Nebraska Wesleyan University

Sociology

Catalog

2026-2027

About the Program

Evidence-based, ethically informed, social justice-oriented learning and engagement.

The Bachelor of Science is advisable for those who wish to signal social science expertise with training in statistics while the Bachelor of Arts designates a blending of the social sciences with courses in the humanities for a more traditional liberal arts education.

Department Learning Outcomes
Majors will be able to:

1. Understand, identify and apply sociological, anthropological, and criminal justice concepts and theories.
2. Exhibit quantitative and qualitative literacy by reading, interpreting, and conducting social science research.
3. Communicate clearly, in writing and oral communication, disciplinary information based on reasoned arguments.
4. Approach of sociological, anthropological, and criminal justice issues in an ethical way with an awareness of social justice.

Majors, Minors & Degrees

Majors

1. Business-Sociology (B.S.)
2. Criminology (B.A., B.S.)
3. Sociology (B.A., B.S.)

Minors

1. Criminal Justice
2. Environmental Studies
3. Family Studies
4. Race and Ethnicity Studies
5. Sociology

Courses

ANTHR 1150 Cultural Anthropology

4 hours

This course reviews the origin and development of culture in preliterate human societies. It focuses on the major social institutions of family, economics, political organization, and religion.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Global
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: Global

CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice

4 hours

A survey course providing an overall view of the criminal justice system, the law, law enforcement, the courts, and corrections.

(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Democracy Thread

CRIM 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

CRIM 1950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

CRIM 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

CRIM 1970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course is a field placement at an agency/organization that is related to the student's area of career interest and which serves the needs of the organization where the student seeks placement. P/F only.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

CRIM 2120 Criminal Law

4 hours

Survey of criminal law with emphasis on basic legal procedure developed by the courts and legal problems of law enforcement.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

(Normally offered alternate years.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive

CRIM 2130 Corrections

4 hours

Analysis of the history, theory, structure, and function of contemporary penal institutions.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

(Normally offered every third spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread

CRIM 2140 Juvenile Justice

4 hours

This course examines the unique framework and workings of the juvenile justice system. This system is in the process of on-going profound changes in both legal rights and corrections. We will examine the reasons why juveniles commit crimes and status offenses. The current issues in juvenile justice such as: gangs, growth in "female" criminal involvement, and the hardening of juvenile offenders are also considered.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

(Normally offered alternate years.)

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Identity Thread

CRIM 2210 Probation and Parole

4 hours

This course explores the types of probation and parole, the demand for probation and parole, the advantages and disadvantages of probation and parole, the job duties and qualifications necessary for probation and parole officers, and how probation and parole is integrated into the criminal justice system.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Chaos Thread

CRIM 2300 Current Issues: Gangs And Gang Culture

3 hours

Gangs and gang culture is a cutting edge course that explores what gang culture is like, how and why youth join gangs, how hard is it to exit gangs, how the gang culture affects youth and youth decision making, the most effective and least effective ways to combat the growth of gangs, and how communities have failed or been effective at halting gangs.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

CRIM 2310 Current Issues: White Collar Crime

3 hours

White Collar Crime studies the varied and complex nature of white collar crimes and white collar criminals. The course examines the criminological explanations for white collar crime. The students will get the opportunity to talk with individuals who have committed white collar crimes. The course reviews the various kinds of white collar crime and the role of technology in white collar crimes.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice.

CRIM 2900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate any relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title and content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

CRIM 2950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

CRIM 2960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

CRIM 3130 Law and Society

4 hours

This course offers an integrated overview of the complex interplay of the shifting realms of law and society. We depart from an analysis of the law as a set of social institutions, a construction of particular historical, cultural, economic and political conditions. We then interrogate the ways that social structures, including race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality, as well capitalism, modernity and patriarchy influence the construction of law and legal doctrines. In turn, we explore how the resulting definitions of normativity and deviance, social control and liberty, as well as rights and freedoms serve to feed difference, inequality and injustice in society. But while law is often viewed as the realm of status quo and oppression, it is also often mobilized by laypersons, social movements, cause lawyers and public litigants to affect social change. Therefore, in this course, we investigate the complex relationship between law, social control and social change, delving into some of the most transformative moments of American law, and society, simultaneously.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Chaos Thread

CRIM 3150 Criminology

4 hours

This course offers an examination of contemporary problems in crime and delinquency with emphasis upon the theories of deviant behavior and correction.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice and SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology.

