

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

About

Chair: Dr. (jbs048@shsu.edu) Bart Stykes

Graduate Director:

Dr. Jeffrey Gardner

Email: jag175@shsu.edu

Phone: 936-294-2373

CHSS 270I

Website: Department of Sociology (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/colleges/humanities-social-sciences/sociology/>)

Mission

The Department of Sociology delves into critical issues like inequality, social mobility, and social responsibility. Our courses illuminate how social forces and cultural contexts shape experiences and link personal challenges to broader social problems. We empower students to collaborate and use information to tackle real-world problems with theoretical foundations, empirical evidence, and effective communication.

Programs

The Sociology Department at Sam Houston State University offers unique master's and certificate programs designed to meet the needs of active students and professionals. Both the Master of Arts in Sociology and Graduate Certificate in Sociology are entirely *online* programs designed to provide students with advanced instruction in quantitative and qualitative techniques of sociological research, theory, and leading topical areas in sociology. In both programs, students develop the professional skills necessary to analyze social issues in applied settings and advance their careers.

Curriculum

The graduate programs in Sociology are designed to provide students with advanced instruction in methodological techniques, theoretical perspectives, and empirical evidence in substantive areas that guide sociological inquiry. Given our faculty's varying research agendas, our program emphasizes Public Sociology. Upon completing our program, students cultivate skills that bring sociology to the public sphere through foci such as grant writing, program evaluation, impact assessment, social justice, and community-based research. The program has strengths in the following specialty areas: social inequality; health and well-being; and community, food, and the environment.

- Master of Arts in Sociology (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/sociology/sociology-ma/>)
- Graduate Certificate in Sociology (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/sociology/sociology-certificate/>)

SOCI 5099. Graduate Readings in Sociology. 1-3 Hours.

Students pursue an independent study of subjects not covered in the regular graduate curricula. Topics may cover special subject matter related to a thesis. Variable Credit (1-3). Course Equivalents: SOCI 5399

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5310. Seminar In Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.

Students study the most significant 19th and 20th century developments in sociology with emphasis placed on the relevance of classic sociological theory in the formation and development of contemporary sociological theory. Students explore the characteristics and origins of many major sociological schools of thought (e.g., Neo-Marxism, Critical Theory, Interactionism, Functionalism and Postmodernism) and accounts of these paradigms are presented together with their theoretical ramifications.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5312. Seminar in Sociological Research. 3 Hours.

Students examine the advanced study of logic, principles, and procedures involving techniques of design data collection and organization, analyses and interpretation for qualitative and quantitative sociological research.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5314. Social Statistics. 3 Hours.

Students develop mastery of various statistical techniques used to analyze survey data (e.g. descriptive and inferential statistics, cross tabulation, ANOVA, correlation and regression). Students learn the logic, interpretation, and assumptions of each statistical model with an additional emphasis on the application of these techniques. Course Equivalents: SOCI 5414

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5321. Cultural Sociology. 3 Hours.

Students examine culture from the sociological perspective and consider both classic and modern theories of culture. Students also review major sociological methods of cultural analysis, the application of theories, and the analysis of socio-cultural phenomena.

SOCI 5322. Seminar In Medical Sociology. 3 Hours.

This course provides graduate students with the conceptual and substantive knowledge of the field of medical sociology. The course focuses on salient sociological issues in health and medicine, such as the social construction of health and illness, social inequalities in health and health care, medicalization, the health profession, the health care system, and bioethics. Special attention is paid to the roles of social, cultural, and institutional factors in understanding health and health care issues in the United States and in other countries.

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

SOCI 5331. Sociology of The Family. 3 Hours.

Students explore the family as a social institution and examine functional, critical, and interactionist approaches to the family. Topics may include historical shifts in the institution and interpersonal dynamics within families.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5337. Gender and Society. 3 Hours.

Students consider the social construction of gender and obtain a framework to critically examine how it operates in society. Students examine how gender is linked with inequality in the United States.

SOCI 5351. Seminar in Environmental Sociology. 3 Hours.

Students gain a thorough background in the major theoretical perspectives regarding environmental sociology, which enables them to view environmental issues from alternative positions and to formulate possible solutions to contemporary environmental problems. Additional topics may include the social construction of the environment and on environmental problems and solutions.

SOCI 5353. Seminar in Race And Ethnic Studies. 3 Hours.

