



# Sociology

Broadly speaking, sociologists study social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology majors acquire a broad knowledge of the social structural world (i.e., social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces of social change and resistance, and how social structures work). They also develop a range of research skills, including analyzing and interpreting information, collecting and organizing detailed research notes into a logical presentation, communicating findings both orally and in writing, and using a computer for data processing and analysis.

Employers look for people with the skills and knowledge that the undergraduate sociology degree provides. Some career options for students to consider are in the areas of human services, criminal justice, education, government, social science research, environment, and business.

## Programs

- Social Studies, B.A. (Sociology-Anthropology Emphasis) *major*
- Sociology, B.A. *major*
- Communication Studies *minor*
- Sociology *minor*

## Career Directions

- Business
  - Human Resources -- Recruiting, Training, and Development Management
  - Marketing
  - Office Administration
  - Public Relations
  - Sales
- Criminal Justice
  - Corrections
  - Rehabilitation
  - Judiciary
  - Law Enforcement
- Education
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Environment
  - Advocacy Groups and Organizations
  - Consulting Firms
  - Environmental Periodicals
  - Health Agencies
  - Waste Management
- Government
  - City Planning
  - Demography
  - Law Enforcement
  - Policy Analysis
  - Program Development Human Services
  - Public Administration
  - Research
  - Social Statistics
- Human Services
  - Administration
  - Advocacy
  - Case Management
  - Counseling
  - Mental Health Services
  - Programming
- Social Science Research
  - Data Analysis
  - Demography
  - Information Sourcing
  - Market Research
  - Research
- Also: Graduate Study

## Preparation

### *Recommended High School Courses*

- Psychology
- Social Research
- Sociology

## Social Studies, B.A. *major* Sociology-Anthropology Emphasis

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I

and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider completion a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

Required Credits: 48  
Required GPA: 2.50

## I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

### CAPSTONE COURSE

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

### ECONOMICS COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Markets and Resource Allocation (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)

### GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

### GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GEOG 3410 Geography of North America (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)

### WORLD HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)
- HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

### U.S. HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HST 2640 United States Diplomatic History (3 credits)
- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Nineteenth-Century America (3 credits)
- HST 3137 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1844-1877 (3 credits)

- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
- POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
- POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

### SOCIOLOGY COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)

## II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

### SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

The following is suggested for logical and effective scheduling but can be interpreted as flexible for meeting requirements and a student's particular needs. Students should meet with the Social Studies coordinator and advisor as early as possible in their planning.

Freshman - Sophomore

- Geography and History constitute the "matrix" of Social Studies and students should complete required core courses in these subjects first.
- Complete Liberal Education requirements

Junior-Senior

- Complete remaining core course requirements and courses for area of emphasis.
- Complete Professional Education courses
- Students pursuing the B.S. Teacher Licensure in Social Studies should complete GEOG 3460 no sooner than their junior year, preferably just prior to their student teaching.

## Sociology, B.A. *major*

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**Note:** No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. At least 21 of the credits have to be taken at Bemidji State University.

Required Credits: 36

Required GPA: 2.50

### I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)
- SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)
- SOC 3001 Social Statistics (3 credits)
- SOC 3003 Research Methods (3 credits)
- SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)
- SOC 3040 Global Issues (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
- SOC 3230 Social Psychology (3 credits)
- SOC 3080 Work and Careers (3 credits)
- SOC 4800 Capstone in Sociology (3 credits)

### II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 2 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 3050 Environmental Sociology (3 credits)
- SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)
- SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)
- ECON 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)  
*or* ENVR 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)  
*or* ECON 3070 Labor Economics (3 credits)

## Communication Studies *minor*

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Required Credits: 21

Required GPA: 2.00

### I REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses (9 credits):

- COMM 1100 Public Speaking (3 credits)  
*or* COMM 2100 Career and Professional Communication (3 credits)  
*or* COMM 3100 Interviewing (3 credits)
- COMM 2000 Applied Communication Theory (3 credits)
- COMM 4000 Capstone in Communication and Community Connections (3 credits)

### II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Select 12 credits from the following:

At least 9 credits of the required elective courses must be COMM courses and at least 6 credits must be at the 3000-4000 level.

