

# SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

## Department Description

Sociologists are interested in people's behaviors within larger social and cultural groups. Sociology provides students with a solid background for understanding how human behavior is shaped by social factors such as socioeconomic class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual identity and/or age or is impacted by social institutions like the family, mass media, the education system, the health care system or the criminal justice system. Sociology ranges from the analysis of individual social behaviors such as family relationships, intergroup relationships, criminal behavior, or consumption patterns—to the study of global institutions—like mass media, education, health care or the criminal justice system.

At Saint Mary's, the Department of Sociology and Criminology offers students two tracks within Sociology.

The Inequality and Society track prepares students for a global and diverse society by emphasizing equity, inclusion, and justice in society and culture. Students in this track will develop an understanding of intersecting inequalities in society and culture based upon social class, gender, race and ethnicity, and sexual identity in social or cultural institutions such as the family, the education system, mass media, the health care system, and the criminal justice system. Students in the Inequality and Society track will be prepared for careers in which knowledge about social behavior are essential such as data analyst, diversity manager, human resource manager, market researcher, non-profit grant writer or researcher, social advocate, or social service caseworker. Students in the Inequality and Society track will also be well prepared for graduate school in Sociology, Social Work, Law, or Public Administration.

The Criminology track applies the sociological perspective to the phenomenon of crime and the criminal justice system. Students will gain an understanding of the impact of crime and the institution of criminal justice on individuals, the family, the community, and larger society. Special attention is spent on the legal system, policing, juvenile delinquency, and international perspectives on criminology. The Criminology concentration will prepare students for careers in the criminal justice system such as criminal law enforcement, investigative analyst, criminal prosecution or defense attorney. Students will also be well prepared for graduate work in Sociology, Criminology, Law, or Social Work.

## Study Abroad

Saint Mary's has a long history of providing quality international programs as an essential part of our educational mission—forming women leaders who will make a difference in the world. As this world becomes increasingly interdependent, the College offers an expanding range of semester, year, semester break, and summer study and service programs in a wide variety of countries, and encourages students to take advantage of them. Learn more about the various Study Abroad opportunities (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/academic-life/international-programs/>).

## Teacher's Preparation

The Sociology Department in conjunction with the Education Department offers courses leading to state licensing for History/Social Studies.

## Programs

- Criminology Concentration, Sociology, Bachelor of Arts - CRIM (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/programs/sociology-criminology/sociology-criminology-concentration-bachelor-arts/>)
- Inequality and Society Concentration, Sociology, Bachelor of Arts - INSO (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/programs/sociology-criminology/sociology-bachelor-arts/>)
- Sociology, Minor - SOC (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/programs/sociology-criminology/sociology-minor/>)

## Department Chair

Leslie Wang  
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## Faculty

S. Alexander, K. Faust, M. Kanieski, L. Wang

## Inequality and Society Learning Outcomes

- L01: Students will be able to identify how social structures create and reproduce different forms of social inequality.
- L02: Students will be able to apply a sociological theory to understanding social inequality.
- L03: Students will be able to apply sociological research methods.

## Criminology Learning Outcomes

- L01: Students will be able to identify how social structures impact crime, victimhood, and/or the criminal justice system
- L02: Students will be able to apply a sociological theory to understanding crime, victimhood, and/or the criminal justice system.
- L03: Students will be able to apply sociological research methods.

## Sociology Courses

### SOC 110 FYS: Culture of College: Decoding the Hidden Curriculum (3)

It has been said that the culture of college includes an official curriculum, found in the subjects of classes, like literature, mathematics, and science, and a hidden curriculum, a secret lesson plan that some people know and others do not. What is this hidden curriculum and who wrote it? Why do some people seem to know the hidden curriculum and others have to learn it the hard way? How does knowing the hidden curriculum help you do well in school? Can we re-write the hidden curriculum? In this seminar, we will explore the hidden curriculum through readings about education, family life, and college. You will gain a better understanding of the culture of college and learn ways to enhance everyone's college experience.

### SOC 153 Sociological Imaginations (3)

A general survey of the basic concepts and processes necessary for an understanding of society, culture, groups, institutions, and social behavior. The applications of the discipline are emphasized to encourage the student to appreciate the utility of the sociological approach.

