

# Sociology

Sociology is the study of society and social life, and as such, looks at a diverse range of topics concerning the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Few disciplines are as broad in scope and relevance as is sociology. Sociologists examine the structure of groups, organizations and societies as a whole, as well as how people act and interact within those social contexts. Sociology is a rapidly evolving and ever-expanding discipline that is particularly well suited to addressing issues and problems in a fast-paced and complex contemporary world.

Sociology provides many distinctive perspectives on the social world that can help students to gain a better understanding of themselves and the society of which they are a part. The field features a range of theoretical approaches that can generate new ideas, stimulate debate and challenge taken-for-granted notions about the nature of social reality and the status quo. The field also offers a range of research methodologies that allow for systematic and scientific investigation of social phenomena, rather than using common sense, propaganda, opinion or other such subjective explanations for human behavior.

Sociological theories and methods can be applied to studying virtually any aspect of social life: culture and technology; crime and deviance; politics and economics; the self and socialization; family and group dynamics; class, race and gender; social movements and social change.

The goal of the Sociology Program at Santa Barbara City College is to prepare students to deal with their own everyday life, as well as to meet the greater challenges of membership in the larger society. Sociology can contribute to the personal development of students, while also encouraging active and informed participation in the social and cultural life of their communities. Students can learn to transcend limited, culturally bound understandings to arrive at deeper insights into themselves and others, and to create positive change in the world in which they live.

Sociology is oriented toward stimulating the curiosity and intellects of those interested in academic fields, as well as toward building the skills and understandings necessary for success in a wide range of professional fields. Students majoring in sociology have established careers in such areas as law and government, urban planning, business administration, social welfare,

health and education, counseling and human resources, advertising and marketing, public relations and the media, and the nonprofit sector.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the major theoretical perspectives in sociology and apply them to the analysis of social phenomena
2. Describe the key concepts associated with one or more substantive areas of the discipline, and apply them to an analysis of social phenomena
3. Analyze the role of social forces in shaping the individual
4. Explain how individuals create and sustain society through collective action
5. Define the role of social institutions in society
6. Explain how structures and processes of social inequality across such dimensions as class, race and gender influence the life experiences of individuals
7. Utilize a variety of research methods to collect data and to produce original written work, according to social scientific standards
8. Discuss the ethical standards that guide research in the social sciences

## Organization

*Division:* Social Sciences

*Dean:* Alice Scharper (A-118, ext. 2354)

## Faculty and Offices

Jill Stein, *Department Chair* (IDC-369, ext. 3051,  
e-mail: [steinj@sbcc.edu](mailto:steinj@sbcc.edu))

## Degree Awarded

Associate in Arts Degree: Sociology

## A.A. Degree: Sociology

### Department Requirements (21 units)

ANTH 103 — Introduction to Cultural Anthropology .....	3
PHIL 100 — Introduction to Philosophy.....	3
SOC 101 — Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> .....	3
SOC 101H — Introduction to Sociology, Honors.....	3
SOC 104 — Social Psychology .....	3

#### *Plus three of the following:*

SOC 103 — Marriage, Family and Intimacy.....	3
SOC 106 — Sociology of Deviance.....	3
SOC 109 — Contemporary Social Problems .....	3
SOC 113 — Sociology of Sex and Gender.....	3
SOC 115 — Introduction to Social Research .....	3
SOC 118 — Media, Culture and Society .....	3

### College Requirements

For complete information, see “Graduation Requirements” in the *Catalog* Index.

### Planning a Program of Study

As a general rule it is recommended that students begin their study of sociology by taking Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101 or SOC 101H), though the required courses for the major may be taken in any order. A student planning to major in Sociology should take the two core classes (SOC 101 and 104) and at least three of the more specialized courses in the discipline (SOC 103, 106, 109, 113, 115 or 118). In addition, they are required to take one course in Anthropology (ANTH 103) and one in Philosophy (PHIL 100). Students in the major are also encouraged to become familiar with other related behavioral and social science disciplines.

## Preparation for Transfer

Course requirements for transfer vary depending upon the college or university a student wishes to attend. Therefore, it is *most important* for a student to consult with a counselor and departmental adviser before planning an academic program for transfer. Information sheets for majors, outlining transfer requirements, are available in the Counseling and Transfer Centers.

