

# Department of Sociology

## General Interest Courses

Students with a general interest in sociology are invited to enrol in one or more of the courses offered. Students should plan to take SOCI 1006 first, since this is normally a prerequisite for other sociology courses.

## Minor Sociology

Any 18-credit hours in sociology courses constitutes a Minor in Sociology.

## Major in Sociology

Students majoring in sociology require a total of 36 credit hours in Sociology, including the following required courses:

SOCI 1006 Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 2013 Research Methods

SOCI 3013 Classical Sociological Theory

SOCI 3023 Modern Sociological Theory

SOCI 4013 Senior Seminar

## Honours in Sociology

The Honours Programme is designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in independent sociological research under supervision. Completion of the Honours Programme is the normal preparation for graduate school. Normally, students must have a grade point average of B in sociology courses to enter the Honours Programme.

Application for admission to the Honours Programme in sociology should be directed to the Chair of Sociology. Students honouring in Sociology require a total of 48 credit hours in sociology, including the following required courses:

SOCI 1006	Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 2013	Research Methods
SOCI 2023	Statistics
SOCI 3013	Classical Sociological Theory
SOCI 3023	Modern Sociological Theory
SOCI 4006	Honours Thesis
SOCI 4023	Honours Workshop
SOCI 4033	Advanced Sociological Theory

To earn an Honours degree, a student must obtain a minimum 3.0 grade point average on 48 credit hours of sociology courses including the required courses, and a minimum B grade on the Honours Thesis (SOCI 4006).

Students planning to attend graduate school should enrol in the Honours Programme.

## Course Numbers

Guide to numbering system:

- 1000s introduction – open to students with no prior credits in sociology

- 2000s open to students who have 6 credit hours in sociology at 1000 level
- 3000s open to students who have 6 credit hours in sociology at 2000 level
- 4000s open to students who have completed required courses for the Major in sociology – specifically SOCI 2013 and SOCI 3013 and SOCI 3023
- Last digits represent number of credit hours for the course
- Students who do not have the number of credit hours in sociology required for senior courses, may be admitted at the discretion of the instructor.

### **1006. Introduction to Sociology**

A survey course that introduces students to the discipline of sociology with particular reference to Canadian Society. It examines theories and research concerning the nature of social order and conflict in industrial society; the relations between important structures or elements of society, including the economy, family, education, religion, complex organizations, racial and ethnic groups, and the dynamics of social change. Several major theoretical approaches in sociology are compared throughout the course. 6 credit hours.

### **2013. Research Methods (NATI)**

An introduction to the main research techniques used in sociology. The course will include practical experience in research design, methods of data collection, sampling procedures, and analysis of data. 3 credit hours.

### **2023. Introduction to Statistics (NATI)**

An introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. The main emphasis will be on the use and meaning of the principal statistics used in sociology and social work. 3 credit hours.

Note: This course may not be taken for credit by students who already have received credit for an introductory statistics course in another discipline at STU or from another university.

### **2106. Canadian Society**

The purpose of this course will be to give the student an understanding of the operation and functioning of the society in which we live. The configuration of Canadian institutions will be analyzed, including an examination of their historical patterns of development. 6 credit hours.

### **2116. Sociology of Atlantic Canada**

This course is designed as an introduction to the sociological study of Atlantic Canada. The first term focuses on the development of the Maritimes and Newfoundland from mercantile societies to under-developed regions within the centralized Canadian economy. The second term focuses on the contemporary structure, problems, and issues of Atlantic Canadian society. 6 credit hours.

### **2213. Society and Ecology**

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of environmental problems and the issues they raise, using C. Wright Mills' notion of the 'sociological imagination. 3 credit hours.

### **2313. Deviance (GEND; CRIM)**

Review of theory and research, with a focus on the social basis of deviance, deviance construction, and the consequences of social reactions to selected forms of deviance. 3 credit hours.

### **2416. Inequality in Society (GEND)**

This course explores existing patterns of social inequality and debates concerning the possibility and desirability of greater equality. Taking a theoretical and historical focus, we examine the changing nature of inequality in contemporary Canadian society in the context of globalization. Throughout, we develop our understanding of how different forms of inequality - particularly

social class, gender and race - intersect. One section of the course may have a service learning requirement, where students engage in volunteer work in the community, and then reflect upon their experiences through reading, writing, and discussion. 6 credit hours.