(Normally offered each spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Justice Thread

CRIM 3400 Applied Criminal Justice: Prison Outreach

1 hours

Students teach Criminal Justice courses to inmates at the State Penitentiary. The students will apply and expand their understanding of Criminal Justice by teaching inmates criminal justice concepts. The topics covered in a given semester vary but

can include material typically found in courses like: Introduction to Criminal Justice, Crime and Delinquency, and Criminal Law. Under the guidance of the course instructor, students prepare and deliver lessons directly to inmates in their capacity as non-matriculated adult learners. In preparation of their time in the prison setting, students organize the curriculum, research the concepts, and prepare a lesson plan for teaching the concepts. Students then present the concepts, assess how that teaching process went for them and for the inmates, and finally, test the inmates on the level of learning of those concepts. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite(s): CRIM 1010 Introduction To Criminal Justice and permission of the instructor.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Exploratory

CRIM 3900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate any relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title and content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

CRIM 3910 Independent Advanced Readings

1-6 hours

This course offers the opportunity of intensive readings in the discipline based on student and instructor topic of interest.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

CRIM 3950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

CRIM 3960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

CRIM 3970 Internship

3-8 hours

This course is a field placement at an agency/organization that is related to the student's area of career interest. Substantial field contact hours, reflective writing and regular meetings with instructor are required. The course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credit hours. No Pass/Fail.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

CRIM 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

CRIM 4960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects in conjunction with departmental research and student interest. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

CRIM 4970 Internship

1-8 hours

See SOC 4970 Internship.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

CRIM 4980 Senior Seminar

1 hours

This seminar enables Sociology, Criminology, and Business-Sociology majors to work collaboratively, to reflect upon and showcase cumulative disciplinary learning and experiences, skills, and ethics, and to develop individual professional selves. Students meet weekly to share internship and thesis experiences, develop public speaking skills, reflect upon cumulative learning, and develop a professional portfolio. The seminar culminates in an Ignite or Pecha Kucha presentation (or a Pecha Kucha film) at a departmental showcase.

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

(Normally offered every fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Speaking Instructive

CRIM 4990 Thesis

3 hours

This course is one of two options to fulfill the capstone requirement for all Criminology majors. (Either Thesis or Internship must be taken in combination with the Capstone Seminar to complete the major.) This course requires the completion of an independent sociological research project in a topic area of interest to the student. The completed project should be conference quality scientific article can be presented to the academic community in such formats as the NWU Student Symposium or a discipline related conference. Students are responsible for all phases of the research process, including topic selection, academic literature review, definition of the population; sample selection; methodology, data collection and analysis and preparation of the final report (thesis). The paper and the presentation should give evidence that the student is capable of critical integration, synthesis, and analysis of ideas as well as having gained professional-level written and oral communication skills, thereby showing mastery of the departmental goals and objectives. No Pass/Fail. Cross-listed with SOC 4990 and ANTHR-4990.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive

SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

4 hours

This course is an introduction to using the sociological perspective as a method of social inquiry. Students explore such basic concepts as culture, socialization, social structure, social interaction, and social change. They study and apply the theories and

research methodologies used to investigate human social interaction. These concepts are applied to social topics such as race, class, gender, family, crime, population, environment, and others.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Scientific Investigations: Social Science
Archway Curriculum: Justice Thread

SOC 1110FYW Introduction to Sociology

4 hours

This course introduces students to the sociological perspectives as a framework for understanding human behavior and society. Through this lens, students examine core concepts such as culture, socialization, social structure, social interaction and social change. The course emphasizes critical thinking and writing about sociological theories and research methods used to study social life. Students apply these ideas to contemporary issues, including race, class, gender, family, crime, medicine, religion and the environment, developing a deeper understanding of how individual experiences are shaped by broader social forces.

