

**GUIDELINES FOR SOCIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
3219 TURLINGTON HALL 392-0251  
<http://web.soc.ufl.edu/undergrad>

DEPARTMENT CHAIR:  
Dr. Connie Shehan  
3219 Turlington Hall  
392-0265

UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR:  
Dr. Marian J. Borg  
3364 Turlington Hall  
392-0265, ext. 236

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING:  
3206 Turlington Hall  
392-0265, ext. 227

**INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS**  
**ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008**

**A. Introduction to Sociology as a Major**

Sociology is the study of social life and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology's subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from crime to religion, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, from the study of work to the study of sport. In fact, few fields of study have such a broad scope and wide relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge as sociology, and few majors offer their students a more diverse range of career opportunities.

A Bachelor's degree in sociology provides a person with an excellent liberal arts foundation for embarking upon a wide range of career paths including those in business and the human services. Sociology majors who enter the business world work in sales, marketing, customer relations, and human resources. Those who enter human services work with youths at risk, elderly persons, or people experiencing problems related to poverty, substance abuse, or the justice system. Sociology is also an excellent major for students who wish to do graduate study in law, business, education, counseling, medicine, politics, public administration, social work, or criminology. In addition, the solid base sociology majors receive in research design, data analysis, and sociological concepts gives them a competitive edge in today's information society. A person can "apply sociology" in any work environment – the sociological perspective gives a person a unique way of looking at how society works and at the intricate relationships between individuals and society.

While majoring in sociology can prove a valuable tool for career opportunities in a spectrum of job markets, it also constitutes a career in itself. After completing graduate degrees in sociology, sociologists teach and conduct research in both academic and applied settings. Information about graduate studies in sociology, both at the University of Florida and at other universities, is available. You may speak to the Graduate Coordinator or other faculty advisors directly. Or, you may visit the website of the American Sociological Association at <http://www.asanet.org>.

In conjunction with the Career Resource Center, the Department sponsors various career-related activities throughout the fall and spring semesters. We encourage all those interested in sociology as a major and those wanting to learn more about career opportunities to attend these informative events. Look for fliers and listserve and class announcements for specific dates.

**B. The Department of Sociology**

The Department of Sociology at the University of Florida is diverse and multi-faceted, offering undergraduates coursework in the broad categories of marriage and the family, gender studies, deviance, criminology

and social control, gerontology, urban studies, Latin American studies, minority studies, medical sociology, sociological theory and methods, social psychology, stratification, religion, and work.

Each faculty member in the Sociology Department has regular office hours posted on his/her door and is available at other times by appointment. We urge you to meet the professors, get to know them, and give them the opportunity to get to know you. As a department we stress superior teaching: our teaching evaluations are above the college average, and in recent years many of our professors and graduate students have been honored with various teaching awards by both the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University. Our faculty is committed to providing you with the best possible training, both in the classroom and out.

Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honor society, also provides students with a wealth of information about sociology as a profession through seminars and presentations and provides social situations in which majors can interact with those who share their interest in sociology. Contact names and general information about membership are available on the bulletin board outside of the main office (3219 Turlington).

### **C. Declaring a Sociology Major**

For a sociology major, students must satisfy the critical tracking criteria in their UF undergraduate catalog. Students who are on track and have declared sociology as a major automatically become sociology majors. First year students and some early second year students may change majors to Sociology by going to the Academic Advising Center (AAC) and requesting a change. Generally, students wanting to change majors in their second year must complete a change of major form. This form is available at the AAC and must be submitted to the Department of Sociology for approval by the Sociology Undergraduate Coordinator after a plan of study is developed with a sociology undergraduate advisor (3206 Turlington). The Department of Sociology does not act on requests for major changes unless they are submitted using the correct form. We recommend that you visit the CLAS advising web site (<http://isis.ufl.edu>) to “try on” a major. In addition, an AAC advisor can verify if you are on schedule to fulfill College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements.

### **D. Sociology Undergraduate Advising**

Sociology undergraduate advisors are available in the fall and spring semesters on a regularly scheduled "walk in" basis in room 3206 Turlington. Their office hours are posted on the door of 3206 Turlington, as well as on handouts in the main office. Limited telephone advising is available at 392-0265, x227. Please note that advisors may be unable to answer the phone during peak advising times or when they are seeing students. Limited face-to-face advising is available over the summer. Information about how to contact an advisor during summer months is posted outside of 3206 Turlington.

