

Department of Sociology and Family Studies

College 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.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Department is to provide students with a broad background in the study of society and human relationships from a Christian perspective, to enable them to enter graduate programs or entry level positions in their respective discipline.

Curriculum

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—33 semester hours

A. SOC 211, 317, 417, 418, 419, 422

B. SOC Electives: 15 hours.

II. Sociology minor — 21 semester hours

A. SOC 211, 417

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

162 III. Human Studies minor — 21 semester hours

A. Include two of the following: PSY 213, SOC 211, SE 225.

B. Fifteen hours, 9 of which must be upper-level, from EDU, PSY, SE, SOC, SW.

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, and interconnections with 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 the major who do not pursue graduate school seek employment as youth services workers, program directors, family life educators, and child life specialists, in public and private agencies dealing with family issues.

Graduates with the major meet all requirements for the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations. Graduates who do not pursue graduate study typically find employment as parent educators, child life specialists and program directors in public and private agencies.

I. Family Studies major—42 hours

A. Prerequisites: SOC 211, PSY 213, SW 200.

B. SOC 225, 325, 333, 370, 411, 422, 425; CHR 243; COM 235; ECF 415; PSY 219; SW 335

C. Select 6 total hours from 2 different areas:

1. SOC 310, 319, 321, 420

2. PSY 313, 324, 418, 425, 435

3. PEWS 113, 301

D. Optional experience: 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 225, 425

B. 15 semester hours from 2 different areas shown in I. B., C., D. of the major.

Assessment of Majors

Sociology majors round out their program with the two capstone courses: SOC 417 and 422. In 422 students engage in original social research that draws upon the theoretical knowledge acquired in 417. A major original research and oral presentation are the cumulative outcome of the major's program.

The capstone courses for Family Studies majors include SOC 425, 422 and 411. In 425 students acquire theoretical knowledge as well as practical applications. SOC 422 allows the student to engage in social research and 411 affords real life application of knowledge and research. In addition to an original research paper and oral presentation, majors test their ability in fieldwork.

Student Organizations

Pi Gamma Mu, national social science honor society, seeks to improve scholarship in social studies; to inspire 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 20 hours of social science with a "B" average or above are eligible for membership.

Sociologists in Motion offers Sociology, Family Studies and Human Studies majors/minors opportunities for fellowship, sociological networking, and to guide individuals in the field; to open the field of Sociology to prospective students; and to demonstrate Christian love through ministry opportunities.

Student Awards

The **Pi Gamma Mu Scholarship Leader Award** 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—Even Years

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

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

Reciprocal credit: SW 225.

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

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) F, W, S

Prerequisites: CHR 111 and 112. Reciprocal credit: SW 310. See SW 310 for description.

317. Community Life and Social Structure (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

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. Contains a service-learning component.

319. Sociology of Religion (3) F—Even Years

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.

324. Social Deviance (3) S—Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 324.

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 (3) F, S

Reciprocal credit: SW 325.

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.

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; 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—Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

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 (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 370.

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 socio-psychological issues, and Christian, ethical and moral responses.

411. Internship (3) F, S, Su

Prerequisites: 21 SOC hours including 417 or 425; 422; and departmental approval.

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

417. The History of Social Thought (3) F

Prerequisites: 6 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, PSY 213. Reciprocal credit: PSY 418. See PSY 418 for description.

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

Prerequisite: MAT 114; 6 additional hours in SOC including 211.

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

425. Strengthening Marriage and Families (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 225.

Family theories from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, assumptions, concepts, and applications for strengthening relationships. Emphasizes premarital and family life education, marriage and family enrichment.

435. Contemporary Issues in the Family (3) W

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 225. Reciprocal credit: PSY 435.

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.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

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

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

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

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) As Needed

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

497-8-9. Seminar (1-3) F As Needed

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