Archway Curriculum: First-Year Curriculum: First-Year Writing
Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Scientific Investigations: Social Science
Archway Curriculum: Justice Thread

SOC 1330 Race Relations and Minority Groups

4 hours

See SOC 2330 Race Relations and Minority Groups.

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread

SOC 1350 Sociology of the Family

4 hours

This course offers an analysis of various interrelationships of men and women with emphasis on love, courtship, marriage, and family. Institutional, social, and policy perspectives are presented in a cross-cultural and historical frame of reference to clarify the dynamic relationship between the family, its members, and broader U.S. society.

The requirements of the SOC 1350 course are the same as the SOC 2350 course EXCEPT that students in the higher course number complete a field interview project that involves significant writing and which fulfills the writing instructive designation of Archway.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Discourse Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOC 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

SOC 1950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

SOC 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOC 1970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course allows students to participate at a meaningful level in an internship with a public official, political figure, public agency, campaign or interest group and to use that experience as the basis for an academic paper.
Pass/Fail only.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOC 2330 Race Relations and Minority Groups

4 hours

This course uses sociological perspectives to examine the causes and consequences of a society stratified by racial-ethnic diversity. It looks at the way historical decisions made by the dominant group have impacted the current situation for majority-minority relations in the U.S.A structural assessment of current social relations is emphasized although individual prejudice and discrimination is examined. Concepts such as white-privilege, immigration, and institutional discrimination are investigated. The requirements of the 2330 course are the same as the 1330 course EXCEPT that students in the higher course number complete a 20 hour service-learning component which fulfills an exploratory experiential learning requirement of the Archway Curriculum.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Exploratory
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread

SOC 2350 Sociology of the Family

4 hours

This course offers an analysis of various interrelationships of men and women with emphasis on love, courtship, marriage, and family. Institutional, social, and policy perspectives are presented in a cross-cultural and historical frame of reference to clarify the dynamic relationship between the family, its members, and broader U.S. society.

The requirements of the SOC 2350 course are the same as the SOC 1350 course EXCEPT that students in the higher course number complete a field interview project that involves significant writing and which fulfills the writing instructive designation of Archway.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Discourse Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOC 2380 Women and Crime

4 hours

See SOC 3380 Women and Crime.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOC 2530 Population and Environment

4 hours

This course examines the demographic and social dynamics of population size, composition, and distribution. It addresses the relationships among population, human health, development and the environment. Strong cross-cultural emphasis. A major focus is the development of a semester research paper contrasting the status of the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals, environmental status, and health in a more- and less- developed country.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: Global
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Humans in the Natural Environment Thread

SOC 2900 Selected Topics

1-5 hours

A course designed to treat subject matter not covered in other departmental courses or to provide study of subject matter introduced in other courses. The title, content, and credit hours will be determined by current mutual interests of faculty and students.

SOC 2960 Special Projects

1-8 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOC 2970 Internship

4 hours

See department for course description.

SOC 3130 Law and Society

4 hours

This course offers an integrated overview of the complex interplay of the shifting realms of law and society. We depart from an analysis of the law as a set of social institutions, a construction of particular historical, cultural, economic and political conditions. We then interrogate the ways that social structures, including race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality, as well capitalism, modernity and patriarchy influence the construction of law and legal doctrines. In turn, we explore how the resulting definitions of normativity and deviance, social control and liberty, as well as rights and freedoms serve to feed difference, inequality and injustice in society. But while law is often viewed as the realm of status quo and oppression, it is also often mobilized by laypersons, social movements, cause lawyers and public litigants to affect social change. Therefore, in this course, we investigate the complex relationship between law, social control and social change, delving into some of the most transformative moments of American law, and society, simultaneously.

Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Chaos Thread

SOC 3210 Thinking SocioLogically: Environment

2 hours

This course explores environmental issues through a sociological lens, emphasizing environmental justice and institutional responses. Students will analyze case studies, lead discussions, and develop an environmental ethic that connects personal values to social and environmental change.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Humans in the Natural Environment Thread

SOC 3220 Thinking SocioLogically: Medical Sociology

2 hours

This course explores sociological dimensions of health, disease, illness, and the organization/delivery of health care. Challenging the notion that health outcomes are the product of "personal choices" alone, it allows students to investigate the impact of social forces on human health behaviors and outcomes.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Human Health and Disease Thread

SOC 3230 Thinking SocioLogically: Race/Ethnicity

2 hours

This course focuses on social privilege and its impact on the meaning and significance of race and ethnicity. It features strong student involvement focused on emerging community issues. Responsibility for classroom activity will be shared by students and instructor. Potential topics covered include such things as minority group-specific studies, white privilege, racism, and intersectional analysis of social identities. This course also serves as a capstone for the American Minority Studies minor.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread

SOC 3240 Thinking SocioLogically: Sociology Of Religion

2 hours

This course introduces students to the scientific study of religion using the theories and methods of sociology. It explores classical and contemporary ideas about the role and functions of religion in societies. It allows students to explore current patterns in religious behavior and belief, religious diversity and inequality, and sources of religious data.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

Normally offered in alternate years.

SOC 3250 Thinking SocioLogically: Work

2 hours

This course explores work and occupations through a sociological lens, conceptualizing work as a social construction and a structural reality. Students will explore major topics and conceptual frameworks in the Sociology of works such as classical and contemporary theories, occupations, labor unions, work and social inequality, gendered labor markets, work and family, the changing workforce and contemporary issues of work.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

SOC 3260 Thinking SocioLogically: Gender

2 hours

This course uses the sociological perspective to explore sex and gender relations as major features of social life. It considers the social construction of gender (including the creation of masculinities and femininities) and examines the impact of gender ideologies on the social positions of gendered individuals. In particular, it emphasizes the way these social positions (such as gender, race, social class, sexualities, etc...) create and perpetuate the inequalities embedded in its social institutions (like the family, economy/work, religion, media, etc...).

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOC 3290 Grant Writing and Evaluation

3 hours

Open to students from any major, this course builds practical skills in grant writing, fundraising, and campaign management. Students will learn techniques for proposal development, creative campaigns, donor communication, annual giving, and digital fundraising while exploring ethical and global dimensions of non-profit work. Working directly with the instructor and a local nonprofit partner, students will connect theory with practice, experiencing all three components- grant writing, fundraising, and donor communication-in real time. By the end, students will have the skills needed for advancing careers in nonprofits, businesses, and other organizations. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

SOC 3370 Social Inequality

4 hours

This course explores social stratification, the socially created pattern of unequal distribution of social resources that leads to social inequality. It gives particular attention to social class, but also considers how class intersects with other social categories (such as race/ethnicity and gender) to create even further inequality. It also examines the interconnectedness of social inequality and the primary social institutions of U.S. society. It also explores global social inequality.
Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing.
(Normally offered alternate years.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Discourse Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Justice Thread

SOC 3380 Women and Crime

4 hours

This course uses a sociological perspective to explore gendered issues that women face as perpetrators, victims, and workers in the criminal justice system. As such, students will explore theories and empirical studies related to offending, victimization, and employment. This course is cross listed with GEND-3380 and meets with SOC 2380/GEND-2380. The requirements of the 3380 course will be the same as the 2380 course EXCEPT that students in the higher course number conduct an additional major project as determined by the instructor.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOC 3530 Environment, Food, and You

4 hours

This course identifies and explores issues involved in the interaction between humans and the environment. Students are introduced to social impact assessment as a means for identifying the ways resource exploitation leads to both the development and decline of communities. Food production is used to illustrate these impacts because it plays a significant role in community organization, human survival, and environmental resilience.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology or SOC 2530 Population and Environment.
(Normally offered alternate years.)

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Humans in the Natural Environment Thread

SOC 3900 Selected Topics

1-5 hours

An upper-level course designed to treat subject matter not covered in other departmental courses or to provide study of subject matter introduced in other courses. The title, content, and credit hours will be determined by current mutual interest of faculty and students.