**SOC 180 Orientation to Sociology (1)**

This course introduces newly declared majors to the field of sociology, with a focus on building a successful career path. Students will learn about the sociology curriculum and undergraduate experiences such as study abroad, internships, and research opportunities that will help build their future career. They will also learn about career options, post baccalaureate educational options, and meet with sociology alumnae with established careers in various fields. H/S/U grade.

**SOC 203 Social Problems (3)**

This course focuses on some of the phenomena which have been identified as social problems in the United States. Among the issues discussed are poverty, gender and racial stratification, hyper-consumerism, changing family structures, inequality in the educational system, health care issues, the work environment, drug abuse, and crime. Particular attention will be given to the role of the social structure in the creation and perpetuation of social problems, and how social problems are interrelated.

**SOC 220 Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies (3)**

This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) studies. The course will investigate the academic foundations of LGBTQ studies and the emergence and transformation of LGBTQ identities, cultural practices, political movements, and the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and class have shaped same-sex sexuality in different historical periods, with an emphasis on the United States. (Cross-listed with GWS 220)

**SOC 222 Contested Masculinities (3)**

This course is an introduction to various forms of masculinity, how masculinities are constructed and performed by individuals, and how individual performativities create larger social and cultural understandings of masculinity in specific historical, social, and cultural settings.

**SOC 255 Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States (3)**

The course examines the life experiences and perspectives of various racial and ethnic subcultures in the U.S. Both structural and cultural barriers that lead to unequal access and opportunities for racial and ethnic groups of color will be explored. Race relations as socially constructed by both historical and current cultural and political forces will be analyzed and critiqued. Topics ranging from affirmative action to immigration and assimilation to "white privilege" are an integral part of the course.

**SOC 257 Sociology of Families (3)**

This course will examine family life through the lens of the sociological perspective. Students will study topics such as family roles, mate selection, marriage, and divorce. Contemporary issues facing families such as balancing work and family, parenting, aging, and abuse will be explored. Additionally, students will examine how families are shaped by economics, politics, and culture. Finally, students will consider how families reflect inequalities of gender, sexuality, race, and class.

**SOC 273 Introduction to Crime and Society (3)**

As an introduction to the topic of criminology, this course examines crime as a social problem within American society. Particular attention is given to the nature and function of law in society, theoretical perspectives on crime, victimology, sources of crime data, the social meaning of criminological data, and the various societal responses to crime. These topics are addressed through specialized readings, discussion, and analysis.

**SOC 306 Consumer Society (3)**

This course covers readings by both classic and contemporary sociologists and other social critics who have analyzed consumer society. The goal is to deepen the students' critical analyses of the reasons for and impacts of consumerism on a personal, societal, cultural, and global level. Additionally, students will learn about the strategies to resist consumerism and how social activists are working to reconceptualize the ways in which Americans shop, produce and buy food, use energy and transportation, and view mass media. Prerequisites: SOC 153, and a 200 level SOC course.

**SOC 319 Social Theories (3)**

This course focuses on various theoretical perspectives offered by classical and contemporary social theorists. Covering the period from classical European social thought of the late 1800s to contemporary theory, students will acquire a fundamental understanding of social theory. By focusing on how differences in socioeconomic background, race, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, shape the types of theories one develops about society, students will have a greater appreciation of the diversity of social theory in conceptualizing society(ies) and culture(s). Prerequisites: 9 hours in SOC or permission of the instructor.

**SOC 320 Social Inequalities in Education (3)**

The social processes of education and schooling as an agent of socialization will be examined and critiqued. Both the structural and cultural barriers that lead to unequal access and opportunities for various subcultures in schools will be explored and analyzed. Additionally, the course will focus on the social forces and cultural context of higher education, and colleges and universities as social institutions. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or 200 level SOC course.

**SOC 330 Gender and Law (3)**

The goal of this course is to explore the intersection of gender and the construction, application, and outcomes of laws and policies (both civil and criminal) in our society, including a historical and prospective application of the sociological perspective on gendered legal systems. Prerequisites: SOC 153 and either a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

**SOC 340 Juvenile Delinquency (3)**

This course provides an examination of the changing definitions of deviance and then applies those definitions to children and adolescents. Different models of dealing with juvenile delinquency are also examined in the context of differing definition and culturally variant power distributions. Prerequisites: SOC 153, and a 200 level SOC course.

