

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND FAMILY STUDIES

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### Faculty

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

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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

#### 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
  - b. SOC Elective Hours—9 hours
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.

## 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.

Sociological Inquiry Society (S.I.S) functions as a Christian community of students interested in sociological

foundations and enables students to better understand and exercise sociology outside the classroom through discussion, activities, and service.

## Student Awards

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

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## Course Offerings in Sociology (SOC)

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

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

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

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

