Sociology

A BA degree in Sociology enables students to develop a deep understanding of the social world and how it operates as well as how personal issues and public concerns interconnect. In addition, a sociology degree develops students’ research knowledge and skills in ways that enable graduates to confidently apply the critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that are crucial for success in today’s ever-changing world.

Earning a BA in sociology offers students wide flexibility in terms of career choices. Graduates apply their knowledge and skills within such areas as medical and health services, recreation, business, law and law enforcement, urban planning, social policy, and social services. Sociology students are also prepared for graduate and professional school programs in areas such as law, medicine, health professions, public policy, business, sociology, social work, and other social sciences.

Statement of policies - Admission

For students enrolled at the University of Akron and for students wishing to transfer directly to Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences from their institutions, the following criteria must be satisfied for admission to the Department of Sociology.

- The student must be admissible to Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- A minimum grade point average of 2.20 must be met in all university work, including transfer credits until 30 UA credits are earned. Only credits earned at an accredited institution of postsecondary education, as recognized by The University of Akron, will be considered for transfer credit, and only those grades will be considered in the grade point average.

Graduation

A Sociology major must earn a cumulative 2.20 grade point average in Sociology and overall to graduate with such a declared major.

- Sociology, BA (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-ba)
- Sociology, Minor (https://bulletin.uakron.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-minor)

Sociology (3850)

3850:100 Introduction to Sociology (3 Credits)
Basic terminology, concepts and approaches in sociology, including introduction to analysis of social groups and application of sociological concepts to the understanding of social systems. Required of majors. Lecture/discussion.

Gen Ed: Tier 2 - Social Science; Tier 3 - Domestic Diversity

3850:301 Methods of Social Research I (3 Credits)
Prerequisites: 3850:100 and 3 credits of Mathematics (3450) or Statistics (3470) courses. The basis of this course is learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions in conducting research design and data gathering techniques. Required of all majors.

Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Critical Thinking

3850:302 Methods of Social Research II (3 Credits)
Prerequisites: Completion of [3700:301 or 3850:301], and 3850:100, and 3 credits of Mathematics (3450) or Statistics (3470) courses. Essential objectives of this course are developing expression skills in writing and learning fundamental principles in statistics. Other key topics include quantitative techniques and application to sociological data. Required of all majors.

3850:310 Social Problems (3 Credits)
Prerequisite 3850:100 or permission. Study of selected contemporary problems in society; application of sociological theory and research to understand the social construction of and response to these problems.

3850:315 Sociological Social Psychology (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100. The reciprocal influence of individuals and groups. How interpersonal processes produce and affect group structure. How groups affect the development and behavior of the social person.

3850:320 Social Inequalities (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. This course covers local, regional, national, and global dimensions of social inequalities. Structural and interactionist approaches to relations of power in society frame the course.

Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3850:321 Population (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. An introduction to world and national population trends, related demographic and social characteristics. Topics include fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, abortion, birth control, population policy in relation to societal problems. Lecture.

Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Global Diversity

3850:324 Social Movements (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Social movements as distinguished from other forms of collective behavior; analysis of social situations which produce social movements; focus on development of social movements and their role in social change. Lecture.

3850:325 Sociology of Women in Global Society (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Examination of research and theories pertaining to women's status in global society, including economic conditions, the relationship between structure and experience, and global/local linkages.

3850:330 Criminology (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Major focus on interrelationships and analysis of crimes, criminals, criminal justice systems and society. Lecture.

Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3850:336 Sociology of Work & Occupations (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Survey of theory and empirical research in areas such as the structure of occupations and professions, occupational attainment, work force characteristics, work values and orientations, the nature of work. Lecture.

3850:340 The Family (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Analysis of family as a social system; historical, comparative and contemporary sociological approaches examined in relation to family structure and functions. Lecture.

3850:341 Political Sociology (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Survey of theory and empirical research dealing with relationship between political phenomena and the larger network of social processes in human societies. Lecture.
3850:342 Sociology of Health & Illness (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. General survey of sociological perspectives, concepts and research on health, illness and health-care delivery systems. Lecture.
Gen Ed: Tier 3 - Complex Systems

3850:343 Sociology of Aging (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Examination of process of aging from perspective of behavioral and sociological aspects. Lecture.

3850:350 Drugs in Society (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. This course is a survey, from a sociological perspective, of drug abuse, of the relationship between drugs and crime, and of various treatment strategies.

3850:360 Social Effects of Crime in the Media (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100. Sociological examination of the consequences of images of crime in the media. Focus on issues of stereotypes and discrimination by race, sex and class.