For advice on your college and university requirements, you should speak to an advisor at the Academic Advising Center. To plan your courses for each semester, please use the Sociology Major Worksheet (available on this website, at the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office, 3206 Turlington, or at the Department of Sociology, 3219 Turlington).

**You MUST see a College of Liberal Arts advisor in the Academic Advising Center for a “Grad Check” before you register for your next-to-last semester of coursework.** Together you can review your transcript and determine which requirements remain unfulfilled. This will help in planning your final two semesters of coursework. You should also see a sociology undergraduate advisor to make sure you are on-track to complete sociology requirements.

You should again request a major and graduation audit before your final semester of coursework. **Once enrolled for your final semester, do not forget that you must apply to graduate -- you will not be placed on the list automatically.** Application forms are available at the Office of the Registrar and should be submitted to the registrar by the deadline given in the “critical dates” pamphlet and in the Schedule of Courses.

Remember: the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office does **not** do official graduation checks for college or university requirements, **nor** do we advise students on any requirements except those specific to completing the sociology major. For information or advice not specific to sociology, please go to the AAC.

Remember: students are responsible for ensuring that UF, CLAS, and Sociology requirements are successfully completed. Neither the Sociology Undergraduate Coordinator nor the undergraduate advisors are responsible for students' interpretation of advice given.

### **E. Course of Study**

SYG2000 Principles of Sociology provides an overview of important issues in sociology as well as an understanding of how sociologists go about their work. It is a required course for majors and minors, and is a prerequisite for many upper-level sociology courses. SYG2430 Marriage and Family focuses on various types of family structures and how intimate relationships are formed, maintained, and change over time. SYG2010 Social Problems focuses on contemporary social issues. Students who major in sociology may count a maximum of six credits of 2000 level coursework, in addition to SYG2000, toward their major.

Several lower division courses meet general education requirements for social sciences and international diversity. Please check ISIS (<http://www.isis.ufl.edu>) for applicable courses. Other upper-division courses (3000 or 4000 level) offer students a chance to study specific topics in greater detail. The University Course Catalog contains a short description of all courses.

#### *Course Prefixes:*

Five prefixes designate courses in sociology:

#### *SYA: Sociological Analysis*

These courses focus on theoretical and methodological issues in sociology.

#### *SYD: Demography and Area Studies*

These courses relate to population, demography, human ecology, urban sociology, racial and ethnic studies, and gender studies.

#### *SYG: General Sociology*

These are introductory or general courses in sociology.

#### *SYP: Social Processes*

These courses deal with the various aspects of social psychology, social change, social disorganization, social control, deviance, criminology, and juvenile delinquency.

#### *SYO: Social Organization*

These courses focus on social institutions (such as the family), social organization, social stratification, and social structure.

### **F. Major Requirements**

The sociology major requires a minimum of 31 semester hours of coursework in sociology (30 semester hours are required of students using a UF Undergraduate Catalog prior to 2002-2003). All courses applied toward the 31 credits **must be** from courses completed under the SY prefix. This applies to "cross-listed" courses as well. Students should use a Sociology Major Worksheet (available in 3206 Turlington or on this website) to evaluate their progress toward the completion of these requirements. A grade of "C" or better is required for sociology courses to be credited toward the major. No courses to be counted toward the major may be taken S/U(pass/fail).

#### *1. Required courses:*

Majors must complete the following three required courses:

*SYG2000 Principles of Sociology* (3 credits)

*SYA4300 Methods of Social Research* (4 credits)

This course should be taken in your junior year (i.e., after you reach 60 hours), usually around 75 hours, and preferably after you have taken statistics. SYA4300 Methods is usually taken before SYA4110 Theory.

*SYA4110 Development of Sociological Thought (3 credits)*

This course should be taken in your senior year (after you reach 90 hours).

**Please note that SYA4300 and SYA4110 are “departmentally controlled courses.” This means that before you can register for them, you *must* see an advisor in 3206 Turlington in the semester *prior* to your planned enrollment in the course. You *must* be placed on a department permissions list and be given a section number *before* you can register. By monitoring announcements on the listserve, in your other sociology courses, and posted on the door of 3206 Turlington, you will know when sections numbers for these courses become available.**

**Remember to *carefully plan* to complete all requirements by your expected graduation date.** Waiting to register for SYA4300, SYA4110, or any other course during your proposed last semester might mean these courses are filled, that you cannot take them, and therefore, that you must delay your graduation.

**Students who are planning to graduate during a summer semester must plan to take SYA4300 and SYA4110 prior to that summer semester.** These courses are normally never offered during summer term. These requirements will NOT be waived for summer graduates who have been unable to meet them. Please note that the department rarely offers upper-division courses in the summer terms; usually only internships and individual studies are available. Please plan accordingly!

