BA in Sociology Orientation

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology
Idaho State University
Our Program - What do we offer?

• BA in Sociology

• BA in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology

• Minor in Sociology

Average numbers of majors in Sociology in recent years:  80-90
Average number of minors in Sociology in recent years:    20-30
6 faculty members in sociology teach and advise the students in the BA program.

Some Social Work faculty members also teach some sociology courses.
Our People

- Morey Burnham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor - Environmental Sociology
- Deirdre Caputo-Levine, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Criminology
- Gesine Hearn, Associate Professor, Ph.D., BA Program Director, Health and Illness
- Tony Hoskin, Ph.D., Professor, Criminology Program Director, Criminology
- Katrina Running, Ph.D., Associate Professor, MA Program Director, Environmental Sociology
- Jeremy Thomas, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department Chair, Director, Minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies; Religion and Sexuality
**What Is Sociology? - A refresher**

**SOCIOLGY** is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts.

American Sociological Association 2014
Why study Sociology?

Sociology graduates work in a variety of occupational fields, including social services, counseling, marketing, sales, teaching, librarians, social science research, and management.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 15% increase in employment for sociologists from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average rate for all occupations.

Jobs for sociology majors are also projected to increase in Idaho.
What can I do with a BA in Sociology?

**Government services**- federal, state, local; program administration and evaluation, research, policy analysis

**Social services**- rehabilitation, case management

**Health services**- family planning, substance abuse, counseling, hospital admissions, insurance companies

**Community work**- nonprofit organizations, community development, environmental groups

**Corrections**- probation, parole, correctional facilities
What can I do with a BA in Sociology? (cont)

**Business** - advertising, marketing, consumer research, insurance companies, real estate, human resources

**Colleges and universities** - admissions, alumni relations, placement offices, institutional research

**Publishing** - journalism, public relations writing, research, editing

**Teaching** - elementary and secondary schools (with appropriate teacher certification)

**Preparation for professions** such as law, social work, counseling, public health, criminology, or public administration
What will you learn?

• An understanding of the relation between individuals and social institutions
• Sociological explanations of social issues
• Basic skills in research design
• Data analysis using statistical software
• Ability to interpret research findings
• Ability to develop evidence-based arguments
• Writing Reports
• Analytical and critical thinking skills
• Knowledge in content areas such as criminal justice, environmental sociology, social inequality, or health and illness.
Required Course Credits

18 credits required courses
+ 18 credits elective courses

= 36 credits in sociology courses
### Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Sociology Courses</th>
<th>18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soc 1101 Introduction to Sociology (also counted for Objective 6)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc 3301 Classical Social Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc/Sowk 3308 Sociological Methods and Social Work Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc 3309 Social Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc 4403 Contemporary Social Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soc 4462 Power Class and Prestige</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociology Electives</th>
<th>15 Credits Must be Upper Division</th>
<th>18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pick from any sociology electives listed in the catalog, excluding SOC 4482/4483</td>
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**All courses must be completed with a C- or higher!**
Our Electives - 2000 and 3000 level

SOC 1102 Social Problems
SOC 2201 Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies
SOC 2248 Critical Analysis of Social Diversity
SOC 3321 Sociology of the Family
SOC 3330 Sociology of Health and Illness
SOC 3335 Environmental Sociology
SOC 3366 The Community
SOC 3368 The Sociology of Religion
Our Electives - 4000 level

SOC 4402 Professional Development for Sociologists
SOC 4408 Advanced Sociological Methods
SOC 4412 Sexuality and the Body
SOC 4413 Mind Body and Society
SOC 4491 Topics in Sociology
Electives - Criminology Courses

SOC 2231 Juvenile Delinquency
SOC 3310 Introduction to Criminal Justice
SOC 4431 Criminology
SOC 4436 Elite Deviance and Crime
SOC 4438 Sexual Crimes
SOC 4492 Topics in Criminal Justice
Course Sequences
- Freshman and Sophomore Year

