

Department of Sociology and Social Work

School of Education and Human Studies

Faculty

Naomi Larsen (1996). Assistant Professor of Sociology and Department Chair. B.A. and M.A., Mankato State University; Ph.D., Iowa State University.

Antonio A. Chiareli (1997). Assistant Professor of Sociology. B.A., Macalester College; M.A., and Ph.D., Northwestern University.

Mary Anne Poe (1996). Assistant Professor of Social Work and Social Work Program Director. B.A., Vanderbilt University; M.S.S.W., University of Louisville; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, A.C.S.W. Certification.

Roslyn Wilson (1995). Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Work Field Director. B.S., Tennessee State University; M.S.S.W., University of Tennessee.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sociology and Social Work department is to educate students in various aspects of human society and human relationships from a Christian perspective. The Sociology and Social Work department will continue to strive for academic excellence in our students and ourselves, to be future directed, focused on the needs of our students, and to center our plans and dreams around Christ.

Sociology

The courses in Sociology are designed for two types of students: (1) those who desire pre-professional training for sociology or other related fields of human relations, and (2) those who seek to understand underlying principles in human relations, the role of custom and group psychology in collective behavior, the structure of society, the problems of group living, and the tendencies toward the improvement or the disintegration of society. Courses are designed to present both a practical and a scientific analysis of human relationships in the various areas of social life.

Family Studies

The family, as a basic building block of society, is critical to the functioning of both the church and society as a whole. The contribution of the Christian community to the development of leaders in family relations is crucial. The program equips graduates for occupations in fields requiring a human relations background including family life education, community education programs, juvenile probation, and hospital children's programs and prepares graduates for graduate study.

I. Sociology major—30 semester hours

- A. SOC 211, 417, 422
- B. Fifteen hours must be junior and senior level.

II. Family Studies major—33 hours

- A. Prerequisites: application to the program and successful completion of SOC 211, PSY 213, SW 200.
- B. SOC 313, 422, 425, 435; PSY 219
- C. Select 18 hours from 3 different areas:
 - 1. SOC 321, 370, 400, 420, 411

2. SW 310
 3. PSY 313, 324, 418
 4. PEWS 113, 301, 325
 5. ECF 215
 6. CHR 244
- D. Optional experience: a semester of study at Focus on the Family Institute may substitute for one or more courses above. See the department chair for details.

III. Sociology minor — 21 semester hours

- A. SOC 211, 417
- B. Six upper-level hours

IV. Human Studies minor — 21 semester hours

- A. Courses chosen from Education, Psychology, Special Education, and Sociology
- B. Include two of the following: PSY 213, SOC 211, SE 225.
- C. At least 9 hours must be taken from courses numbered 300 or above.

V. Family Studies minor—21 hours

- A. SOC 313, 425
- B. 15 semester hours from 2 different areas shown in II. C. of the major.

Student Organizations

Pi Gamma Mu, Tennessee Kappa Chapter, is a national social science honor society which seeks to improve scholarship in social studies; to inspire social service to humanity by an intelligent approach to the solution of social problems; and to engender sympathy towards others with different opinions and institutions. Students who have completed twenty semester hours of social science with a “B” average or above are eligible for election to membership.

Student Awards

The **Academic Excellence Medal** is awarded to the graduating senior with the highest average in the major provided the average is not less than 3.5. Before Awards Day, the student must have completed at least 15 credit hours in the major at Union University, exclusive of pass/fail courses. If no major is eligible, the medal will be given to the minor meeting the minimum requirements.

The **Pi Gamma Mu Scholarship Medal** is presented to the graduating member of the society with the highest academic average.

Course Offerings in Sociology (SOC)

()-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

211. Principles of Sociology (3) F, W, S, Su

An introduction to the scientific study of human behavior in group settings.

213. Social Problems (3) S

A practical introduction to some of the specific contemporary social issues such as crime, domestic violence, and alcohol and drug addiction.

300. Sport Sociology (3) S—Even Years

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. Reciprocal with PEWS.

****310. Social and Economic Justice (3) S**

See SW 310 for course description.

****313. The Family (3) F, S, Su**

An investigation of the background, trends, and problems of marriage and family life. Prerequisite: SOC 211.