**SOC 345 Sociology of Poverty (3)**

Poverty is a significant social problem in our world today. Students will be introduced to the leading debates within the sociology of poverty. In this course, we will consider the measurement of poverty, competing explanations for poverty, and possible solutions to poverty. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200-level SOC course.

**SOC 350 Global and Diverse Childhoods (3)**

This course explores the sociology of childhood with an emphasis on globalization. The social construction of children and childhood will be examined. Topics considered include the globalization of childhood, historical constructions of childhood, sociological approaches to childhood, class, race and gender diversity, and contemporary issues such as child poverty, child labor, and children's rights. Prerequisites: a 100 or 200 level Sociology course or Permission of the Instructor.

**SOC 360 Social Stratification: Class, Gender, Race (3)**

This course will identify and investigate the following topics: general principles of stratification, theoretical explanations by which inequality emerges and is maintained, the relationship between class and other forms of inequality in the United States especially gender, race, and social hierarchy changes over time. Particular attention is given to the role of women in various socioeconomic locations. Prerequisites: SOC 153 and either a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

**SOC 371 Sociological Statistics Lab (1)**

Students will learn to create a dataset, work with secondary data, and use a computerized statistical package such as SPSS to analyze data. Pre- or corequisite: SOC 372.

**SOC 372 Sociological Statistics (3)**

Statistics deals with the quantitative methods used for measurement and description of social variables, building up to the analysis of associations between variables. The place of statistics in research and theory testing is emphasized. Prerequisite: Completion of Sophia LO1: Mathematical Arts or permission of the instructor.

**SOC 374 Police, Courts, & Corrections (3)**

Police, Courts, and Corrections are the three major components of the criminal legal system. This course will focus on the criminal justice process and how the various components of criminal justice interact with one another, and specifically examine their inter-dependent relationship. We will look at historic and current institutional practices, policies, and legal issues as they pertain to policing, courts, and corrections. As a sociology course, special attention will be paid to relationships between race, gender, class, age, gender identity, ability (and more) within the criminal justice system and the unique challenges that present when these social categories interact. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC

**SOC 375 Comparative Criminology (3)**

This course takes a topical-approach to the comparison of the United States criminal justice system and a number of selected criminal justice systems from around the world. Questions regarding the underlying approach to justice in various countries are considered. Special attention is paid to crime as both a social and individual phenomenon and to both the social and legal reactions to crime in selected parts of the world. Prerequisite: SOC 273.

**SOC 382 Sociology of Popular Culture (3)**

This course examines contemporary theories about popular culture. Particular attention is given to the symbiotic relationship between popular culture and political economy, and to the impact of American popular culture on both American society and on the emerging global culture. Prerequisites: SOC 153, and a 200 level SOC course.

**SOC 384 Sociological Research Methods (3)**

The course is designed as an analysis of the process of social research, in terms of problem definition, research design, data sources, and methods of data analysis. Specifically, students are exposed to several types of research methods: survey, content analysis, field research, and historical comparative research. In addition, students will be developing their own research projects. Pre or corequisites: 9 hours in SOC or permission of the instructor.

**SOC 390 Special Topics in Sociology (1-3)**

A seminar focusing upon a topic of special interest in Sociology/ Criminology not covered in the regular department offerings. May be repeated with different topic. Prerequisite: SOC 153 or another 200 level SOC course or permission of the instructor.

**SOC 485 Research Tutorial (1-3)**

The research tutorial program is designed to permit students to learn various aspects of research by working with a faculty member on his/her current research. Projects will entail exposure to a variety of research forms and procedures. All participants must have a 3.0 average, a minimum of 12 hours completed in the department, and must have been selected by a faculty member. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of six credit hours, only three of which apply to the hours required for a major in the department. Graded S/U. Prerequisites: 12 hours in SOC, junior or senior status and permission of both the instructor and the department chair.

