOCY 491); Intensive major — two-term senior essay (SOCY 493, 494)

SOCY 149a / ARCH 38a / HIST 152a / PLSC 279a, New Haven and the American City  Alan Plattus, Elihu Rubin, and Douglas Rae

Introduction to urban studies using New Haven as a broad model for American urbanism. Emphasis on historical development; transportation and infrastructure; architecture, urban design, and the built environment; governance and culture; as well as planning, education, class, race, and ethnicity in the American city.
Yale University

SOCY 155a / JDST 323a / MMES 160a / NELC 155a, State and Society in Israel   Dina Roginsky
The interplay between the state and society in Israel. Current Israeli discourse on controversial issues such as civil rights in a Jewish–democratic state, Jewish-Arab relations, and right and left politics. Issues of orthodoxy, military service, globalization, and multiculturalism in Israel. Sociopolitical changes that have taken place in Israel since the establishment of the state in 1948 and that have led to the reshaping of Israeli Zionist ideology.  HU

Introductory Courses

* SOCY 018a, The Sociological Imagination   Julia Adams
Introduction to the linked study of sociology and modernity. Topics include the dramatic rise of capitalism; colonialism and empire; the advent of democracy and bureaucracy; the world-historical invention of the individual; and the contested role of religion in modernity. Readings from classical and contemporary authors.  SO

SOCY 126b / DEVN 197b / HLTH 140b, Health of the Public   Nicholas Christakis
Introduction to the field of public health. The social causes and contexts of illness, death, longevity, and health care in the United States today. How social scientists, biologists, epidemiologists, public health experts, and doctors use theory to understand issues and make causal inferences based on observational or experimental data. Biosocial science and techniques of big data as applied to health.  SO

* SOCY 132a or b / CHLD 132a or b / PSYC 132a or b, The Concept of the Problem Child   Erika Christakis
Differing visions of good and bad, typical and atypical, children. Reasons why some children are seen as deviant and others as normal. Implications for public policy, medical practice, family dynamics, schooling, and the criminal justice and protective care systems. Sources include public health data, early childhood curricula, and depictions of problem children in literature and popular culture.  SO

SOCY 133a, Computers, Networks, and Society   Scott Boorman
Comparison of major algorithm-centered approaches to the analysis of complex social network and organizational data. Fundamental principles for developing a disciplined and coherent perspective on the effects of modern information technology on societies worldwide. Software warfare and algorithm sabotage; blockmodeling and privacy; legal, ethical, and policy issues. No prior experience with computers required.  SO RP

SOCY 147b, Introduction to Social Policy Analysis   Scott Boorman
The capabilities and limitations of four fundamental tools of policy: markets, networks, bureaucracy, and legislation. Examples from the policy history of the United States since the 1930s and from formal models of social structure and process.  SO

Courses in Sociological Theory

Open to all students without prerequisite.

SOCY 151a / PLSC 290a, Foundations of Modern Social Theory   Emily Erikson
Major works of social thought from the beginning of the modern era through the 1920s. Attention to social and intellectual contexts, conceptual frameworks and methods, and contributions to contemporary social analysis. Writers include Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Adam Smith, Marx, Freud, Peirce, Weber, and Durkheim.  SO

* SOCY 152b, Topics in Contemporary Social Theory   Philip Gorski
An examination of central issues in contemporary social theory. Influential thinkers and their responses to changes in the modern world since the Second World War. Topics include the nature of modern society and the human condition, the selection of rulers, power, punishment, torture, national trauma, and individual and collective identity.  SO

Courses in Sociological Methods

* SOCY 160a, Methods of Inquiry   Matthew Mahler
The theory and practice of social inquiry. How social scientists—and aspiring social scientists—actually do their work, including designing research, sampling and measuring, and interpreting results. Examination of thesis proposal writing; ethical quandaries involved in social research. No background in social research assumed.  SO

* SOCY 162a, Methods in Quantitative Sociology   Vida Maralani
Introduction to methods for reading and conducting quantitative sociological research. Data description and graphical approaches to data analysis; elementary probability theory; assumptions and properties of bivariate and multivariate linear regression; regression diagnostics.  QR, SO

* SOCY 167b, Social Networks and Society   Emily Erikson
Introduction to the theory and practice of social network analysis. The role of social networks in contemporary society; basic properties of network measures, matrices, and statistics. Theoretical concepts such as centrality and power, cohesion and community, structural holes, duality of persons and groups, small worlds, and diffusion and contagion. Use of social structural, dynamic, and statistical approaches, as well as network analysis software. No background in statistics required.  SO

Intermediate Courses

The prerequisite for intermediate courses is one introductory Sociology course or permission of the instructor.
SOCY 172b / PLSC 415b, Religion and Politics  Sigrun Kahl
Challenges to the view of religion as an archaic force destined to dwindle away in a secularized society. A historical and comparative investigation of the relationship between religion and politics in Europe and the United States, with comparisons to the Muslim world.

* SOCY 202a, Cultural Sociology  Jeffrey Alexander
Collective meanings that make a profound difference in modern societies; that are symbolic but also sensual, emotional, and moral; that inspire ritual as well as creative performance and strategy. Examination of codes, narratives, icons, and metaphors to analyze how cultural structures energize capitalism, direct politics, create institutions, inspire social movements, and motivate war and peace.

SOCY 208b, Guns in the United States  Andrew Papachristos
Survey of historical, sociological, psychological, legal, and political research on the multifaceted role guns play in the United States. Historical and constitutional origins of the Second Amendment; the prevalence and distribution of guns; attitudes about gun ownership, possession, and use; illegal and legal gun markets; gun crime and injuries and responses to them, including legislative and political processes.