### **2423. Social Problems I — Sociological Perspectives (GEND)**

The various perspectives used by sociologists to examine social problems will be described and evaluated. Concrete social problems will be examined to illustrate the use of these perspectives. 3 credit hours.

### **2433. Social Problems II — Canadian Social Problems (GEND)**

Several current Canadian social problems will be examined from the above perspectives. Problems include: poverty, minorities, Canadian identity, the effects of urbanization, and technology, etc. Prerequisite: SOCI 2423. 3 credit hours.

### **2443. Race and Ethnic Relations**

This course examines theories and descriptions of race and ethnic relations, focussing on the general concepts of the role of race and ethnicity in social organization and stratification. Concrete situations in contemporary social systems will be discussed. 3 credit hours.

### **2513. Sociology of Communication**

This course will consider the mass media, principally print and electronic media, their place in and impact upon Canadian society. Various perspectives and related research will be considered with respect to the effects on social relations of these as technologies per se; the control and ownership of the media; the social organization of the production of news, "facts", statistics, and other "messages"; and the themes expressed in the "popular culture" as conveyed by the media. Underlying concerns are the social construction of what-is-taken-to-be reality and the language that is used in the conveying of messages. 3 credit hours.

### **2523. The Sociology of Aging (GEND) (GERO)**

This course will explore the comparative situation of older women and men in different cultures and different historical periods within western societies. The cultural and social-structural determinants of their changing status will be examined through alternative theoretical perspectives within sociology. The social construction of 'elderly' as a status will be explored through how older people are perceived, described, talked about, and interacted with, in everyday behaviour and how these relations may be 'negotiated' by the elderly themselves. The political-economy of aging focuses upon disparities of income, and the determinants and effects of poverty on the lives of older people. 3 credit hours.

### **2543. Sociology of Religion**

This course focuses on the relations between the beliefs and institutionalized practices that people hold sacred, and contemporary community life. We will explore the contradictory trends of mass secularism and the rise of religious fundamentalism, and the practices through which people collectively mobilize to sustain, challenge, and change religious identities. We explore the question raised by Durkheim: If religion expresses and reinforces community solidarity, how can modern societies accommodate religious diversity? How are religions implicated in political struggles, the women's movement, nationalism, and war? 3 credit hours.

### **2613. Sociology of Gender (GEND)**

This course will focus, in depth, on particular aspects of the social processes shaping, and shaped by, female and male roles such as gender and power, gender and social structure of work, and feminist social movements. 3 credit hours.

### **2623. Women in the Third World (ECON 2303) (GEND)**

This course will critically examine the role of women in the Third World. It will concentrate

largely on the changes in these roles and their correspondence with the transition from traditional to new forms of economic organization, production, and power. 3 credit hours.

### **2633. Sociology of the Family (GEND)**

A critical analysis of various conceptual frameworks in family research, and a cross-cultural analysis of marriage and the family, both past and present. Particular attention will be paid to the current developments in marriage arrangements, changes in the meaning of marriage and the family, as well as the future of the family. 3 credit hours.

### **2643. Selected Topics on the Political Economy of Women (ECON 2223) (GEND)**

This is a seminar course examining, in depth, selected topics on the political economy of women. Potential topics include women as paid workers, domestic labour, and women and poverty. 3 credit hours.

### **3013. Classical Sociological Theory**

A study of the classical tradition in sociological thought focussing on those theorists whose ideas constitute the foundation of contemporary sociological analysis. This will include a consideration of the work of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, among others. 3 credit hours.

### **3023. Modern Sociological Theory**

A study of modern developments in sociological theory, focussing on major trends and their interrelationships, and on contemporary theoretical issues and controversies. Prerequisite: SOCI 3013. 3 credit hours.

### **3033. Seminar in Research Strategies**

This course provides experience in designing individual research projects. Participants will review studies across a variety of subject matter and research strategies - surveys, content analysis, discourse analysis, symbolic interaction, institutional ethnography, oral tradition, and the like. Special attention will be given to how sociologists link theoretical questions to empirical evidence. Students will select a subject and research strategy, and design a research proposal. This course is especially recommended for students planning to take Honours in Sociology as it provides an opportunity to develop a thesis research proposal. 3 credit hours.

### **3043. Qualitative Research Methods**

This course provides a methodological grounding in qualitative analysis and familiarity with the critiques of more conventional methods. Through class assignments, students will gain hands-on experience of fieldwork and begin to observe some of the features of social relations. Fieldwork may include ethnomethodological experiments in disrupting "normal environments", in-depth interviews, institutional ethnography, and the like. 3 credit hours.