**SOC 495 Senior Seminar (3)**

As the capstone course for Sociology majors, this seminar requires students to build upon previous work in sociology, especially its central themes, theoretical perspectives, research methods, and substantive findings by conducting an original project to fulfill the requirement for the senior comprehensive. The project can be an original research study, or a theoretical analysis. A major paper is completed and presentation/ defense of the work occurs at the end of the term. Prerequisites: SOC 319 and SOC 384 or permission of both the instructor and the department chair.

**SOC 497 Advanced Independent Study in Sociology (1-3)**

Independent readings and seminar discussions in selected areas of interest. Readings are generally intended as a supplement or complement to regular course offerings. This course is not intended as a substitute for an existing course. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of six credit hours. Only six credits of independent study (including 297) may be earned in the department. Prerequisite: 12 hours in SOC, junior or senior status, and permission of the instructor and the department chair.

**SOC 499 Sociology Internship (1-6)**

A service learning experience in an approved sociological setting under professional supervision. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: 12 hours in SOC. May be repeated.

## Four Year Plans for Sociology Programs

- Sociology Major (p. 3) - Inequality and Society (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/programs/sociology-criminology/sociology-bachelor-arts/>)
- Sociology - Criminology Concentration (p. 4)

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### Major: Sociology, Inequality and Society (<https://catalog.saintmarys.edu/undergraduate/programs/sociology-criminology/sociology-bachelor-arts/>) Concentration

The following is a sample 4-year plan that includes your Sophia program courses and Sociology, Inequality and Society Concentration major only. You should expect to take 15-18 credits a semester. Other courses may be free electives, a second major, or a minor. Please contact the Sociology and Criminology Department Chair for individualized advising.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
	Sophia Language I (4cr)	
	CTS or W (3cr/4cr)	
	SPLL 101 (1 cr)	
	Sophia (3cr)	

SOC 153 or SOC 203	Sociological Imaginations (LO1 Social Science II, LO3 Intercultural Competence A, and LO3 Social Responsibility A.) or Social Problems	3
Elective (1-3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Sophia Language II (4cr)		
CTS or W (3cr/4cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia Natural Science with Lab (4cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Category 1: Society 200-level course (3cr)		3
SOC 255	Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in the United States	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Ideal semester to study abroad		
SOC 180	Orientation to Sociology	1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Third Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
SOC 372	Sociological Statistics	3
SOC 371	Sociological Statistics Lab	1
Category 1: Society 300-level course (3cr)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
This semester will help prepare for Senior Comprehensive project completed during fall of senior year.		
SOC 319	Social Theories	3
SOC 384	Sociological Research Methods	3
Category 2: Inequality course (3cr)		3
Sophia (3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
SOC 495	Senior Seminar	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
SOC elective (3cr)		3
Category 2: Inequality course (3cr)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>35</b>

**Major: Sociology, Criminology Concentration**

The following is a sample 4-year plan that includes your Sophia program courses and Sociology major-Criminology Concentration only. You should expect to take 15-18 credits a semester. Other courses may be free electives, a second major, or a minor. Please contact the Sociology and Criminology Department Chair for individualized advising.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
Sophia Language I (4cr)		
CTS or W (3cr/4cr)		
SPLL 101 (1 cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Elective (1-3cr)		
SOC 273	Introduction to Crime and Society	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Sophia Language II (4cr)		
CTS or W (3cr/4cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
SOC 180	Orientation to Sociology	1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia Natural Science with Lab (4cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
Category 1: Inequality 200-level course (3cr)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
Spring, Sophomore Year/Study Abroad Recommended		
Sophia (3cr)		
Sophia (3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Third Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
SOC 372	Sociological Statistics	3
SOC 371	Sociological Statistics Lab	1
Category 1: Inequality 300-level course (3cr)		3
Sophia (3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
This semester will help prepare for Senior Comprehensive project completed during fall of senior year.		
Category 2: Criminology course (3cr)		3
SOC 319	Social Theories	3
SOC 384	Sociological Research Methods	3
Sophia (3cr)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

**Fourth Year****First Semester**

SOC 495	Senior Seminar	3
Category 2: Criminology course (3cr)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>

**Second Semester**

Category 2: Criminology course (3cr)		3
SOC free elective (3 cr)		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>35</b>