

Department of Sociology and Social Work

School of Education and Human Studies

Faculty

Naomi Larsen (1996). Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair. B.A. and M.A., Mankato State University; Ph.D., Iowa State University; Certified Family Life Educator.

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 Department offers three majors in Sociology, Family Studies, and Social Work; and three minors in Sociology, Human Studies, and Family Studies.

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.

I. Sociology major—30 semester hours

- A. SOC 211, 417, 422
- B. Twenty-one SOC hours 15 of which must be junior and senior level

II. Sociology minor — 21 semester hours

- A. SOC 211, 417
- B. Fifteen SOC hours, 6 of which must be upper-level

III. 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. Fifteen hours, 9 of which must be upper-level.

Family Studies

The family, as a basic building block of society, is critical to the functioning of society as a whole. The contribution of the Christian community to the development of leaders in family relations is crucial. The Family Studies major focuses on the development of the individual in the context of family and society. The program is designed to prepare students for (a) professional careers in a variety of human service areas; (b) leadership roles in church, school, and community; (c) personal roles in family living; and (d) graduate education.

The family studies curriculum covers the family life cycle, human development from infancy to old age, family relational dynamics, the family relationships with the other social systems. In addition, courses in methods of social research and an internship provide students with knowledge and skills necessary to either continue their study in graduate school or seek employment immediately following graduation.

Students graduating with a major in family studies who do not go on to graduate school typically seek employment as youth services workers, program directors, family life educators, and child life specialists, in public and private agencies dealing with family issues.

I. Family Studies major—42 hours

- A. Prerequisites: SOC 211, PSY 213, SW 200.
- B. SOC 313, 319, 333, 370, 400, 422, 425
- C. CHR 244, COM 235, ECF 415, PSY 219
- D. Select 9 hours from 2 different areas:
 - 1. SOC 310, 321, 411, 420
 - 2. PSY 313, 324, 418, 425, 435
 - 3. PEWS 113, 301, 325
- E. 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.

II. 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.

Sociologists in Motion involves Sociology majors and minors in a University organization offering opportunities for fellowship, sociological networking, and to guide individuals in the field of Sociology; to open the field of Sociology to prospective students; and to demonstrate Christian love through ministry opportunities.

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—Odd Years

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

Reciprocal credit: PEWS 300.

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.

310. Social and Economic Justice (3) S

Prerequisites: CHR 111 and 112. Reciprocal credit: SW 310.

See SW 310 for course description.

313. Relationships, Marriage and Families (3) F, S, Su

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 313.

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

316. Criminology (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 316.

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

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

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 (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 321.

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

333. Parent-Child Relations (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

Social and historical context of parent-child interaction over the life course; analysis of theories, research and educational programs related to parent-child interactions; socialization into the family; examination of parenting as a developmental process. Overview of the parenting process in diverse cultural and familial structures. Current issues in child rearing.

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. Reciprocal credit: SW 370.

Analysis of gender and human sexuality in American society and cross-culture with consideration to the role of gender in structuring identity, male and female interaction, and constraining or expanding opportunities. Sexual development, function and dysfunction, and cultural and socio-psychological issues are examined. Christian, ethical and moral responses regarding gender and sexual issues are emphasized.

400. Families Across Cultures (3) F

Reciprocal credit: SW 400.

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 SOC hours 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

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and PSY 213. Reciprocal credit: PSY 418.

See PSY 418 for course description.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) F, S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 419.

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 (3) S—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 420.

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: MAT 114, SOC 211 and six additional hours in SOC.

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. Strengthening Marriage and Families (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 313.

An examination of the broad scope of family theories and models from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, basic assumptions, core concepts, and applications for strengthening interpersonal and family relationships. Emphasizes premarital and family life education, marriage and family enrichment.

435. Contemporary Issues in the Family (3) S

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 313. Reciprocal credit: PSY 435.

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.