Additional COMM courses or relevant courses in other disciplines may be included with consent of

Communication Studies Coordinator.

- COMM 1090 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 2100 Career and Professional Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 3100 Interviewing (3 credits)
- COMM 3110 Organizational Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 3130 Family Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 3150 Gender Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 3170 Health Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 3500 Communication and Conflict (3 credits)
- COMM 3700 Persuasion and Communication (3 credits)
- COMM 4910 Directed Independent Study (3 credits)

One course from the following may be included:

- LEAD 3500 Theories and Contexts of Leadership (3 credits)
- PSY 3337 Group Processes (3 credits)
- SOWK 2110 Intercultural Communication (3 credits)

## Sociology *minor*

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**Note:** No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.25 in this minor is required for graduation. At least 12 of the credits have to be taken at Bemidji State University.

Required Credits: 21

Required GPA: 2.25

### I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)
- SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)
- SOC 3003 Research Methods (3 credits)
- SOC 3040 Global Issues (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
- SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 3230 Social Psychology (3 credits)
- SOC 3080 Work and Careers (3 credits)
- SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)  
*or* SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)

## Communication Studies Courses

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### COMM 1090 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)

This course is designed to help students become aware of the processes and theories of interpersonal communication within and about relationships that impact our personal and professional lives. Through self-analysis, case studies, practical application, and critique of cultural practices, students will examine the influence of communicative behaviors on personal relationships, groups, and society. Concepts include perception, ethics, emotion, conflict, cultural awareness, power, technology, language, nonverbal communication, social media, and listening. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 9.

### COMM 1100 Public Speaking (3 credits)

This course emphasizes the preparation and delivery of individual and group presentations. Students will learn to research, construct, and deliver informed and ethical presentations for various audiences, as well as understand the fundamental principles of written and public communication. Liberal Education Goal Area 1.

**COMM 2000 Applied Communication Theory (3 credits)**

This course explores the historical and contemporary theories that examine communication behaviors in various contexts including intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, organizational, media, and cultural. Students will learn how theories can be useful for understanding and critiquing events in their personal, professional, and civic lives; provide a lens through which students can make informed decisions; and help students create alternative solutions to societal issues.

**COMM 2100 Career and Professional Communication (3 credits)**

This course emphasizes oral and written communication, as well as relational skills utilized in professional settings. Students will learn fundamental concepts and principles of communication used in the workplace, develop skills for individual and group business presentations, learn how to generate messages for a variety of diverse and professional audiences through appropriate electronic and face-to-face communication, develop critical listening and problem-solving skills, and engage in effective and ethical interpersonal communication in the workplace. This course is designed to help individuals learn how to work productively with others and present themselves professionally in any career. Liberal Education Goal Area 1.

**COMM 2150 Small Group Communication (2 credits)**

Students discover by participation how to negotiate membership, resolve conflict, and maintain order through a variety of means and in a variety of venues. Might not be offered every year.

**COMM 2925 People of the Environment: Communication Perspective (3 credits)**

Environmental issues currently being considered in legislative and public venues as they relate to communicating those issues. Students learn how to present information, argue a case, and debate the opposition as they discover their voices and the voice of the environmentalist. Liberal Education Goal Area 10

**COMM 3100 Interviewing (3 credits)**

This course emphasizes oral and written communication related to interview settings such as employment, job performance, information gathering, health, persuasive, and counseling. Students will learn fundamental concepts and principles of interviewing, develop skills for researching and collecting data relevant to interviews, create interview question guides, practice skills as the interviewee and interviewer in simulated and real settings, deliver presentations related to the interview process, and develop critical listening skills in interview settings. This course is designed to prepare individuals for taking part in various interviews throughout their career. Liberal Education Goal Area 1.

