
SOCIOLOGY (Ph.D.)

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The Graduate Center

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FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)

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For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.

THE PROGRAM

The Ph.D. Program in Sociology develops sociologists of broad theoretical background and demonstrated research competence. The program is particularly strong in macrosociological, historical, and comparative approaches. Methodologically, the program seeks a balance between quantitative and qualitative techniques. Located in one of the world's major centers of cultural production, the program has a strong specialization in cultural studies, with faculty who analyze film, the mass media, art, music, and other forms of elite and popular culture. Other specialties include feminist theory and the sociology of gender, urban sociology, and race and ethnic relations, including, increasingly, the study of immigrant groups in New York. Throughout the program, faculty interest is strong in patterns of social inequality, whether in families, workplaces, or societies.

Doctoral work in sociology at the Graduate Center is organized into the following main areas of graduate work:

Race, Ethnicity, and Urban Sociology The program has a strong concentration in urban studies and the sociology of space and culture. It strives to use New York City as an urban laboratory for the investigation of social life in the postmodern metropolis. The program also emphasizes the study of race and ethnicity and, in particular, the incorporation of new immigrant communities.

Social and Critical Theory Studies in classical sociological theory (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel), critical social theory and the Frankfurt school, and contemporary social theories (Merton, Giddens, Habermas, Foucault, Offe, Stinchcombe, and feminist theorists). Sociology of the State, Social Class, Political Economy Training in neo-Marxist and neo-Weberian approaches; comparative study of social stratification and social mobility in capitalist and socialist countries; research on legitimation problems of modern states; political economy of fiscal crisis and international capital, problems of development and underdevelopment.

Sociology of Culture, Mass Media, and the Arts Studies in the social and cultural production of knowledge, ranging from science and technology and political ideologies to mass communications and everyday linguistically mediated practices. Exploration of the social basis of aesthetic discourse (e.g., the distinction between high and low/mass culture, popular culture, subcultures, and folk cultures). Studies of emerging discourses and cultural practices in various subcultures, with particular emphasis on marginal and marginalized groups.

Sociology of Work, Occupations, Organizations Research ranging from ethnographic and interview-based studies to survey-based and quantitative analyses, in a variety of workplace and organizational settings. Topics include business elites, work and personality, theories of the labor process, the sociology of labor unions, workplace culture, work and technology, and studies of individual occupations and professions.

Sociology of Gender Studies in family interaction and the psychosocial interior of the family; macro- and microstructural, Marxist, socialist-feminist, and psychoanalytic approaches to gender study.

Medical Sociology Studies in development of modern medical institutions, history of medical sociology, social construction of illness, gender, and health care, political economy of health care, and the sociology of mental illness.

Other Areas Methods (survey research, ethnomethodology, urban ethnography, socio-historical methods); Deviance (social responses to crime, drug abuse); the Family and Education; the Sociology of Religion.

En-route M.A.

Upon completing 45 credits with an average grade of B, passing the First Examination, and satisfactorily completing a major research paper, the student may apply for an M.A. degree. The degree is awarded formally by one of the participating senior colleges.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The Ph.D. Program in Sociology selects applicants based on their undergraduate records, their records in graduate school (if any), their letters of recommendation, their personal statements,

their demonstrated interest in sociological analysis, and their performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, the program requires applicants to submit a writing sample; this can be a term paper, a published work, or some other document that illustrates the applicant's writing skills and analytical ability. The Admissions Committee does not operate on the basis of cutoff scores or absolute requirements, but instead forms an overall impression of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses in relation to other applicants.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The following requirements are in addition to the general University requirements for the Ph.D. stated earlier in this bulletin.

Course of Study Sixty approved graduate credits are required for the degree, not including the doctoral dissertation, which carries no course credit. Students are encouraged to supplement their course of study with work in allied disciplines, subject to the approval of the Executive Officer.

Candidates for the Ph.D. in sociology must complete the following lower-level courses: Development of Sociological Theory, Contemporary Sociological Theory, Sociological Statistics I and II, and one course in methods, selected from SOC 81000 to 81900. The remaining courses in the student's program should represent a broad distribution in the student's areas of interest. First-year students are expected to take a program of 9 to 12 credits each semester. A heavier program is permitted subject to the approval of the Executive Officer.

First Examination There are two requirements. Part I consists of obtaining an average of B or better in the required core courses. Part II consists of written examinations in both classical and contemporary sociological theory. Students may take the written examinations at any time, but may continue in the doctoral program after completing 45 credits only if they have passed these examinations. See the Sociology program's handbook for further details.

Foreign Language The student must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one foreign language to be chosen with the approval of the Executive Officer.

Second Examination After fulfilling all course requirements, the student is required to take an oral comprehensive examination. The examination tests the student's advanced theoretical understanding and research competence in three specialties.

Dissertation Shortly before or after taking the Second Examination, the student prepares a proposal under the supervision of a dissertation committee, consisting of a sponsor and two other faculty members. The proposal is then presented for comments to the Faculty Membership Committee in Sociology. Upon the recommendation of the student's committee, the student defends the completed dissertation at an oral examination.

Courses

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are *30 hours plus conferences, 3 credits*.