SOC 3910 Independent Advanced Readings

1-6 hours

This course offers the opportunity of intensive readings in the discipline based on student and instructor topic of interest.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOC 3920 Social Theory

4 hours

This course explores a broad overview of big ideas about humans, society, change, stability, and chaos that have influenced sociology and other social sciences in the 19th to early 21st centuries. Broad perspectives examined include: Marxism, Functionalism, Weberian rationalization, Symbolic Interactionism, Feminisms, Queer Theory, Critical Theory, Critical Race Theory, Rational Choice, Postmodernism and Poststructuralism, and theories of globalization. This course builds critical thinking, analysis, application, and writing skills essential to majors, minors, and students interested in critically examining society.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Chaos Thread

SOC 3930 Quantitative Research Methods

4 hours

In this course, students are introduced to quantitative research methods commonly used in social science research: survey research, experimental design, secondary analysis, and evaluation research. Emphasis is on survey research, including project design, questionnaire construction, sampling, data collection, statistical analysis, and formal presentation of results. Key elements of the course are learning to ask researchable questions and formulate testable hypotheses.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology and any Statistics course (SOC-2910 is preferred.)

Normally offered each fall semester.

SOC 3940 Qualitative Research Methods

4 hours

In this course, students are introduced to qualitative research methods commonly used in social science research. Emphasis is on individualized project design, project construction, data analysis, and formal presentation of results. Course content includes exploration of observation, participant observation, ethnography, in-depth interviewing, focus groups, content analysis, case study, and online qualitative innovations in research.

Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology.

Normally offered each spring semester.

SOC 3950 Group Dynamics

4 hours

Since all social interaction takes place in groups, this course introduces students to the basic principles of small group structure and interaction. Students participate in group activities throughout the semester in order to study and reflect on the way groups function and influence individual behavior. Topics such as goals, cohesiveness, communication, conflict, and leadership are investigated.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology.
(Normally offered every other year.)

SOC 3960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOC 3970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course is a field placement at an agency/organization that is related to the student's area of career interest. Substantial field contact hours and regular meetings with instructor are required. The course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credit hours. No Pass/Fail.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

Normally offered each fall semester.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

SOC 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

SOC 4960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects in conjunction with departmental research and student interest. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

SOC 4970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course is a field placement at an agency/organization that is related to the student's area of career interest. Substantial field contact hours and regular meetings with instructor are required. The course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credit hours. No Pass/Fail. Cross listed with CRIM 4970.
Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.
(Normally offered every year.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

SOC 4980 Senior Seminar

1 hour

This seminar enables Sociology, Criminology, and Business-Sociology majors to work collaboratively, to reflect upon and showcase cumulative
disciplinary learning and experiences, skills, and ethics, and to develop individual professional selves. Students meet weekly to share internship and thesis experiences, develop public speaking skills, reflect upon cumulative learning, and develop a professional portfolio. The seminar culminates in an Ignite or Pecha Kucha
presentation (or a Pecha Kucha film) at a departmental showcase.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.
Normally offered every fall semester.

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Speaking Instructive

SOC 4990 Thesis

3 hours

This course is one of two options to fulfill the capstone requirement for all Sociology majors. (Either Thesis or Internship must be taken in combination with the Capstone Seminar to complete the major.) This course requires the completion of an independent sociological research project in a topic area of interest to the student. The completed project should be conference quality scientific article can be presented to the academic community in such formats as the NWU Student Symposium or a discipline related conference. Students are responsible for all phases of the research process, including topic selection, academic literature review, definition of the population; sample selection; methodology, data collection and analysis and preparation of the final report (thesis). The paper and the presentation should give evidence that the student is capable of critical integration, synthesis, and analysis of ideas as well as having gained professional-level written and oral communication skills, thereby showing mastery of the departmental goals and objectives. No Pass/Fail. Cross-listed with CRIM 4990 Thesis.

Prerequisite(s): Approval of the instructor.

(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive