Course Offerings
Sociology & Family Studies

211. Principles of Sociology
Designed to introduce students to the sociological study of society. Sociology focuses on the systematic understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change. Understanding sociology helps discover and explain social patterns and how such patterns change over time. By making vivid the social basis of everyday life, sociology also develops critical thinking by revealing the social structures and processes that shape diverse forms of human life.

213. Social Change for Social Problems
Sociologists hold a passion to make the world a better place. This passion is combined with the use of the scientific approach to understand and explain social phenomena. The results of scientific investigation can be used to suggest social policies that can mitigate the negative consequences of problems that inevitably plague all human societies. We will discuss suggestions for policy designed to mitigate the negative consequences of social problems.

214. Social Statistics
An introduction to statistics common in social science research. Topics include descriptive and inferential statistics, hypothesis testing, significance, correlation, analysis of variance, and multiple regression. Emphasis is on application and effectively using a common statistical program (PASW/SPSS).

215. Nutrition Across the Lifespan
Nutritional needs of individuals as they progress through the life cycle from prenatal through aging, with consideration of comorbid problems.

220. Introduction to Studying Families
This course is designed to provide an interdisciplinary introduction to issues pertaining to contemporary families. The course provides an engaging contemporary look at family studies’ theories, methods, essential topics, and career opportunities. Concepts are brought to life through striking examples from everyday family life.

225. Relationships, Marriage and Families
An investigation of the sociocultural and historical factors influencing relationships, marriage and families emphasizing challenges, prevention and intervention.

300. Sport Sociology
Application of sociological principles to sport and athletics. Exploration of sport as a social institution in American society and how it is an agent of social change.

309. Human Rights and Social Justice
This course discusses human rights and social justice perspectives and how they intersect with Christian values, ethics, and practice in local and global contexts. Students engage in critical self-awareness and apply an integrated Christian framework for use with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities that advance human rights and social and economic justice.

310. Social and Economic Justice (Reciprocal credit: SW 310)
Dynamics and consequences of injustice including oppression, poverty and discrimination with particular attention to biblical and theological teachings about justice. Strategies to alleviate poverty and for intervention in all forms of human oppression and discrimination will be examined to provide students with skill to promote change and advance the causes of social and economic justice.

317. Urban Structure and Process
An exploration and analysis of social forces that structure human community. An overview of the process of urbanization in America, and the various ways in which rural and urban community life are organized into diverse social patterns.

319. Sociology of Religion
A sociological analysis of religious practice and belief. The intersection of religion with personal, family and social life is emphasized. Cults, sects, fundamentalism and radicalism are all examined in this context.

321. Social Gerontology
A brief, comprehensive introduction to the subject of aging. The social and sociopsychological aspects will be examined.

322. Medical Sociology
A sociological examination of health, illness, and the social organization of medical care in the US. Consideration is given to race, class, gender, and age as factors influencing health, illness, and the delivery of medical care.

324. Social Deviance
Focuses on why certain individuals violate social norms and the ways society responds and attempts to control deviant behavior. Topics include: defining, measuring and explaining social deviance and types of deviant behavior as well as personal and social consequences of deviant behavior.

325. Families Across Cultures
The family as an object of sociological inquiry within the context of cross-cultural, multi-cultural and historical bases. Continuity and change, similarities and differences are emphasized.

331. Hospitalized Child
A study focused on the development status and needs of medically involved children and their families with an emphasis on the professional preparation for a medically – related career in Child Life. Students will use critical thinking skills to complete all assignments; should be committed to attending an off-campus site tour at a children’s hospital; and learn how the implementation of a Christian world view can affect and influence the professional relationships made with families, patients, and coworkers.

333. Parent-Child Relations
Social and historical context of parent-child interaction over the life course; analysis of theories, research and educational programs; socialization into the family; examination of parenting as a developmental process. Overview of the parenting process in diverse cultural and familial structures. Emphasizes the use of Biblical teaching in parent-child relations.

355. Cultural Anthropology
A study of humanity, biologically and culturally, including its origins, changes, and present-day manifestations utilizing a cross-cultural approach. Topics: language, food gathering, kinship, social stratifications; economic, political, religious structures.

370. Gender and Sexuality
Gender and sexuality in American society and cross-culturally with consideration to the role of gender in structuring identity, male/female interaction, and constraining or expanding opportunities. Topics: Sexual development, function and dysfunction, cultural and sociopsychological issues, and Christian, ethical, and moral responses.

411. Internship
A field situation in a community agency. Supervision will be provided by the agency and department. A journal and substantive term paper are required.