## Honors and Awards

The Sociology Department selects one student majoring in the discipline as the Outstanding Student in Sociology for the year, to be honored at the annual Santa Barbara City College Award Banquet. Selection is made by the faculty, based on academic excellence in sociology and contribution to the department, college and/or community,

## Course Descriptions

### SOC 101 — Introduction to Sociology (3) F, S — CSU, UC\*

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introduction to the study of society and everyday life, examining a diverse range of topics on human behavior and social structure. Focus on developing a sociological perspective, through theory and research, to analyze all aspects of social life. Discussion of culture, development of the self, interaction in groups, deviance and social inequality, social institutions and social change. Emphasis on contemporary American society, with global perspective. (*\*UC Transfer Limit: SOC 101 and 101H combined: maximum credit, one course*).

---

**SOC 101H — Introduction to Sociology, Honors**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC\***

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*  
*Limitation on Enrollment: Acceptance into the Honors Program.*

Introduction to the study of society and everyday life, examining a diverse range of topics on human behavior and social structure. Focus on developing a sociological perspective, through theory and research, to analyze all aspects of social life. Discussion of culture, development of the self, interaction in groups, deviance and social inequality, social institutions and social change. Examines contemporary American society with global perspective. Emphasis on reading and discussing selections from classic and contemporary texts, and producing original research projects. (\*UC Transfer Limit: SOC 101 and 101H combined: maximum credit, one course).

**SOC 103 — Marriage, Family and Intimacy**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Investigates the family as a social and cultural institution, including the increasing diversity of contemporary American families. Describes the structures and functions of American families, as well as offering some cross-cultural comparisons. Examines the impact of gender on family roles and intimate relationships. Covers such topics as falling in love, partner selection, marital adjustment, communication and conflict resolution, divorce, domestic violence and parenting.

**SOC 104 — Social Psychology**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introductory course which examines the relationship between the individual and society, and how each is shaped and influenced by the other from a sociological perspective. Covers theoretical approaches, methodological applications, and empirical studies of human behavior. Topics include the development of self, process of socialization, interaction in groups, social roles, deviance and collective behavior.

**SOC 106 — Sociology of Deviance**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Examination of deviance and social control in contemporary society, using the sociological perspective. Focus on the social processes involved in the construction of deviance, and its functions and impacts on individuals and society. Covers interpersonal and family violence; mental disorders; deviant sexuality; drug and alcohol use; and property, white-collar and organized crime.

**SOC 109 — Contemporary Social Problems**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introductory course which analyzes a variety of contemporary issues from a sociological perspective. Uses social theory and research methods to gain insight into the nature, extent, consequences and possible solutions to social problems in the United States and globally.

**SOC 113 — Sociology of Sex and Gender**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introductory course designed to examine the changing roles of women and men in contemporary American society.

**SOC 115 — Introduction to Social Research**

**(3) F, S — CSU, UC**

*Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introductory course which explores the variety of methods used by sociologists to study the social world and human behavior. Examination of classic and contemporary studies as models of research. Emphasis on doing social research, from designing a project, to collecting and analyzing the data on various topics of interest to students.

**SOC 118 — Media, Culture and Society****(3) F, S — CSU, UC***Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Critical examination of the mass media from a sociological perspective. Focus on how the media are shaped by and influence society, culture and the individual. Covers a variety of topics, including the role of media in ideology and identity; economics and politics; race, class and gender; and social change and globalization.

**SOC 120 — Introduction to Social Work****(3) F, S, Summer — CSU***Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

Introduction to field of social work. Covers historical development as a profession. Introduces core knowledge base, including theoretical perspectives on which it is based. Roles, required training, methods and skills, and values and ethics covered. Emphasis on core competencies in 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS), set by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

**SOC 295 — Internship in Sociology****(2-4) F, S — CSU***Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H.*

*Limitation on Enrollment: Completion of two courses in the Sociology Department at SBCC prior to enrolling in an internship course.*

Structured internship program in which students gain experience with community organizations related to the discipline.

**SOC 299 — Independent Study in Sociology****(1-4) F, S — CSU***Skills Advisories: Eligibility for ENG 110 or ENG 110H*

*Limitation on Enrollment: Six units of Sociology courses completed with a 3.0 or higher GPA; minimum of 12 units of course work completed at SBCC with a GPA of at least 2.5.*

For complete information, see "Independent Study" in the *Catalog Index*. (\*UC transfer limit: SOC 299 computed as Independent Study; see counselor).