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SOCIOLOGY (SOC)

Program Orientation

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Marshall University offers a supportive environment for students who wish to pursue advanced training in sociology or anthropology as well as those for whom the Master's level is the final degree. The curriculum is designed to provide our students with a wide range of options in pursuit of their academic and professional goals and interests, while also providing solid training in core foundational aspects of the two disciplines. Students learn both qualitative and quantitative research methods and are exposed to a variety of subfields and theoretical perspectives.

Faculty core strengths include: theory, social movements and social change, inequality, stratification, deviance, cultural diversity, social interaction and group processes, world systems/globalization, social institutions (religion, family, work and occupations, health care, politics and the economy), criminology, gerontology, qualitative and quantitative research methods, and advanced statistical analysis.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program is offered to a limited number of qualified students demonstrating academic excellence and professional promise. Admission is granted on a full-time or part-time basis, with preferred entrance in the fall semester of each year. Consideration for admission is based on a complete application which consists of:

- Graduate College application form;
- Personal statement describing interests in the program and future plans;
- Official transcripts from all academic institutions attended;
- Standardized test scores (GRE);
- International students must provide evidence of English language proficiency such as the TOEFL;
- A minimum of 12 credit hours of undergraduate sociology course work;
- Undergraduate grade point average (GPA), overall and in sociology; and
- Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic or professional competence.

To receive full consideration all application materials must be received by April 15 for the Fall semester. Late applications will be considered as space permits. Students should plan to take the GRE as early in the year as possible.

Performance Standards

In addition to regular courses and seminars, the graduate student is expected to contribute to his/her professional growth through interaction with the faculty and other graduate students, and from independent study and reading during residency. The criteria for being granted an M.A. are: completion of the credit hour requirements, passing the written comprehensive examinations, and the successful defense of the thesis or completion of the non-thesis option.

The student is expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students who fail to maintain the necessary grade average will be placed on probation or will be separated from the program. Maximum course load is 12 credit hours a semester; a 9 credit hour load is considered to be full-time for courses taken at the graduate level. Students who have teaching assistantships, however, are advised to take no more than 9 or 10 credit hours.

Plan of Study

The Sociology Master of Arts degree requires the completion of 32 hours of coursework plus SOC 681 thesis hours for the Thesis Option, or completion of 36 hours of coursework for the Non-Thesis Option. The curriculum is structured around a set of core requirements that provide a strong foundation in sociological theory, research methods and data analysis.

Core Requirements

All students are required to complete 12 hours of core courses (Fall 2009):

SOC 600 Classical Sociological Theory

SOC 601 Contemporary Sociological Theory

SOC 605 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis

SOC 606 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis

SOC 605 and SOC 606, are a two-course research methods sequence that should be completed by all students during the first academic year in the graduate program if possible (or within the first 12 graduate credit hours for part-time students). Exceptions are made for students who must take prerequisite courses before enrolling in this sequence. All students must successfully pass comprehensive exams based on core requirements.

Students, in consultation with their advisor, must complete an official "Plan of Study" during their first semester or before completion of 12 credit hours. The Plan of study must be approved by the Sociology Graduate Program Director before submission to the Office of the Graduate College. In addition to the core courses, student may select elective courses from the sociology and anthropology department offerings to complete the 32 credit hours (Thesis Option) or 36 credit hours (Non-thesis Option). Graduate level courses from other departments may be taken with approval from the Director of Graduate Studies and the course instructor. *At least one half of all graduate credit hours must be at the 600 level.*

Students are encouraged to experience the broad range of subfields, research methods and theoretical perspectives offered by the department. Courses are offered in social movements and social change, inequality and conflict, diversity, social institutions, social groups, and special topic seminars, as well as fields such as anthropology, criminology and gerontology.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology maintains a *"one C rule"* whereby students will be placed on academic probation if they earn more than one grade of *C* or lower in any graduate courses.