****316. Criminology (3) S**

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A study of the sources of crime and delinquency, theories of punishment, treatment of crime, etc.

317. Sociology of Community (3) F—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

An introduction to sociological theory and research on community life, both rural and urban. The emergence and transformation of communities will be examined through anthropological, ecological, economic, historical, and political analytic frameworks.

319. Sociology of Religion (3) S—Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A course designed primarily to analyze the secularization of religious practice and belief, as well as the interrelations between religion and other social institutions. Cults, sects, religious minority groups, fundamentalism, and radicalism will also be examined. American society will be the primary focus.

****321. Social Gerontology (3) F**

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A brief, comprehensive introduction to the subject of aging. The social and socio-psychological aspects will be examined.

355. Cultural Anthropology (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A study of humanity, both biologically and culturally, including its origins, changes, and present-day manifestations utilizing a cross-cultural approach. Major areas to be examined include language, food gathering, kinship, economic structures, social stratifications, political structures, religious structures, and culture change.

****370. Gender and Society (3) S**

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

An exploration of gender as defined in American society and cross-culturally and the impact of these definitions on the lives of men and women. Consideration is given to the role of gender in structuring identity, male and female interaction and constraining or expanding opportunities.

****400. Families Across Cultures (3) F**

This course examines the family as an object of sociological inquiry within the context of cross-cultural, multi-cultural and historical bases. Both continuity and change, similarities and differences are emphasized.

411. Internship (3) F, W, S, Su

Prerequisites: SOC 417, 422, 15 additional hours in SOC and prior departmental approval.

A specified time in a field situation in a community agency, public or private. Supervision will be provided by both the agency and this department. A journal and research paper are required.

417. The History of Social Thought (3) F

Prerequisite: 9 hours of SOC including SOC 211.

The origin and development of social thought with an emphasis on contemporary social theory.

***418. Social Psychology (3) F**

See PSY 418 for course description.

****419. Minorities (3) F, S**

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A study of the social, cultural, historical, political-economic, and psychological dimensions of minority-majority group relations in American society. Problems and intervention strategies will be examined.

****420. Death and Dying (3) S—Even Years**

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

An interdisciplinary investigation of death and dying. Contributions from anthropology, ethics, health sciences, history, literature, psychology, religion, and sociology will be explored. Self-discovery through critical analysis of the student's assumptions, orientations, and predispositions will be emphasized. Strategies of counseling with dying persons and their families will be a central thrust of the course.

421. Social Stratification (3) F—Odd Years

Prerequisite: Six hours of SOC including SOC 211.

A study of the systems of inequality in the distribution of reward structures (power, status, prestige) existing in all societies.

422. Research Methods (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211 and six additional hours in sociology.

A study of basic sociological research design, applied techniques, and data analysis methods. Special emphasis will be placed on instructing the student in how a complete research project, from problem formulation to research report, is carried out.

425. Family Theories (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 313.

An examination of the broad scope of family theory from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, basic assumptions, core concepts, empirical applications and implications for families.

***435. Contemporary Issues in the Family (3) S**

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 313.

An in-depth look at the family, life issues, threats and challenges facing the family 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.

*Reciprocal credit in PSY.

**Reciprocal credit in SW.

Social Work

Mission Statement

The Social Work Program seeks to prepare students for entry level generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The program emphasizes the importance of a solid liberal arts foundation and of Christian and social work values that promote social and economic justice and an understanding and appreciation for human diversity.

A student majoring in Social Work will receive the Bachelor of Social Work degree. The student must take the General Core requirements and B.S.W. specific requirements as outlined below:

General Core Requirements: (44 hours)

CLU 111, 112; ENG 111, 112, 201, 202; ART 210; HIS 101, 102; Science Group A; BIO 121; MAT 114; PEWS 100, PEWS Activity; CHR 111, 112; PSY 213.