3850:365 Special Topics in Sociology (1-3 Credits)
(May be repeated) Prerequisite: Permission. Special topics of interest to sociology major and non-major not covered in regular course offerings.

3850:397 Sociological Readings & Research (1-3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Permission. Individual study of problem area of specific interest to individual student under guidance of department member. Preparation of a research paper.

3850:401 Advanced Topics in Research Methods (3-6 Credits)
Prerequisites: 3700:201 or 3850:301. Special topics of interest in advanced methods not covered in regular course offerings.

3850:410 Social Structures & Personality (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Interrelationships between position in society, personality characteristics. Personality treated as both result and determinant of social structure and process. Lecture.

3850:411 Social Interaction (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Intensive study of advanced theory and research in social psychology, particularly how social interaction and self-conception affect one another. Lecture.

3850:412 Socialization: Child to Adult (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Theoretical and empirical analysis of process by which infant, child, adolescent and adult learn social and cultural requirements necessary to function in new roles, changing roles and society in general.

3850:415 Women in Prison (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission of instructor. In depth examination of women's experiences in prison. Includes processes involved in the movement into prison, experiences while in institutions, and transitioning out of prison.

3850:416 Women and Crime (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. An overview of women's experiences with crime, including women as offenders, victims, and workers in the criminal justice system.

3850:421 Race & Ethnic Relations (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Analysis of structure and dynamics of race and ethnic relations from a variety of perspectives emphasizing both historical and contemporary issues. Lecture.

3850:425 Sociology of Urban Life (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Emergence and development of urban society. Examination of urban social structure from neighborhood to metropolis, the problems and prospects. Emphasis on various life styles of urban subcultures. Lecture/discussion.

3850:428 Victim in Society (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Study of the nature, causes, and consequences of victimization with special focus on crime victimization.

3850:430 Juvenile Delinquency (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Analysis of social structure and process from which delinquency develops. Emphasis on current and past research. Lecture/discussion.

3850:431 Corrections (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:330 or 3850:430. Theories, beliefs and practices of community and institutional corrections systems, including past and current social research. Course taken prior to 3 credit hour Field Placement in Corrections (3850:471).

3850:433 Sociology of Deviant Behavior (3 Credits)
Prerequisites: 3850:100 and at least six additional credits of sociology courses or permission. Survey of theories of deviant behavior and relevant empirical research. Special emphasis given to interaction processes and social control. Lecture.

3850:435 Sociology of Love (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Study of the relation of love to the social order. Coverage includes diverse types, such as romantic, familial, religious, and altruistic love.

3850:441 Sociology of Law (3 Credits)
Prerequisites: Completion of 3850:100 and at least six additional credits of sociology courses. Social origins and consequences of law and legal processes. Emphasis on uses of law, social change and aspects of legal professions. Lecture.

3850:447 Sociology of Sex and Gender (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. Review of research and theories of sex and gender. Examination of gender as structure, process and experience in society.

3850:450 Sociology of Mental Illness (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. The social history of the mental hospital, therapies and epidemiology of mental illness, community-based treatment models, the organization of mental health services, the role of personal social networks and mutual support groups.

3850:455 Family Violence (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100. Family violence with a focus on child abuse, courtship violence, spouse/partner abuse, and elder abuse. Theories, methodologies, and strategies to end family violence are explored.

3850:460 Sociological Theory (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: 3850:100 or permission. An overview and examination of theoretical issues in sociology through the study of both classical and contemporary theoretical work.

3850:470 Research Methods for the Social Sciences Pro-seminar (3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Completion of required coursework for the Research Methods Certificate Program or Permission of Instructor. Application of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods and analysis, and preparation of a scholarly research paper for presentation and/or publication. Seminar.

3850:490 Organizations, Community, and Social Action (3 Credits)
Survey of organizational and community issues that affect the achievement of shared goals. Emphasis on the evidence-based approaches at both the organizational and community levels.
3850:495 Field Internship (2-4 Credits)
Prerequisites: permission of a faculty supervisor and a minimum of 64 hours of undergraduate coursework of which 12 hours must be in sociology. Placement in community organization for supervised experience related to degree requirements. Student must submit an application to the intern coordinator during semester prior to enrollment.

3850:496 Senior Honors Project (1-3 Credits)
(May be repeated for a total of six credits) Prerequisites: enrollment in Honors College, Senior standing, and major in sociology. Thesis or original creative work appropriate to student’s area of interest. Requirements and evaluation of project determined by departmental honors preceptor and student’s honors project adviser.