Sociology Major

A. Required courses (12 credits)

______ SOCI 1301  Introduction to Sociology

______ SOCI 2312  Measurement and Inference in Social Research (pre-req: University Core Math requirement courses)

______ SOCI 3311  Methods of Research (pre-req: SOCI 1301)

______ SOCI 4301  General Sociological Theory (pre-req: SOCI 3311)

B. Elective courses (18 credits)

Open level elective:

______ SOCI 1000-4000 elective _____________________________________

Advanced electives:

______ SOCI 3000-4000 elective _____________________________________

______ SOCI 3000-4000 elective _____________________________________

______ SOCI 3000-4000 elective _____________________________________

______ SOCI 3000-4000 elective _____________________________________

______ SOCI 3000-4000 elective _____________________________________

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and how you and others can alter it and fit into it. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of health to the sociology of drugs. Because sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time, it is an expanding field whose potential is increasingly tapped by those who craft policies and create programs. Few fields have such broad scope and relevance for understanding human concerns.

In your courses, you will discuss important questions, such as relations between women and men, how families differ and flourish, street crime and delinquency, welfare and education reform, corporate downsizing, and problems of peace and war. You will learn
to question ideas and evidence, create original research, and critique social policies. The sociology department at UTEP is a recognized center for the study of international borders, and has particular strengths in the study of health, the environment, crime, migration, and community development and social justice.

**Why Should I Study Sociology?**
The sociology faculty are interesting, enthusiastic, and work closely with individual students. The study of sociology helps you to understand society and yourself, including your own background and how to relate to other people in everyday life. Sociology provides crucial knowledge for business and civil service, and sociologists are important participants in urban and rural planning, managing a variety of organizations, providing social service, and evaluating different kinds of social programs. So studying sociology is an excellent way to gain skills to work for the betterment of your community, and the sociology major prepares students for the careers discussed in the next section, “What Can I Do With An Sociology Degree?”

**What Can I Do With a Sociology Degree?**
**The B.A.**
The undergraduate degree provides a strong preparation for entry-level positions throughout the business, social service, and government worlds. Employers look for people with the research and analysis skills that an undergraduate education in sociology provides. Many students choose sociology because they see it as a broad liberal arts base for professions such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counseling. Since its subject matter is intrinsically fascinating, sociology offers valuable preparation for careers in journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration--fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse groups.

Sociology prepares students for careers in community development, public agencies (census, hospitals, education, criminal justice, etc.), and private sector planning and management. Employers value sociology majors’ ability to analyze human situations, development sophisticated investigations, and design effective and socially appropriate solutions. Sociology majors are comfortable with demographic, geographic, and statistical information used in marketing and public policy analysis.

**Going on to an M.A./Ph.D.**
From UTEP, many sociology majors go on to graduate school to obtain Master's and Doctoral degrees. UTEP offers a Master’s degree in Sociology, and its graduates have been very successful. Sociologists with these degrees enter the corporate, non-profit, and government worlds as directors of research, policy analysts, consultants, human resource managers, and program managers. Sociologists with advanced degrees also become faculty in colleges and universities, advising students, conducting research, and publishing their work. Over 3000 colleges offer sociology courses. Practicing sociologists with advanced degrees may be called research analysts, survey researchers, gerontologists, statisticians, urban planners, community developers, criminologists, or demographers. Some MA and PhD sociologists obtain specialized training to become counselors, therapists, or program directors in social service.
What Do I Have to Do to Major in Sociology?
You should go to Old Main 108, the front office of the Sociology and Anthropology department. The staff can answer your questions and direct you to an advisor, who can work with you on a degree plan. If you need to declare or change a major, you will need to go to the front office of Liberal Arts, in room 343 of the Liberal Arts building. The Sociology major degree plan is not complicated. It requires only 30 credit hours (21 at the advanced level) and required courses you should take are SOCI 1301, 2312, 3311, and 4301.

Box: Some UTEP Sociology Alumni
Guadalupe Corral has a Ph.D. and administers community survey research for UTEP’s Institute for Policy and Economic Development.
Marcella Jones has a Ph.D. and is a Statistician for the Census Bureau in Washington, D.C., working on women’s and international population issues.
Jeanette Cuellar is a clinician working with undocumented children for Southwest Keys.
Ricky L. Blankenship is a crime analyst for the FBI Violent Criminal Apprehension Program.

The Minor in Sociology
Liberal Arts students have to have a minor as well as a major. Minoring in Sociology offers an excellent combination with many majors, such as Psychology, Communications, Criminal Justice, Political Science, History, and Anthropology. Combined with these other majors, it emphasizes the human element and the role of social structure. To do the minor, you need 18 credit hours in sociology (including nine at the advanced level); these credit hours include SOCI 1301, 3311, and 4301.

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