Sociological Theory

SOC 70000 Preseminar

SOC 70100 Development of Sociological Theory

SOC 70200 Contemporary Sociological Theory
 SOC 80000 Seminar: Selected Topics in Social Theory
 SOC 80101 Theoretical Perspectives in the Role of Women
 SOC 80102* Marx and Marxism
 SOC 80104* Max Weber's Sociology
 SOC 80105* Role Theory
 SOC 80107* Durkheim
 SOC 80110* Georg Simmel
 SOC 80200 Seminar: Selected Problems in the Sociology of Knowledge
 SOC 80201 Sociology of Science
 SOC 80300* Construction and Testing of Sociological Theory
 SOC 80400* Sociology and Phenomenology
 SOC 80500 Psychoanalytic Sociology
 SOC 80600 History and Foundations of American Sociology
 SOC 80700 Critical Theory and the Frankfurt School
 SOC 80900 Feminist Perspectives on Social and Political Theory

Research Methods

SOC 70900* Mathematics for Sociology
 SOC 71000-71100 Methods of Sociological Research
 SOC 71500 Sociological Statistics
 SOC 71600 Sociological Statistics II
 3 credits (Second semester of statistics sequence)
 SOC 81000-81100 Research Seminar: Selected Topics in Methodology
 SOC 81002 Ethnomethodology
 SOC 81003* Dialectical Methodology
 SOC 81004 Historical Sociology
 SOC 81005* The Interview
 SOC 81006 Qualitative Methods
 SOC 81200 Seminar: Field Techniques in Research
 SOC 81500 Selected Topics in Qualitative and Interpretive Methods
 SOC 81900 Seminar: Selected Topics in Sociological Statistics

Urban Sociology

SOC 72200 Demography and Population Problems
 SOC 72500 Urban Sociology
 SOC 82100 Seminar: World Metropolitan Communities—Theory and Method
 SOC 82200 Seminar: Selected Problems in Demography and Ecology
 Prerequisite: An introductory course in demography or permission of the instructor
 SOC 82300 Selected Problems in Community Structure
 SOC 82301 Cultural and Geographic Communities in New York
 SOC 82303 Environment and Culture
 SOC 82800 Seminar: Selected Topics in Urban and Community Studies

SOC 82901 Urban Social Conflicts
SOC 82905 Issues in Community Research
SOC 82906* Neighborhood Stabilization
SOC 82907 Racial Conflict in American Cities

The State, Social Stratification, and Political Economy

SOC 74400 Social Stratification
SOC 74600 Foundations of Political Economy
SOC 80103 Political Sociology
SOC 84501 Sociology of the State
SOC 84600 Seminar: Selected Topics in the State, Social Stratification, and Political Economy

Institutions and Organizations

SOC 74100 Sociology of Work and Occupations
SOC 74500 Complex Organization
SOC 77800 Introduction to Medical Sociology
SOC 84000 Seminar: Institutions of Selected Societies
SOC 84001 Comparative Social Systems
SOC 84501 Sociology of the State
SOC 84503 Sociology of Education
SOC 84505 Sociology of Law
SOC 84509 Sociology of Religion
SOC 84510 Concepts in Environmental Sociology
SOC 84511 Industrial Sociology
SOC 84700 Seminar: Selected Topics in Institutions and Organizations

Deviant Behavior

SOC 75300 Deviant Behavior
SOC 85000 Selected Problems in Criminology
SOC 85002 The Labeling Process
SOC 85100 Seminar: Juvenile Delinquency
SOC 85301 Changes in the Control of Sexual Behavior
SOC 85302 Drugs, Alcohol, and Chemical Dependence
SOC 85303 Special Problems in Deviance

Gender, Family Organization, and Socialization

SOC 73200 Sociology of Gender
SOC 83000 Seminar: Socialization and Comparative Social Structure
SOC 83100 Seminar: Selected Problems in Socialization and Social Interaction
SOC 83101 Personality and Social Systems
SOC 83102 Culture and Personality of American Minorities
SOC 83105 Sociology of Life Cycles
SOC 83300 Seminar: Selected Topics in Gender and Family Organization

SOC 85403 Sex Roles and Social Change

SOC 85404 Family and Social Change

Social Change and Development

SOC 73500 Collective Behavior

SOC 75600 Development and Underdevelopment

SOC 85200 Seminar: Social Change in Developing Nations

SOC 85402 Politics and Revolution

SOC 85405 Political Sociology and Revolutionary Change

SOC 85600 Seminar: Selected Topics in Social Change and Development

Race and Ethnicity

SOC 75800 Ethnic and Racial Stratification

SOC 85700 Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy

SOC 85800 Seminar: Selected Topics in Race and Ethnicity

SOC 85902 Comparative Studies

SOC 85909 Race-Ethnicity and the Nation-State

SOC 85910 The American Dilemma Revisited

SOC 85911 The Multiethnic State and Pluralism

SOC 85913 Recent Perspectives in Race and Racism in American Society

Cultural Studies

SOC 76800 Introduction to Cultural Studies

SOC 76900 Sociology of the Arts and Mass Communication

SOC 86800 Seminar: Selected Topics in Cultural Studies

SOC 86902 Development in Mass Communications Research

SOC 86903 The Sociology of Leisure

SOC 86906 Mass Culture and the Arts

SOC 86907 Sociology of the Novel

Thesis and Tutorial

SOC 79000 Tutorial

Variable credit

SOC 89000 Independent Research

Variable credit

Approval of instructor and of Executive Officer required.

SOC 90000 Dissertation Supervision

1 credit

*offered infrequently