The School of Social Sciences

Chair
Chandler Davidson

Professors
Stephen L. Klineberg
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Associate Professors
Elizabeth Long
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Degree Offered: B.A.

This undergraduate major fosters an analytic approach to the study of human societies, whether as a preparation for graduate work in sociology and related fields, or as the foundation for a variety of occupations. It is also an important component of a liberal arts education and is often used as such in preparation for professions such as law or medicine. The program provides students with considerable latitude in pursuing personal interests while ensuring familiarity with basic theoretical approaches and research methods.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Sociology

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 17–19). Students majoring in sociology must complete at least 30 semester hours (10 courses) in sociology courses. Requirements for the major normally include:

- SOCI 203 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 421 Craft of Sociology
- and either SOCI 390 Research Methods
- or SOCI 496 Advanced Research Seminar: The Houston Area Survey

**At least 1 theory course, such as:**
- SOCI 315 Symbolic Interactionism
- SOCI 317 Contemporary Sociological Theory
- SOCI 395 Feminist Social Thought

**At least 6 additional sociology courses:**
See course listings below, and check for availability. A statistical analysis course, such as, PSYC 339 Statistical Methods in Psychology, POLI 495 Introduction to Statistics, or STAT 280 Elementary Applied Statistics, may be used as one of these. The department recommends, however, that majors take SOCI 340 Social Statistics.

Sociology majors do not need to take a foreign language, but those planning graduate study ideally should be competent in at least one such language. Some sociology courses listed in the Courses of Instruction section may not be offered every year, and courses among the regular offerings are occasionally added or dropped. Students are responsible for making sure they satisfy all the requirements for their degree. One of the sociology faculty, preferably department adviser Professor Long, should sign each major’s registration.
Honors Program. For general information, see Honors Programs (page 34). Students who have maintained a B average in at least four sociology courses beyond the introductory level may apply to enter the honors program. Students should submit their research plans during the first semester of their junior year, no later than two weeks before registering for the spring semester. Proposals go to the Undergraduate Honors Committee (Professor Long, chair), which meets with students to evaluate and strengthen their proposals, then assigns a faculty adviser.

Students in the honors program register for two successive semesters in directed honors research (SOCI 492, 493). The first of the two courses, normally taken in the spring semester of the junior year, is typically devoted to a thorough review of the relevant literature, the formulation of hypotheses growing out of the literature review, and a proposal consisting of a research design that clearly describes how the data are to be collected and analyzed. To receive a grade for the first semester, the student must submit to the primary thesis adviser by the last day of classes a paper containing the literature review, hypotheses, and research design, along with a bibliography. The research itself is usually carried out in the summer and fall semesters of the senior year and is analyzed, written up, and defended as a completed honors thesis during the same fall semester.

All honor students should complete SOCI 390 Research Methods and/or SOCI 421 Craft of Sociology before beginning their second semester of honors research.

See SOCI (pages 493–496) in the Courses of Instruction section.