## 2. Statistics

In addition to these 10 required credit hours, students are required to take and earn a “C” or better in a statistics course, STA2023 Statistics for the Social Sciences (3 credits). The department will also accept STA2122. ***Sociology majors entering under/using the 2004-2005 catalog (i.e., beginning Summer B 2004) and beyond are additionally required to complete STA3024 with a “C” or better by the end of tracking term 5.***

## 3. Sociology Electives

At least 21 additional elective credits in sociology courses (20credits for students using a UF Undergraduate Catalog prior to 2002-2003) must be completed with a grade of “C” or better beyond the required courses listed above. Of these 21 hours, 6 credit hours *may* be at the 2000 level (that is, 6 credits in addition to SYG2000). The remaining 15 hours *must* be at the 3000 or 4000 level. A complete listing of departmental courses can be found in your undergraduate catalog.

## 4. Other important points to keep in mind:

Students have an obligation to register for required courses in a timely manner. Sociology requirements will NOT be waived. All other requirements applicable to students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (including the foreign language requirement and science requirements) also apply to sociology majors. For these college requirements, see the University Undergraduate Catalog, or consult with an advisor at the AAC.

Courses taken at a Florida community college or other Florida State University System will usually count toward sociology requirements if they share a course prefix (for example “SYG”) and the last three digits of the course number. The Undergraduate Coordinator must approve the acceptance of these credits - please have a course catalog description or syllabus available for review. Please consult with an undergraduate advisor (3206 Turlington) if you have questions about such courses. No more than 15 credits from institutions other than UF will be counted toward the major. If you plan to be a “transient” student for a summer term (or part of any other term), any sociology courses taken elsewhere should be approved BEFORE you take them to assure that they are acceptable for credit. Please pick up a Transient Approval Form from the Academic Advising Center.

### G. Special Topics Courses

In addition to regularly offered courses, the sociology department sometimes offers one or more special topics courses (SYA2930 and SYA4930). The content of these courses changes regularly.

### H. Individual Work

Students may enroll in SYA4905 Individual Work if they wish to study areas not covered by formal courses. Interested students should consult with a faculty member in Sociology (sorry, no graduate student instructors may sign off on this work). The professor and student are free to decide between themselves how the independent study will be structured and evaluated. This course may also be used for those students who wish to gain practical research experience by assisting a professor with ongoing research in the department. In most cases, the student will have previously developed a working relationship with the professor by taking another course with her or him.

**Please note that SYA4905 cannot be substituted for any requirement and can only be used as an elective for the sociology major.**

SYA4905 can be taken for 1-4 credit hours and carries the prerequisites of at least 9 hours of previous sociology coursework and signed consent of a faculty member. SYA4905 may be repeated for up to a total of 8 credit hours with change of content. Students should obtain a permission form available on this website or from the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office (3206 Turlington), secure the proper signatures as noted on the form, and return the form to 3206 Turlington to receive the section number for the course. The faculty member and the student must both sign the SYA4905 form acknowledging that the course *does not* fulfill any general education or Gordon Rule requirements and that the Department of Sociology will not substitute credits earned through this course for any college or departmental requirement other than a sociology elective.

### I. Internships

The department also offers students the opportunity to obtain applied experience as part of their education and to record that experience on their official transcript as SYA4941 Internship in Sociology. Internships *are not* required, but often prove beneficial to students for various reasons. Foremost is the opportunity to apply the sociological theories, concepts, and principles learned in class to “real-life” situations. Internships also provide the chance to “network,” or develop working relationships with supervisors who will be in a position to write reference letters and further career development opportunities. Some internships even evolve into full-time positions following graduation.

Normally the internship course requires 120 hours of on-site agency work, directed reading, and writing. A list of possible internship sites and additional information about the course requirements are available in the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office (3206 Turlington). Students must arrange for a faculty member in Sociology (sorry, no graduate student instructors may sign off on internships) to supervise their work well before the semester they intend to take the internship course, and both the student and faculty member must sign the internship form (available in 3206 Turlington or on this website) before a student is allowed to register for SYA4941.

SYA4941 Internship is a 3 credit hour course and carries the prerequisites of at least 6 previous hours of sociology coursework and junior standing. SYA4941 may be repeated for credit a second time at a different site with departmental approval.

### J. Honors in Sociology

To graduate with honors, a sociology major must attain a 3.5 upper division GPA (all courses taken after 60 credits). The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will automatically designate these students as honors graduates.