Sociology Minor

A minor in sociology is earned by taking at least 6 credit hours in courses at the 500- or 600- level in Sociology as approved by the student's advisor and the Sociology Department Graduate Program Director.

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ANTHROPOLOGY (ANT)

(See Sociology)

505 Applied Anthropology. 3 hrs.
Principles of applied anthropology in community development. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or sociology or equivalent)

526 African Cultures. 3 hrs.
Comparative analysis of ethnic groups of Africa using archaeological and ethnographic data. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology, or equivalent)

527 Ethnic Relations. 3 hrs.
Analysis of cultural contact situations with emphasis on the role of western Europe cultures. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or equivalent)

530 The Native Americans. 3 hrs.
Comparative analysis of the indigenous inhabitants of North America using archaeological end ethnographic data. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or equivalent)

537 World Cultures: An Anthropological View. 3 hrs.
Anthropological analysis of the major culture areas of the world. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or permission)

541 Oceania. 3 hrs.
Comparative analysis of the indigenous peoples and cultures of Melanesia and Polynesia using archaeological and ethnographic data. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or permission)

543 Anthropological Theory. 3 hrs.
Introduction to ethnological theory and to the development of grounded theory. (PR: 6 credit hours of anthropology or departmental permission)

551 Anthropological Analysis. 3 hrs.
Application of anthropological theory and practice to individually designed projects. (PR: ANT 201)

555 Appalachian Cultures. 3 hrs.
Analysis of the Cultures of Appalachia. (PR: 6 hours of anthropology or departmental permission)

561 Theory and Analysis in Archaeology. 3 hrs.
An introduction to archaeological theory and its application to the material record of cultures, past and present (PR: 6 credit hours of anthropology or departmental permission)

570 Appalachian Field Experience I. 3 hrs.
Supervised field work in an Appalachian community studying the social and cultural characteristics of the area. Four afternoons each week plus one class hour. (PR: ANT 455, or equivalent)

571 Appalachian Field Experience II. 3 hrs.
Supervised field work in an Appalachian community studying the social and cultural characteristics of the area. Four afternoons each week plus one class hour. (PR: ANT 555)

580-583 Special Topics. 1-4 hrs.
Study of topics of interest not covered in regularly scheduled classes. (PR: Graduate status and permission)

585-588 Independent Study. 1-4 hrs.
Individual study of topics not offered in regularly scheduled classes. (PR: Graduate status and permission)

600 Ethnographic Methods. 3 hrs.
Introduction to anthropological data-gathering and interviewing methods (PR: ANT 201; for students who have not had ANT 333 and 343)

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501 Population and Human Ecology. 3 hrs.
The course focuses on population and its relation to characteristics of environment. Specifically, it is designed to discuss the interaction of population processes and resources.

508 The Family. 3 hrs.
Theoretical analysis of the family as a primary social institution. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

513 Social Movements and Social Change. 3 hrs.
Analysis of large-scale social change, including intentional social movements and revolutions. (PR: SOC 200)

520 Criminology. 3 hrs.
An overview of sociological criminology, including an examination of explanations of criminal behavior, types of criminal activity, and an analysis of the criminal justice system. (PR: SOC 200 and SOC 311 or permission)

523 Social Class, Power and Conflict. 3 hrs.
Theoretical analysis of economic and political inequality and the role of social conflict in the process of large-scale social organization. (PR: SOC 200)

525 Race and Ethnicity. 3 hrs.
Diverse theoretical approaches to the meaning of race and ethnicity and the character of racial/ethnic relations, with substantive focus primarily on the U.S. (PR: SOC 200)

528 Medical Sociology. 3 hrs.
Social organization of modern medicine and allied health delivery systems. (PR: SOC 200 or departmental permission)

532 Sociology of Appalachia. 3 hrs.
Study of the economics, politics, and social relations of Appalachia, including contemporary debates. (PR: SOC 200)