### **3113. Political Sociology**

This course will focus on the type of political system known as liberal democracy. Particular emphasis will be placed on the historical genesis of liberal democracy, on its structural dynamics, and on the role of the working class within the system. The examination will include an analysis of the sources of stability and cleavage governing the development of liberal democracies. Finally, the functioning of liberal democracies will be contrasted with that of communist political systems. 3 credit hours.

### **3123. Social Movements**

The emphasis of this course will be on one specific type of social movement—movements of political protest. We shall concentrate on two sorts of questions: (1) the structural conditions conducive to the development of movements of political protest and (2) the factors conditioning the actual mobilization of protest. Although the social movements examined will be diverse, ranging from the Rumanian rebellion in 1907 to the rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada, special

emphasis will be placed on the almost simultaneous appearance of both left and right wing populist protest in Western Canada. 3 credit hours.

### **3133. Sociology of Work**

Analysis of work and socio-economic origins of various work categories as occupations and their relationship to changes in the social organization of production. The relationship of various occupations to the class and power structure of society will be examined together with processes of recruitment, socialization, and control. 3 credit hours.

### **3153. The Political Sociology of War**

Competing theories about the origin and nature of war from different disciplines and traditions are introduced, and a sociological approach to war as an intersocietal political institution of long-standing and extending across the evolution of many social systems is developed. The effects of the institution of war on contemporary societies are examined, the utility of war in the age of nuclear weapons is questioned, and the social movements that have arisen to challenge the institution of war are scrutinized. 3 credit hours.

### **3163. Development Issues**

This course focuses on current concerns, debates, and issues regarding social, economic, and political change in an effort to better understand varying levels of development throughout the world. The course examines different development models, theories, and goals. The course pays particular attention to historical processes and prospects for the future. Topics may include: the debt crisis, food security and GMO foods, over/underconsumption, the social impacts of structural adjustment programmes, and the global economy. 3 credit hours.

### **3313. Sociology of Law (CRIM)**

This course will critically examine law from various sociological perspectives. The course is designed to cover sociological jurisprudence and selected theories of law; an examination of administration of law and justice, especially criminal law with particular reference to Canada; and the social impact of critical work in this area. Prerequisite: SOCI 2313. 3 credit hours.

### **3323. The Sociology of Women and Law (GEND)**

This course will explore the relationship of women to the state and to law. The ways in which criminal and family law influence gender relations in society will be analyzed, including the implications of legal intervention and non-intervention in family relations. Sex-specific and sex-related legislation concerning such issues as sexual harassment, rape, pornography, and affirmative action, will also be examined. Theoretical concepts and issues, such as the position of women within capitalism, patriarchy, sexuality and reproduction, formal and informal control, will be addressed. 3 credit hours.

### **3333. Social Control and Social Justice (CRIM)**

This course will provide a critical examination of theories of social control highlighting the tension between the requisites of social control on the one hand and the ideals of social justice on the other. Though emphasis will be placed on legal control by means of the criminal justice system, some attention will be devoted to alternate modes of social control such as that realized through the institutional, organizational, and bureaucratic processes associated with professionalization, medicalization, and victimization. 3 credit hours.

### **3413. Employment Equity Policy and Gender Inequality at Work (GEND)**

This is an advanced course on the organization of gender inequality in the labour force and the policies aimed at creating equal opportunities for women. We begin by studying how gender segregation is organized in the occupations of teaching, clerical work, and other professions. Secondly, the course examines from a sociological perspective, the federal and provincial government policies which are aimed at the equal and fair treatment of individuals regardless of

sex: pay equity legislation, employment equity programmes, contractual provisions and human rights legislation on fair employment practices. 3 credit hours.

### **3513. Sociology of Education**

The focus of this course will be on the nature of the relationship between school systems and the broader societies of which they are a part. This will be done with two purposes in mind: (1) to determine both the structural configuration and the functions of education in contemporary society and (2) to demonstrate the effects of this relationship on the internal functioning of schools. Accordingly, we shall examine a variety of theoretical perspectives whose intent it is to conceptualize the school-society connection. Of particular concern will be structural functionalism, cultural reproduction theories, and theories of correspondence. Each will be considered in some detail, especially in terms of the constraints and limitations placed on education by the social structure. 3 credit hours.