413. Globalization
This course addresses contemporary social, economic, and political changes referred to as globalization. What is globalization and what is its history? Does economic globalization lead to development or only to new ways of
concentrating wealth in the hands of the few? These questions suggest the overarching themes of the course, which include the institutional structures of globalization, how those institutional structures shape power and inequality, and the question of scale, or how institutional structures translate power and inequality from the global to the local and back, and, finally, possible alternatives to globalization. How does globalization affect God’s global work?

417. The History of Social Thought
Examine the major social theories that have engaged social theorists from the mid-twentieth century onward. The course also investigates the historical, sociological, intellectual, and biographical contexts within which contemporary social theories have developed and the extent to which they inform current sociological research and thinking.

418. Social Psychology (Reciprocal credit: PSY 418)
Factors which underlie the development of social behavior, social aspects of personality development and interaction between the individual and groups.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality
A study of the social, cultural, historical, political-economic, and psychological dimensions of minority-majority group relations with an emphasis on American society. Problems and intervention strategies will be examined.

420. Death and Dying
An interdisciplinary investigation of death and dying exploring contributions from anthropology, ethics, health sciences, history, literature, psychology, religion, and sociology. Strategies of counseling with dying persons and their families will be central.

422. Research Methods
Research design, applied techniques, and data analysis methods with emphasis on a research project, from problem formulation to research report.

425. Strengthening Marriage and Family
Family theories from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, assumptions, concepts, and applications for strengthening relationships. Emphasizes using Biblical principles to strengthen marriage and families.

426. Family Policy and Advocacy
Exploration of the reciprocal influences between children and families and all branches of government, including public/private sectors at local, state, and federal levels. Emphasis is placed on models, skills, and approaches necessary to advocate for and influence policy.

430. Theoretical Frameworks for Studying Families
Family theories is a survey course that examines the interdisciplinary study of families. The course content is organized into three sections: a) theories, ideologies and definitions of families, b) applications of family theories in practice, family programs, and policies, and c) how to apply these theories in a Christian family setting. This course will examine “what is theorizing in family studies?”

435. Contemporary Issues in the Family
An in-depth look at the family, life issues, threats and challenges today. Biblical principles related to such issues as parent-child relationships, work and family, divorce and family violence are discussed. Preventive techniques and solutions are considered.

498. Senior Capstone Seminar
The culminating experience for Sociology majors requiring students to successfully demonstrate an ability to apply research methods and sociological theories to an empirical research problem/question of their own choosing. The application will take the form of a written paper and a presentation in a public format.

INTERDISCIPLINARY FAMILY STUDIES COURSES

CHR 243. Introduction to Christian Ethics
An introduction to Christian ethics, focusing on methodology with a survey and comparison of philosophical, secular, and theistic perspectives on the moral life, then moves on to develop a comprehensive ethical approach.

CHR 271. Youth Ministry Strategies
A study of youth ministry focusing on the various approaches, methods, and strategies with practical applications for programming, goals and desired outcomes.

COM 235. Interpersonal Communication
Identify communication problems in interpersonal relationships including ethical communication, self-disclosure, perception, interviewing, conflict management, verbal and nonverbal communication. The student will exhibit competent language skills through oral reports, working in dyads and small groups, and class simulations.

ECO 400. Personal Financial Management
Introduction to personal finance from a Christian perspective. Principal topics include giving, taxes, investing, insurance, buying a house, vehicles, credit, debt, and budgeting.

PSY 219. Developmental Psychology
Human development from the prenatal stage through older adulthood. Emphasis: emotional, social, physical, motor, and psychological development of the individual.

PSY 324. Child Growth and Development
Physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth of children from prenatal through adolescence. Emphasis on major theories of development, their significance and issues for teachers and other professionals who work with children.

PSY 425. Introduction to Counseling
An introduction to the field of counseling. Various approaches will be studied, as well as job opportunities and the history of the counseling relationship itself. Supervised practice is a part of the course requirements.

SE 230. Learning in Diverse Classrooms
Students will explore special education legislation regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and the effect on our educational system and society. The types of exceptionalities and the physical, mental, emotional, and social traits of individuals with disabilities will be explored as well as effective strategies for meeting their needs.

SW 305. Psychopathology
A study of mental health in light of dynamic ethnocultural, spiritual, and bio-psycho-social factors impacting client systems and how this knowledge is integrated into practice paradigms.

SW 307. Faith Based Social Services
An exploration of the biblical and theological basis for faith-based social services, various models, and recent related government initiatives and policies.