Students obtain an in-depth examination and critique of important monographs and journal literature dealing with the social life of American minorities. Topics may consider, ideologies, inequality, structural forces and changes characteristic of the social life of comparative minority groups. Students identify sociological propositions reflected in the discerned patterns of interaction in selected institutions in contemporary American society.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5355. Seminar in Social Inequality. 3 Hours.

Students examine contemporary class, status and power hierarchies using both contemporary and classical social theory of inequality. Students engage with empirical research pertaining to placement in these hierarchies on the basis of birth-achieved statuses such as sex, race, and class origin.

SOCI 5380. Social Impact Assessment and Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.

Students gain an overview of the field of social impact assessment and program evaluation and are exposed to hands-on experience through a practical case study. Specific topics may include basic knowledge, as well as technical skills, related to conducting a social impact assessment and program evaluation.

SOCI 5384. Seminar in Economy and Society. 3 Hours.

Students examine the effects of economic change on the organization of society and social relations. Topics may include the consequences of globalization and neoliberalization.

Prerequisite: SOCI 5310.

SOCI 5386. The Sociology of Aging. 3 Hours.

Students explore sociological theories of aging from historical, demographic, comparative, social psychological and structural perspectives. Students also examine contemporary social problems facing older adults. Additional topics may consider similarities and differences across, gender, race/ethnicity, and social class using the life course perspective.

SOCI 6098. Thesis Practicum. 1-3 Hours.

Students successfully develop a Thesis Prospectus and select a thesis committee. Variable Credit (1-3). Course Equivalents: SOCI 6398 .

SOCI 6099. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.

Students complete and successfully defend their Thesis. The student must be enrolled in SOCI 6099 during the semester in which the master's degree is to be completed. Variable Credit (1-3). Course Equivalents: SOCI 6399 .

SOCI 6360. Seminar In Sociology. 3 Hours.

Students examine a substantive area and/or sociologically significant issue not covered in other departmental offerings. Topics may be influenced by current innovations in the field or significant world events. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

Director/Chair: **James Bartlett Stykes**

Jin Young Choi, PHD (jyc002@shsu.edu), *Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, PHD, Univ of Hawaii At Manoa; MA, Univ of Hawaii At Manoa; MPH, Univ of Hawaii At Manoa; MS, Ewha Women's University; BS, Ewha Women's University*

Douglas H Constance, PHD (soc_dhc@shsu.edu), *Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Missouri-Columbia; MS, Univ of Missouri-Columbia; BS, Univ of Missouri-Columbia

Furjen Deng, PHD (soc_fjd@shsu.edu), *Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Purdue University; MS, Purdue University; BA, National Taiwan University

Karen M Douglas, PHD (kmd007@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Texas At Austin; MA, Univ of Texas At Austin; BBA, Univ of Texas At Austin

Amanda Catherine Ferraro, PHD (acf064@shsu.edu), *Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Oklahoma-Norman; MA, Univ of Oklahoma-Norman; MS, Florida State University; BS, Florida State University

Jeffrey A Gardner, PHD (jag175@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Georgia; MA, Univ of Georgia; BA, Brigham Young University-Idaho

TzeLi Hsu, PHD (thsu@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Florida State University; MS, Mississippi State University; BA, National Taiwan University

Olena Viacheslavivna Leipnik, PHD (oxl001@shsu.edu), *Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Kharkiv VN Karazin Nat'l Univ; MA, Luhansk T. S. Pedagogical Univ; MA, Kyiv Taras Shevchenko Nat'l Un; BA, Kyiv Taras Shevchenko Nat'l Un

Lee Mary Miller, PHD (lee.miller@shsu.edu), *Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Yale University; MPHIL, Yale University; MA, Yale University; AB, Smith College

Mary Larue Scherer, PHD (mxs168@shsu.edu), *Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Massachusetts-Amherst; MA, Univ of Massachusetts-Amherst; BA, Warren Wilson College

Zeinab F Shuker, PHD (zfs003@shsu.edu), *Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Calif-Riverside; MA, Univ of Calif-Riverside; MA, The University of Memphis; BA, The University of Memphis

James Bartlett Stykes, PHD (jbs048@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Bowling Green State University; MA, Bowling Green State University; BS, Austin Peay State University

Brooklynn Joy Wynveen, PHD (bjw028@shsu.edu), *Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Clemson University; MNRD, Texas A&M University; BA, Univ of Maryland-Univ Coll