* SOCY 216b / EP&E 267b / WGSS 314b, Social Movements  Ron Eyerman
An introduction to sociological perspectives on social movements and collective action, exploring civil rights, student movements, global justice, nationalism, and radical fundamentalism.

* SOCY 228b, Norms and Deviance  Elijah Anderson
A sociological analysis of the origins, development, and reactions surrounding deviance in contemporary society. Group labeling, stigma, power, and competing notions of propriety.

* SOCY 232b / AFST 348b / MMES 291b, Islamic Social Movements  Jonathan Wyrtzen
Social movement and network theory used to analyze the emergence and evolution of Islamic movements from the early twentieth century to the present. Organization, mobilization, and framing of political, nonpolitical, militant, and nonmilitant movements; transnational dimensions of Islamic activism. Case studies include the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hizbollah, Al-Qaeda, Al-Adl wa-Ihsann, and Tablighi Jama’at.

Advanced Courses

Courses in this category are open to students who have completed one intermediate course and any other specified requirement, or by permission of the instructor. Preference is given to Sociology majors in their junior and senior years.

* SOCY 314a / AFAM 273a / EP&E 244a / WGSS 316a, Inequality in America  Vida Maralani
Introduction to the current landscape of socioeconomic inequality in the U.S. Empirical, theoretical, and methodological facets of inequalities in education, occupation, income, wealth, health, neighborhoods, and intergenerational mobility; how these intersect with race and gender. Core questions include how different social groups fare and why, and what types of policies might address existing inequalities.

* SOCY 319a / ER&M 419a, Ethnography of the African American Community  Elijah Anderson
An ethnographic study of the African American community. Analysis of ethnographic and historical literature, with attention to substantive, conceptual, and methodological issues. Topics include the significance of slavery, the racial ghetto, structural poverty, the middle class, the color line, racial etiquette, and social identity.

* SOCY 321a / EP&E 477a, Sociology of Markets  Frederick Wherry
The role of culture and politics in shaping markets. Links between social networks and employment discrimination, religion and wealth, social relationships and financial troubles, and culture and industry. The moral dimensions of selling organs and intimacy.

* SOCY 329b / AFST 373b / GLBL 362b / MMES 282b, Imperialism, Insurgency, and State Building in the Middle East and North Africa  Jonathan Wyrtzen
The historical evolution of political order from Morocco to Central Asia in the past two centuries. Focus on relationships between imperialism, insurgency, and state building. Ottoman, European, and nationalist strategies for state building; modes of local resistance; recent transnational developments; American counterinsurgency and nation-building initiatives in the region.

* SOCY 341b, Poverty and Social Welfare Policy in the United States  Lloyd Grieger
The formation and effectiveness of antipoverty policies in the United States examined from sociological and public-policy perspectives. Origins of the modern social safety net; the federal government’s role in antipoverty policy and the growth-of-dependency argument; the labor market and low-wage work; employment- and family-based policy strategies for alleviating poverty.

* SOCY 363a / ER&M 362a / GLBL 384a, Genocide and Ethnic Conflict  Jasmina Besirevic Regan
Exploration of the explosion of genocide and violent ethnic conflict in the past seventy years, including contributory historical and political elements. Consideration of ways to prevent or resolve such conflicts. Focus on questions of identity, religion, class, and nationhood as related to violence and conflict. An analytical framework developed from four case studies: the Holocaust, Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, and Rwanda.
* SOCY 365b / PLSC 241b, The Making of Political News  Matthew Mahler
The processes through which political news gets made. How the form and content of political news are shaped in and through the ongoing relationships between political operatives and journalists; ways in which these actors attempt to structure and restructure such relationships to their benefit.  so

* SOCY 369b / EP&E 258b / PLSC 446b, Welfare States across Nations  Sigrun Kahl
How different societies counterbalance capitalism and deal with social risks. Welfare state regimes and their approaches to inequality, unemployment, poverty, illness, disability, child rearing, and old age. Why the United States has an exceptionally small welfare state. so

* SOCY 390b / ER&M 360b / HLTH 370b / HSHM 432b / WGSS 390b, Politics of Reproduction  Rene Almeling
Reproduction as a process that is simultaneously biological and social, involving male and female bodies, family formation, and powerful social institutions such as medicine, law, and the marketplace. Sociological research on reproductive topics such as pregnancy, birth, abortion, contraception, infertility, reproductive technology, and aging. Core sociological concepts used to examine how the politics of reproduction are shaped by the intersecting inequalities of gender, race, class, and sexuality.  wr, so

Individual Study and Research Courses

* SOCY 471a and SOCY 472b, Individual Study  Staff
Individual study for qualified juniors and seniors under faculty supervision. To register for this course, each student must submit to the director of undergraduate studies a written plan of study that has been approved by a faculty adviser.

* SOCY 491a or b, Senior Essay and Colloquium for Nonintensive Majors  Staff
Independent library-based research under faculty supervision. To register for this course, students must submit a written plan of study approved by a faculty adviser to the director of undergraduate studies no later than the end of registration period in the term in which the senior essay is to be written. The course meets biweekly, beginning in the first week of the term.

* SOCY 493a and SOCY 494b, Senior Essay and Colloquium for Intensive Majors  Staff
Independent research under faculty direction, involving empirical research and resulting in a substantial paper. Workshop meets biweekly to discuss various stages of the research process and to share experiences in gathering and analyzing data. The first meeting is in the second week of the term.