533 Sociology of Work. 3 hrs.
Study of the organization and structure of the workplant as a social system; the meaning and organization of work; managerial functions; management-labor relations; and human relations in industry. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

535 Juvenile Delinquency. 3 hrs.
A sociological analysis of juvenile crime, including a review of the origins of juvenile delinquency, an evaluation of causal theories, and an overview of the juvenile justice system. (PR: SOC 200 and SOC 311 or permission)

540 Introduction to the Sociology of Aging. 3 hrs.
An introduction to the social processes and consequences of growing older for both the individual and

society. (PR: SOC 200)

542 Urban Sociology. 3 hrs.
The sociology of urban and metropolitan communities. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

543 Evaluation Research. 3 hrs.
Analysis and application of theories and methods for assessing the outcomes of applied organizational services and programs to affect change in people and for social conditions. (PR: SOC 200)

550 Sociology of Religion. 3 hrs.
An investigation into the nature of religion as a social phenomenon. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

552 Sociology of Death & Dying. 3 hrs.
The study of death and dying as a societal and cultural phenomenon. Explores how institutions within our society deal with death. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

555 Sociology of Sex and Gender. 3 hrs.
Analysis of social differentiation and inequality by gender, with a focus on the contemporary U.S. (PR: SOC 200)

564 Complex Organizations. 3 hrs.
Analysis of complex organizations with special attention given to bureaucratic organization. (PR: SOC 200)

570-571 Sociological Field Experience. 3; 3 hrs.
Supervised field work in a social organization or community working on practical problems. (PR: SOC 406 or 506 or permission)

580-583 Special Topics. 1-4; 1-4; 1-4; 1-4 hrs.
Study of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses. (PR: Graduate majors, SOC 200 or permission)

600 Classical Sociological Theory. 3 hrs.
An examination of the development of sociological theory, from its Enlightenment roots through its growth in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the works of Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Simmel.

601 Contemporary Sociological Theory. 3 hrs.
Advanced introduction to major theoretical developments and issues of significance in contemporary sociological theory, examining various theoretical perspectives at different levels of analysis and from different viewpoints. (PR:SOC 610)

602 Contemporary Social Change. 3 hrs.
Theories of social change and their uses in analyzing social change of today. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

603-604 Behavioral Science I and II. 3; 3 hrs.
Seminar in behavioral science theory. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

605 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis. 3 hrs.
Seminar in qualitative research methods and analysis. Topics covered include coding, using qualitative software, generating theory, participating observation, intensive interview, internet inquiry, focus groups, documents, and content analysis.(PR: SOC 344, 345 or equivalent)

606 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis. 3 hrs.
An introduction to quantitative research methods, statistics, and the software SPSS at an intermediate to advanced level with the main focus on developing working knowledge of the methods discussed.(PR: SOC 345 or equivalent)

615 Applied Demography. 3 hrs.
The focus of this course is to study the application of the principles and methods of demography to decision making and planning problems in both public and private setting. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

620 Criminology. 3 hrs.
Seminar in crime and delinquency. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

640 Problems and Prospects for an Aging Society. 3 hrs.
Seminar in current and anticipated social consequences of aging for individuals and society and societal responses to this process. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

655 Feminist Social Theory. 3 hrs.
Diverse theoretical perspectives on the origins and nature of gender, inequality. Emphasis on contemporary debates and their political implications. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

668 Seminar. 1-3 hrs.
Topics vary from semester to semester. (PR: SOC 200 or permission)

679 Problem Report. 1-3 hrs.

The preparation of a written report on a research problem or field study in sociology under direction of member of graduate faculty. (PR: Departmental permission)

681 Thesis. 1-6 hrs. I, II, S.

Individual research in a selected field of sociology under the direction of a graduate faculty member of the department. (PR: Admission to candidacy and staff approval of thesis proposal.)

685-688 Independent Study. 1-4; 1-4; 1-4; 1-4 hrs.

Individual study of topics not offered in regularly scheduled courses. (PR: For majors only; advance departmental permission is required)