B.S.W. Specific Requirements: (21 hours)

CSC 105, SOC 211, PSC 211, PSY 317, SW 421 or SOC 422, and 6 hours Modern Foreign Language

Social Work Major—45 hours

- I. SW 200 and 201
- II. SW 300, 301, 310, 335, 400
- III. SW 315, 401, 402, 490, 423
- IV. SW Elective—3 hours

Admission Requirements to the Social Work Program

A student may make application for entry into the Social Work program during the Spring semester of his/her sophomore year. The following are requirements for admission:

- Complete an application form.
- Two faculty references, one personal reference.
- Have at least 2.25 minimum GPA in all college courses, with at least a “C” in the following courses: ENG 111, 112; BIO 121; PSC 211; SOC 211; PSY 213; CSC 105; MAT 114; SW 310.
- Complete SW 200 and SW 201 with at least a grade of “B.” These two courses may be taken in the first semester after admission to the program, though it is advisable to complete these two courses prior to admission to the program.
- Pass all courses listed as General Core and B.S.W. specific core. It is advisable that students complete all core requirements prior to admission to the program.
- Complete an interview with the Social Work Program Admissions Committee. Knowingly making a false oral or written statement during the admission process can result in denial of admission to the program. The Social Work Program Admissions Committee may require outside evaluations, assessments, and/or opinions of professionals as is deemed necessary.
- Possess the following personal qualities: Self-awareness, empathy, objectivity, appreciation of diversity, professional commitment, and a liberal arts base of knowledge.
- Sign a statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from CSWE accredited social work programs will be able to transfer credit for Social Work classes as approved by the Registrar of the university and the Social Work faculty. Students transferring from non-accredited social work programs will be evaluated individually. The course syllabus, course objectives, outline, learning activities, theoretical frameworks, and bibliographies for the course will be evaluated by Social Work faculty for acceptable comparison to the courses in this program. A recommendation regarding transfer of those credit hours will then be made to the Registrar's office. Field Practicum courses may not be transferred from an unaccredited program. Academic credit for life or work experience will not be awarded.

Progression in the Social Work Program

- After being approved for admission to the Social Work Program, the student will enroll in Social Work classes according to the prescribed sequence.
- Students must complete a minimum of 424 clock hours in an approved social service agency during the Spring semester of their senior year, after successful completion of the required prerequisite courses and completing an application for Field Practicum. Students take SW 423 with the Field Practicum and no other courses. Social Work Field Practicum must be completed with a passing grade and at least a "B" earned in Senior Seminar in order to be eligible for graduation.
- Graduation requirements follow the guidelines of Union University.
- Termination/Probation Process: A student may be placed on probation or terminated from Union University's Social Work Program if, in the professional judgment of the Social Work faculty, violations of professional and/or ethical codes have occurred. Any decision regarding probation/termination will be made by consensus of the entire full-time Social Work faculty and will follow the process outlined in the Social Work Program Manual for Students. An appeals process and a grievance procedure that complies with the University's grievance procedure is also detailed in the Program Manual.

Insurance

A student who is completing his or her Community Social Service Experience or Social Work Field Practicum will be required to purchase Professional Liability Insurance. A fee of \$25.00 per year will be charged to the student's account during the semester in which he/she is registered for either of these two courses.

Student Organizations

The **Student Association of Social Workers (SASW)** is for students majoring in social work and for those interested in social work. The organization assists in developing professional social work identity and provides an opportunity to be involved in volunteer community social service. Social service opportunities include child mentoring and advocacy, nursing home activities, community organizing, and resource development. The organization gives students regular opportunity to interact with others having similar interests.

Phi Alpha, National Honor Society for Social Work Students, Eta Phi Chapter, fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Social

Work majors with an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.4 in social work courses are invited to become members. Students become eligible for membership at the end of their Junior year in the Social Work Program.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medals. This award is given to the graduating major who has the highest academic average in the discipline, provided the average in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed (as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail). If there is no eligible major, the medal will be given to the minor with the highest average if the above qualifications are met.

Course Offerings in Social Work (SW)

()-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

200. Introduction to Social Work (3) F, S

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENG 112.

The profession of social work and the institution of social welfare will be surveyed in terms of their evolution in America. Emphasis will be on social work knowledge base and values, the professional education needed, practice methods, the variety of social services available, and occupational settings of the social work profession.

201. Community Social Service Experience (3) F

Pre/Corequisite: SW 200.