To graduate with high or highest honors, a student must register for SYA4931 Department Honors in Sociology and complete a senior honors thesis or project under the supervision of a member of the sociology faculty (sorry, no graduate students may supervise honors theses/projects). This course carries 3 credits of upper division sociology coursework. Students must complete the Application to Graduate with Honors in Sociology (available at

3206 Turlington or on this website), obtain the proper signatures, and **return the form to the advisors in 3206 Turlington the semester before registering for SYA4931.**

The final draft of the thesis (including all completed revisions) will be reviewed by the supervising faculty member and the Sociology Undergraduate Coordinator. If approved, the student must submit one copy of the thesis to the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office (3206 Turlington). In addition, the student must deliver one *unbound* copy of the thesis to the CLAS Honors Coordinator (105 Academic Advising Center) no later than the Friday two weeks before the end of finals week (please check the Registrar's homepage for the exact deadline each semester). Students must also complete the "Honors Thesis Abstracts" form (available at [www.honors.ufl.edu](http://www.honors.ufl.edu)) and return it to the CLAS Honors Coordinator. **Students who enroll in SYA4931 and complete an honors thesis should inform their supervising professor of all deadlines and plan accordingly.**

The College of Liberal Arts verifies the student's upper-division 3.5 GPA for graduation with honors. The faculty supervisor and the Undergraduate Coordinator will evaluate the student's work and recommend eligible students for high or highest honors. Final approval is given at the CLAS/University level.

#### **K. The Sociology Minor**

**The Sociology minor has been suspended, effective with the 2004-2005 undergraduate catalog year. Entering or transferring students who fall under the 2004-2005 catalog year and beyond will not be eligible to pursue a minor in sociology.**

**Students whose catalog year is prior to 2004-2005 may apply to pursue a minor in sociology.** Applications for pursuing a minor are available at the Academic Advising Center and do not require the signature or approval of the Sociology Department. The form should be completed and returned to the Academic Advising Center for the dean's signature and for processing.

For those students still eligible, requirements for the sociology minor are summarized below. Additional information is available in the Sociology Undergraduate Advising Office (3206 Turlington).

1. Minors must complete a total of 15 credit hours in sociology coursework. A minimum of 9 credit hours must be completed at the University of Florida. A minimum of 9 credits hours must be completed in upper division coursework (i.e., courses at the 3000 level or higher).
2. Minors must complete SYG2000 Principles of Sociology.
3. Students may take **either** SYG2010 Social Problems **or** SYG2430 Marriage and Family, but will **not** receive minor credit for both.
4. Students must receive a grade of C or better in all courses applied toward the minor (i.e., no "S" grades).
5. All courses applied toward the 15 credit minimum **must be** from courses completed under the SY prefix. This applies to "cross-listed" courses as well.
6. CCJ majors: If you have taken Advanced Principles of Criminal Justice you **may not** take SYP4520 Criminology for minor credit. If you have taken Juvenile Justice, you **may not** receive minor credit for SYP4530 Juvenile Delinquency.

#### **L. Teacher Preparation in Sociology**

Sociology majors may complete the requirements for certification as secondary school teachers. Elementary Education majors may specialize in sociology in the PROTEACH Program described in the Undergraduate Catalog under the College of Education. Please see an advisor in the College of Education (Norman Hall) for more information

on these programs.

#### **M. International Studies**

Many students utilize a semester studying abroad in another country. Such study can be a very rewarding experience. If you plan to study abroad and want sociology credit for a course, you will need to fill out the Academic Advising Form (a part of the Application for Overseas Study available in Grinter Hall) and have it evaluated by the Sociology Undergraduate Coordinator and your appropriate college. **This must be done well in advance of your going abroad.**

#### **N. Other Undergraduate Programs**

Some of the certificate and minor programs listed in the UF Undergraduate Catalog may be of special interest to sociology majors. Among these are the Latin American Studies program, the African-American Studies program, the Women's Studies program, the Environmental Studies program, the Gerontology minor, and the minor in Business Administration. The many opportunities to study abroad also warrant special consideration.

#### **O. Combined BA/MA Degree Programs**

The Sociology Department offers a combined BA/MA degree to eligible undergraduate students. Please see the Sociology Graduate Coordinator for more information regarding this degree option. Sociology majors may also consider various combined degree programs with other departments and colleges. For example, a Master of Science in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management is offered through the Warrington College of Business Administration to eligible students who have majored in sociology. Please see the Sociology Undergraduate Coordinator for more information about such degree opportunities.