Semester 1 and 2:  General Education Courses
- take SOC 1101 (Obj. 6) to also count towards sociology major
  Some electives (any)

Semester 3 Fall:  General Education Courses
- take SOC 2248 (Obj. 7) or SOC 2201 (Obj. 9) to count towards Soc major
  SOC 3308 Sociological Methods
  SOC 3301 Classical Social Theory

Semester 4 Spring:  General Education Courses
SOC 3309 Social Statistics
SOC 4403 Contemporary Social Theory
SOC electives  - 3000 level and up
## Course Sequences - Junior and Senior Year

| Semester 5 Fall: | SOC elective courses - 3000 level and up  
Free Elective Courses |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Semester 6 Spring: | SOC 4462 Power, Class, and Prestige  
Elective Courses - sociology and free |
| Semester 7 and 8: | finish with elective courses to reach: |
|                  | 120 total credits required for BA degree including:  
36 credits in upper division courses  
36 credits in general education courses  
36 credits in Sociology |
Sequences of Courses - Tips

• Take SOC 1101 first, then take a lower level elective early
• SOC 3308 and SOC 3301 are only offered in FALL
• SOC 4403 and SOC 4462 are only offered in SPRING
• Take SOC 3308, then SOC 3309
• Take SOC 3301, then SOC 4403
• Some electives (upper and lower level) are offered in SUMMER
• SOC 3308 is often also offered in SUMMER
• Don’t jump to 4000 level courses too early
“Weird” Courses - not just for anybody

**SOC 4482 Sociology Internship**

1-3 Credits, may be repeated for up to 6 credit; 2.5 hours of work for each credit
Offered on Demand
Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor; Junior status; minimum of 12 hours and 3.0 GPA in sociology.

**SOC 4483 Independent Problems**

1-4 Credits, may be repeated for up to 6 credits
Offered on demand
Prerequisites: Sociology major; Permission of Instructor; G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher and at least 12 hours of sociology credits, advanced Junior Status.

SOC 4482 and SOC 4483 do not count towards required/elective courses for Sociology, but the credits count towards the 36 upper-division credits required by ISU for graduation.
How to make the most of your studies

• Talk to us - FREQUENTLY!

• Plan AHEAD - courses are not offered every semester!!

• Take 1000 and 2000 level courses FIRST, THEN advance to 3000 and THEN to 4000 level courses.

• Expect HIGHER expectations, MORE work, and MORE complex assignments at the 3000 and 4000 level of courses.

• Read your syllabi - CAREFULLY!

• READ, READ, READ

• WRITE, WRITE, WRITE - Writing takes practice. Do it OFTEN and REPEAT!
How to make the most out of your degree - tips for employment

Sell the SKILLS!

Show people who you are, what you have done and what you have learned.
How to make the most out of your degree - tips for employment

Assess Your Skills

Translate what you have learned in Sociology into the kinds of skills employers are looking for?

Examples:
- Bringing a clear understanding of race/ethnicity/gender/sexuality and being comfortable with the language to discuss identities is a REAL SKILL
- Knowing how to create a survey and administer it to a representative sample of a population is a REAL SKILL
- Being able to conduct one-on-one interviews to gain information about a topic is a REAL SKILL
What skills do you have?  
Tips for employment

**Communication:** did you present ideas orally; write research papers; summarize literature; and listen carefully?

**Quantitative Reasoning:** can you use data to create tables? Can you interpret tables and draw conclusions? Can you analyze data using a statistical program?

**Qualitative Inquiry:** did you conduct interviews? Have you done any observations? Can you create a typology from those observations?

**Project Management:** did you do a research project or work on a team project? What was your role? What was your strength?

**Research Design:** did you design research projects? What were your strengths? What parts of the research process did you most enjoy?

**Ethics/Engagement:** did you have conversations about ethics? Do you want to work on projects that brings in underrepresented groups?
What kind of job should I apply to?

THINK!

• Who are you?
• What do you want to do?
• What are good at?
• What you want your life to look like?
Questions?