An opportunity for the beginning social work major to be exposed to the principles of social work within a community social service agency, approved by the department. A minimum of 4 clock hours a week, for a total of 40 minimum clock hours for the semester, is to be spent in the agency setting. Participation in a seminar class, where experiences will be processed and material addressed on how to become a helper, is required. An evaluation will be completed by the agency supervisor on the student at the end of the semester. Students are required to purchase professional liability insurance when taking this course. Pass/Fail.

300. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission.

An exploration of the theories and knowledge of human bio-psycho-social-spiritual-cultural development from birth through young adulthood in the context of the range of social systems in which individuals live: families, groups, organizations, and communities. The impact of social and economic forces on human development will be explored with special attention to evaluating theory and its application to issues of human diversity.

301. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3) S

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SOC 300.

This course continues to make use of the people-in-systems theoretical orientation and related concepts as human development and diversity are studied from adulthood to old age.

@310. Social and Economic Justice (3) S

Prerequisite: CHR 111 or 112.

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.

@313. The Family (3) F, S, Su

See SOC 313 for course description.

315. Social Work Practice I (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission. Corequisite: SW 300.

Various processes, skills and the theoretical practice framework utilized in generalist social work practice will be examined. Beginning skills in assessment, interviewing and problem-solving for working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities will be introduced within the context of social work values, knowledge and with appreciation for human diversity.

@316. Criminology (3) S

See SOC 316 for course description.

@321. Social Gerontology (3) F

See SOC 321 for course description.

335. Social Policy (3) S

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission. Corequisite: SW 300.

Social welfare policy, both historically and currently, focusing on its major elements and basic structure, as well as providing a basis for evaluation of social welfare policies, programs, and services.

@370. Gender and Society (3) S

See SOC 370 for course description.

400. Populations-at-Risk (3) F

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SW 301, 310, 335 and 401.

Patterns, dynamics, and consequences of discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression will be presented. The curriculum includes content on people of color, gay and lesbian persons, those distinguished by age, ethnicity, culture, class, and physical and mental ability. Course content includes strategies for micro, mezzo, and macro interventions designed to empower these groups and individuals.

401. Social Work Practice II (3) S

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission, SW 315, 421; PSY 317.

A continuation of SW 315 with further development of skills for working with individuals, families and groups using various approaches.

402. Social Work Practice III (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission and SW 335, 401

The last of the practice sequence continues to use the theoretical framework introduced in SW 315 and 401. Practice methods for work with organizations and communities will be explored. Knowledge, values and skills for building professional relationships and working to enhance human well-being by organizational and community development through assessment, problem-solving and advocacy strategies will be examined.

@405. Families Across Cultures (3) F

See SOC 400 for course description.

@419. Minorities (3) F, S

See SOC 419 for course description.

@420. Death and Dying (3) S—Even Years

See SOC 420 for course description.

421. Research Methods in Social Work (3) S

Prerequisites: MAT 114.

An introduction to the basic research methods and techniques of social research as applied to the social problems and human situations that a generalist social worker will encounter. Emphasis will be placed on problem formulation, development of research design, instrument construction, data collection and analysis, and report writing.

423. Senior Seminar in Social Work Practice (3) S

Prerequisites: Admission to SW Field Practicum.

This course is designed to aid graduating seniors in the integration of course work and field practice. Students will review various social work processes, including ecological systems theory, contact and contract phases of social work intervention, social work values and ethics, and interventive roles and methods. Class presentations and a case study paper are required. Field Practicum experiences will be processed as they relate to classroom content.

490. Social Work Field Practicum (9) S

Prerequisites: Admission to the Field Practicum. Co-Requisite: SW 423.

This course is a professional field experience in a faculty-approved community agency; public or private, with supervision by an on-site field instructor, also approved by the department. Students must meet with the designated field instructor for one hour per week in a face-to-face supervisory conference to discuss cases and student progress in the field placement. The student will complete a minimum of 424 clock hours in the agency. These hours will be documented on a weekly time sheet. A weekly journal is also required. The application for field placement must be submitted for approval of the Social Work Field Director no later than mid-term of the Fall semester preceding the Spring semester that this course will be taken. Pass/Fail. Students taking this course must purchase Professional Liability Insurance.

Available in each departmental prefix:

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member.

498-9. Seminar (1-3) F On Demand

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.

@Reciprocal credit in Sociology.