### **3523. Sociology of Knowledge**

This course is concerned with the social organization of knowledge. The focus is on the political and public social processes and contexts in which local and ruling forms of knowledge are produced. For the purposes of this course, knowledge may range from common sense and popular culture to ideology, science, and information. Topics may include the connection between knowledge and power and how they are controlled by states, corporations, and professions, and the implications of the nature and distribution of print and electronic information. This course combines discussion of major theorists as well as an examination of current issues. 3 credit hours.

### **3533. Science and Scientific Knowledge (STS 3533)**

This course examines the study of science and scientific knowledge from a sociological perspective. It focuses on the effort of the Edinburgh School to provide a materialist resolution to the debate between positivist and relativist epistemologies. 3 credit hours.

### **3563. Sociology of Music (FNAR)**

This course combines a number of macro- and micro-sociological perspectives on music. The former refers to the wider socio-cultural context in which music is produced, distributed, and listened to. It includes the social functions and uses of music ranging from rituals and ceremonies to its political-economic organization in "cultural industries". Forms of music, such as the functional harmony vs. the Afro-American traditions, area related to forms of society. Micro perspectives analyze how performers create and make music together in terms of the interaction among musicians, audience, and conductor. The practices of improvisation and maintaining synchrony will be examined principally in both classical and jazz contexts. Prerequisite: permission of the course instructor or the Director of the Centre for Musical Arts, UNB. 3 credit hours.

### **3573. Sociology of Art and Culture (FNAR)**

Employing both classical and contemporary sociological perspectives, this course will explore the nature of art in society by looking at how art objects are produced, distributed, and consumed. Theoretical perspectives will be related to historical and contemporary examples from a range of artistic media (e.g., pictorial art, film, photography, literature, and music) to expose the interplay between art and society. The relationship between the fine arts and popular culture will be examined, as well as the role of technology in the various arts.

### **3903. Elite Deviance**

This course challenges the prevailing conception of the deviant "outsider," shifting the focus from the criminality of the poor or disadvantaged to the criminality of the elite. Specific emphasis will be on how organizations act to cause social harm, and the very different problems for crime prevention and control that organizations pose compared to individual deviants. Both

corporate and governmental deviance will be explored.

#### **4006. Honours Thesis**

The Honours thesis is a scholarly essay or research paper on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty committee composed of a Director and two additional advisers. When completed, the thesis is read and graded by this thesis committee. A minimum grade of B is required. 6 credit hours.

#### **4013. Senior Seminar**

The senior seminar is a one-semester course, required for a Major degree in sociology, which is to be taken in the final year of study. The course will be organized around substantive issues, with the different sections being devoted to different topics. These will be addressed as puzzles or lines of inquiry that explore current concerns. Students will be expected to bring the knowledge they have acquired of the competing traditions of sociological inquiry to bear on that theme. This course will be conducted as a seminar, with students taking responsibility for researching, presenting, and discussing material. Regular attendance and active participation will be emphasized. 1st and 2nd semesters. Limited enrolment (approximately 15) in each section. 3 credit hours.

#### **4023. Honours Workshop**

This is a required course for Honours students in their final year. Enrolment is restricted to such students. The course is organized around two sets of activities: 1) workshops oriented to the development of knowledge and skills directly applicable to the process of thesis research, covering such topics as ethical decision-making in social research, practical problems in collecting and analyzing research material, writing in social research and 2) student presentations of the thesis proposals, progress reports, and final results. Entry of non-Sociology students is with permission of instructor. 3 credit hours.

#### **4033. Advanced Sociological Theory**

A critical examination of selected orientations from contemporary sociological theory. The implications of these perspectives, for both the nature of sociological inquiry and the prevailing models of society, will be considered. Prerequisite: SOCI 3013, 3023. 3 credit hours.

#### **4043/4053. Independent Study**

A programme on independent study under the direction of a member of the faculty selected by the student. It is designed for students who wish to pursue an area of special interest through reading, research, and writing. 3 or 6 credit hours, depending on the project.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.

### **UNB Courses Available**

The University of New Brunswick offers a number of courses in sociology which are not available at St. Thomas. Students at St. Thomas are eligible to take these courses with the approval of the Department. UNB courses at the 1000 level shall not normally count as equivalent to SOCI 1006 for a Major in sociology. Students may not count more than 6 credit hours at the 1000 level towards a Major in sociology. For further information, please consult the UNB calendar.