DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND FAMILY STUDIES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Faculty
Nina Heckler (2012). Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology. B.A., University of Central Florida, M.A., Baylor University, M.A., St. Mary’s University, Ph.D., University of Alabama.

Phil Davignon (2014). Assistant Professor of Sociology. B.A., Hillsdale College; M.A. and Ph.D., Baylor University.

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
I. Sociology major—36 semester hours
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.

A. Core required of all SOC majors—21 hours
   1. SOC 211, 213, 214, 370 or 417, 419, 422, 498 or 411

B. Concentration, select one:
   1. General Sociology—15 hours
      a. SOC 324, 435
   2. Globalization, Urbanization, and Justice—15 hours
      a. SOC 309, 413
      b. Select 9 hours from: PEWS 327, PSC 355, SW 310, or any SOC elective

II. Family Studies major—54 hours
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.

Graduates who do not pursue graduate study typically find employment as parent educators, child life specialists and program directors in public and private agencies.

A. Prerequisites: SOC 214, 220, PSY 213
B. SOC 215, 325, 333, 370, 425, 426, 430, 411 or 498
C. PSY 219 or 324, CHR 243, COM 235, ECO 400
D. Select 9 hours from Chosen Concentration:
   Child Life Concentration: SOC 332, SOC 420 or PSY 313, PEWS 170
   Family Ministry Concentration: SOC 319, SOC 321 or CHR 271, SW 307
   Marriage and Family Concentration: SW 305, PSY 425, SOC 435
E. No minor required.

IV. Family Studies minor—18 hours
A. SOC 220, 430, 435
B. Select 9 hours from: SOC 325, 332, 333, 370, 418, 425, 426

V. Sociology minor—18 semester hours
A. SOC 211, 213
B. Select 12 SOC electives (6 hours of which must be upper-level)

VI. Human Studies minor—21 semester hours
The interdisciplinary Human Studies minor is designed to give flexibility to the student interested in education and human studies.

A. Include two of the following: PSY 213, SOC 211, SE 230.
B. Fifteen hours, 9 of which must be upper-level, from EDU, PSY, SE, SOC, SW.

Assessment of Majors
Both Sociology and Family Studies students have the option to round out their program with either SOC 498: Senior Capstone Seminar or SOC 411: Internship. When doing a capstone, senior students engage in original research which draws upon theoretical knowledge acquired in their research methods and theory classes. A major original research paper and oral presentation are the cumulative outcomes of the 498 course. The topic will be focused on a family topic for Family Studies students.

For those students who choose to participate in an internship, SOC 411 gives them the opportunity to apply knowledge from their coursework, clarify their own professional objectives, and gain professional experience in an approved community organization or agency. They will be required to complete a substantive term paper as part of their internship which will incorporate the theories and topics learned throughout their program.
**Course Offerings in Sociology (SOC)**

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

211. Principles of Sociology (3) F, W, S
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 see 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 (3) F—Odd Years
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 Research I (3) F—Odd Years
Prerequisite: SOC 211
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 (3) S—Even Years
Prerequisite: SOC 211 or 225
Nutritional needs of individuals as they progress through the life cycle from prenatal through aging, with consideration of concomitant problems.

220. Introduction to Studying Families (3) F
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.

221. Sociology of Education (3) As Needed
Explores education as an institution that affects and is affected by the larger social structure. Topics may include the role of schools in society; connections between schooling, stratification and the economy; gender and ethnic differences in achievement; and social and cultural contexts of learning.

225. Relationships, Marriage and Families (3) Su; S—Odd Years
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—Odd 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.

309. Human Rights and Social Justice (3) As Needed
Through case studies of pressing human rights and social justice issues, this course examines dynamics of oppression, linking competing theories of social justice to hierarchies grounded in race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, class, and sexuality, and to particular strategies for social transformation.

310. Social and Economic Justice (3) As Needed
Prerequisites: CHR 111 or 112. Reciprocal credit: SW 310. See SW 310 for description.

311. Crime and Society (3) F – Even Years
This course examines the social, political and economic processes that affect the creation and implementation of law. It focuses on history and fundamental principles of American legal system and compares it to other legal systems existing in today's world. In assessing how judicial opinions and legislative efforts affect social relations and institutional arrangements, inquiry is centered on: the ways in which social problems become defined as legal issues, the forces which shape the initiation and ultimate formulation of legislative acts designed to affect public policy, the role which cultural values and assumptions play in framing legal arguments and influencing judicial opinions and remedial programs, and the strengths and limitations of the law as a means of achieving special social policy objectives.
317. Urban Structure and Process (3) As Needed
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.

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) As Needed
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.

322. Medical Sociology (3) As Needed
Prerequisite: SOC 211
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 (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.

326. Juvenile Justice (3) F – Odd Years
This course covers youthful crime: its volume, causes and trends. The prediction, prevention, treatment and control of juvenile delinquency by social control agencies is examined relative to social policies needed to reduce its incidence. The organization and procedures of the juvenile justice system are also explored.

327. Sociology of Media and Technology (3) S – Even Years
In this course, attention will be given to different aspects of the relationship between technology and society and directions for the future. The nature of technology and the process of innovation are driven by social influences and pressures. Those social influences mean that technologies reflect and often reinforce the structures of social, economic, and political power in any society. Special emphasis on social media and the effects it has on daily interactions in society.

332. Hospitalized Child (3) S—Odd Years
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 (3) S—Even Years
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. Emphasizes the use of Biblical teaching in parent-child relations.

356. Food, Culture and Society (3) S – Odd Years
This course views food production, processing, distribution, and consumption as social and cultural phenomena. The course aims to develop a sociological framework for understanding and connecting the many food stories in the headlines: stories about GMOs, CAFOs, obesity and hunger, agricultural subsidies, federal food regulation, sustainable agriculture.

370. Gender and Sexuality (3) W, S—Odd Years
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) S
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 substantive term paper are required.

413. Globalization and Social Change (3) As Needed
Prerequisite: SOC 211
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 (3) S—Even Years
Prerequisites: 6 hours of SOC including SOC 211.
Examines 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 (3) As Needed
Prerequisites: SOC 211 or PSY 213. Reciprocal credit: PSY
418. See PSY 418 for description.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) F—Even Years
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) As Needed
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. Social Research II (3) As Needed
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—Even
Years
Prerequisites: SOC 211 or 220.
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 (3) S—Even Years
Prerequisite: SOC 220
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 (3) F—
Odd Years
Prerequisite: SOC 220
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 (3) W; S—
Even Years
Prerequisites: SOC 211 or 220. 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.

498. Senior Capstone Seminar (3) F
Prerequisites: SOC 211 and permission of instructor; Pre or
Corequisites: SOC 417, 422.
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.

Available in all prefixes:

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).

499. Seminar (1-3) F As Needed
To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.