**COMM 3110 Organizational Communication (3 credits)**

This course examines historical and contemporary organizational communication models, theories, and processes within organizational environments. Students will learn how and why organizations operate the way they do by focusing on communication processes and messages such as organizational change, decision-making, socialization, gendered identities, leadership, civility, emotion, technology, and conflict management. Implications of organizational messages on employees, employers, and external publics will be explored. Overall, this course prepares students to critique social practices and develop effective communication behaviors for being successful in their organizational lives. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

**COMM 3130 Family Communication (3 credits)**

This course examines how communication functions to develop, maintain, enrich, or limit family relationships. Topics covered include the meaning of narratives and stories, family roles and rules, decision-making, conflict resolution, exploration of family types, cultural implications of family functioning, societal influences on family functioning, and examining communication changes throughout the family life cycle. Overall, this course is designed to develop understanding of, and ability to, analyze communication within families. Liberal Education Goal Area 7.

**COMM 3150 Gender Communication (3 credits)**

This course is designed to explore the historical and contemporary theory, research, and practice of gender communication. Students will examine communication about, and between, women and men in terms of language used, media depictions of gendered identities, and how such language influences our understanding of biological sex and gender as a cultural construction. Contexts include the impact of gender communication in a variety of relationships such as friendships, romantic partners, family life, educational, political, and workplace settings. Overall, this course introduces students to various perspectives on gender and encourages an understanding of, and respect for, all of those perspectives. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

**COMM 3170 Health Communication (3 credits)**

The course examines health communication through theory, research, and experiential application of concepts in interpersonal, public, mediated, and organizational health care contexts. The course emphasizes issues of ethics and communication variables such as verbal, nonverbal, conflict, listening, and self-disclosure between individuals, health care providers, patients, and families. Overall, this course will help students understand how personal, societal, political, and culture factors impact health communication and healthcare. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 9.

**COMM 3500 Communication and Conflict (3 credits)**

This course provides an overview of how communication is used in everyday life to create, negotiate, and resolve interpersonal and organizational conflict. Specific topics include communication conflict management theories, conflict styles, impact of sex and gender on conflict communication, listening, bullying and difficult people, collaboration, mediation, and reconciliation. Contexts of conflict will include intimate relationships, family, social media, and workplace settings. Overall, this course prepares students to use communication choices to make conflict more productive in their personal and professional lives.

**COMM 3700 Persuasion and Communication (3 credits)**

This course examines historical and contemporary theories, principles, and communicative practices of persuasive messages. As persuasion is a part of our personal, organizational, and public lives, students will understand the process of persuasion, practice strategies of ethical and effective persuasion, and analyze persuasive discourse in various oral, written, and mediated contexts. Students will learn how to become responsible citizens by examining persuasive messages in our society and providing recommendations for ethical communication. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 9.

**COMM 4000 Capstone in Communication and Community Connections (3 credits)**

As a capstone, this course provides students an opportunity to reflect and act upon their communication and academic experiences through critical thinking and experiential opportunities. Communication choices have the power to influence social reality, which impacts the communities in which we live. As communication scholars and engaged citizens, students will examine perspectives of difference in gender, race, social class, ability, sexuality, and age to uncover and challenge social injustices. Overall, the goal of this course is to embrace differences and use communication for framing public discourse toward the betterment of our communities. Prerequisite: COMM 2000.

**COMM 4910 Directed Independent Study (3 credits)**

Arranged Individual Study.

**All-University Courses**

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY

1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE

1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE  
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR  
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION  
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP  
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH  
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS

## Sociology Courses

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### **SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)**

Examines concepts and theories that describe and explain social life. Focuses on aspects of culture, social class, race relations, and gender relations as they are determined by society, and on how humans create and recreate groups, structures, and institutions. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

### **SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)**

A social history of social movements and change. Focuses on understanding and analyzing these dynamics as generational changes and as the emergence of broader social forces driving the major movements of the past fifty years. The shift from modernity to postmodernity sets the overall theoretical framework, with an emphasis on the dynamics of race, class, gender, environment, and culture. Liberal Education Goal Area 8.

### **SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)**

Study of dominant-subordinate relations with emphasis on racial and ethnic inequalities. Examination of privilege, prejudice and discrimination. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 9.

### **SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)**

Study of the construction of gender in society and the differential consequences of particular social arrangements on the lives of men and women. Examines gender, male and female sexuality, intimate relationships, gendered patterns of work and education, the gender of violence, and sociological theories of femininity and masculinity. Emphasizes changes in gendered social patterns in U.S. society in the 21st century and compares those changes to shifting patterns in other societies. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

### **SOC 2925 People of the Environment: Sociology Perspective (3 credits)**

This course is a section of the interdisciplinary environmental issues course, People of the Environment. The focus of this course is to understand that environmental problems are both problems for society and problems of society. Students explore how sociology and its unique viewpoint add much to understanding the environment/society nexus. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

### **SOC 3001 Social Statistics (3 credits)**

Covers a conceptual understanding of basic descriptive and inferential statistics. Choice of statistic and interpretation of SPSS results is discussed. Prerequisite: Completion of Liberal Education mathematics requirement (Goal Area 4) or consent of instructor.

### **SOC 3003 Research Methods (3 credits)**

Examines the basic methods used to study diverse social processes and to improve our understanding of social issues. Topics include the relationship of theory to research, research ethics, evaluation of qualitative and quantitative research designs and patterns of analysis, and associated concerns. Prerequisite: SOC 1104.

### **SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)**

An overview of selected sociological theories and theorists considered against the background of the classical period of sociological theorizing in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Emphasis on comparative understanding of the major models of society - order, pluralism, conflict, etc. - that have dominated sociological thinking in the modern period. Prerequisites: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.

### **SOC 3040 Global Issues (3 credits)**

Study of global and local forces that affect groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. Involves an exploration of the rise of contemporary social issues, with a particular focus on developments associated with ethnic, religious, and regional affiliations and shifting social, economic, and political alliances. Students will have a chance to explore the development of global patterns of stratification and its effects on particular groups and societies.

### **SOC 3050 Environmental Sociology (3 credits)**

Examines the relationship between society and the environment. Emphasis on political and economic institutions and the consumer lifestyle and values. Considers how the treadmill of production affects ecosystems and discusses possible solutions to environmental problems. Prerequisites: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.

### **SOC 3080 Work and Careers (3 credits)**

Students identify career avenues complementary to their chosen major and develop materials necessary for conducting a job search. In addition, students will learn what sociology has to say about work, occupations, and the organizations within which that work takes place. Prerequisites: Second semester sophomore or junior standing is ideal.

### **SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)**

Examines social and ethical issues related to the practice of medicine. Students develop an understanding of the sociological causes of illness, the medicalization of society, and the values and assumptions of those who define and deliver medical care in society. Today people point to the fact that we are experiencing a crisis in health care in the U.S. Costs have skyrocketed, access to primary care is inequitable, infant mortality rates remain high, public accountability problems persist, and we continue to emphasize medical care over and above health care. Sociological interpretations raise questions about these issues, and point to the ways in which society continues to produce disease and illness. As these topics are explored through the sociological lens, the complex ethical dilemmas associated with medical understandings and possible alternatives that emphasize health are identified. Liberal Education Goal Area 9.

### **SOC 3230 Social Psychology (3 credits)**

An overview of theory and research in social psychology from a sociological viewpoint. Emphasizes the impact of social location on thought, behavior, and emotion. Explores patterns of interpersonal relationships and small group processes, and why humans establish certain "taken-for-granted" meaning systems and ways of being. Prerequisite: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.

### **SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)**

Exploration of the sexual norms associated with being male and female in Western and non-Western societies. Examines how particular forms of sexuality are privileged and the social and political implications of these hierarchies. Also examined is how the nature of race, sexuality, and gender creates hybrid identities, communities, and cultures that resist and reinforce ethnic and national boundaries.

### **SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)**

After a brief introduction to basic sociological concepts, frameworks, methods, and relevant historical materials, students examine several documents that address particular contemporary family issues. Students also learn how to evaluate the materials discussed. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

### **SOC 4800 Capstone in Sociology (3 credits)**

Students decide on a research question and carry out an independent project.

## All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

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1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP  
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH  
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS