Rural Sociology

The Department of Rural Sociology participates in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree offered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and offers a minor in rural sociology. For information about the agriculture degree, see the Agriculture degree page. The Department of Rural Sociology also offers graduate degrees.

Faculty

Associate Professor J. L. Gilles**
Assistant Professor M. Hendrickson**, H. Qin**
Teaching Assistant Professor (NTT) C. Brock*
Extension Assistant Professor J. Adams*
Associate Extension Professor S. Jeanetta**, M. S. Leuci*
Research Assistant Professor C. Fulcher*
Associate Professor Emeritus K. E. Pigg*
Professor Emeritus R. R. Campbell*, M. Grigsby**, M. F. Nolan*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

- Minor in Rural Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofagriculturefoodandnaturalresources/ruralsociology/minor-rural-sociology)
  Advisor: Caroline Brock
  brockcc@missouri.edu
- Administrative Assistant: Carol Swaim
  swaimc@missouri.edu
  (573)882-7451
  http://dass.missouri.edu/ruralsoc/

Graduate

- MS in Rural Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofagriculturefoodandnaturalresources/ruralsociology/ms-rural-sociology)
- PhD in Rural Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofagriculturefoodandnaturalresources/ruralsociology/phil-rural-sociology)

121 Gentry Hall
(573) 882-7451

http://dass.missouri.edu/ruralsoc/

Director of Graduate Studies: Jere Gilles

The Department of Rural Sociology offers the MS and PhD degrees. The program consists of broad training in sociological theory and methodology with attention to application and policy issues.

Students entering with a bachelor's degree normally are admitted into the master's program even if they are going on to a PhD, exceptional students may be admitted to the Masters/PhD program. Up to 12 hours of makeup work may be required for students who have less than adequate undergraduate preparation in the social sciences.

Specializations

Areas of specialization in the department are: sustainable development, community facilitation, and analytical processes.

Financial Aid from the Program

Request for financial support is made by the student at the time of application. Most of the financial support is for research assistantships. Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.

RU_SOC 1000: Rural Sociology

Introduction to basic concepts and principles of sociology with a focus on rural populations and places. The course explores interconnections between rural/urban and local global economies and cultures. Students are exposed to the rich diversity of rural society, social changes underway, and to current social issues. (Students may not earn credit for both RU_SOC 1000 and SOCIOL 1000).

Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 1104: Topics in Rural Sociology - Social Science

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit vary from semester to semester. May be repeated.

Credit Hour: 1-3

Recommended: RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

RU_SOC 1150: The Amish Community

Examine historical antecedents and contemporary culture and social structure of the Amish. Topics include cultural symbols, life ceremonies, the family, counter-cultural pressures, stresses, social change.

Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 1120: Population and the Environment

Changes in the structure and characteristics of population groups and their relationship to both human and non-human aspects of the biophysical environment.

Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 1150W: The Amish Community - Writing Intensive

Examine historical antecedents and contemporary culture and social structure of the Amish. Topics include cultural symbols, life ceremonies, the family, counter-cultural pressures, stresses, social change.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

RU_SOC 1150W: The Amish Community - Writing Intensive

Examine historical antecedents and contemporary culture and social structure of the Amish. Topics include cultural symbols, life ceremonies, the family, counter-cultural pressures, stresses, social change.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: RU_SOC 1000 or ANTHRO 1000
cultural symbols, life ceremonies, the family, counter-cultural pressures, stresses, social change.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 SOCIOL 1000 or ANTHRO 1000

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**RU_SOC 2203W: Topics in Rural Sociology - Behavioral Science - Writing Intensive**

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit vary from semester to semester. May be repeated.

**Credit Hour:** 1-3  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

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**RU_SOC 2225: Science, Technology and Society**

Overview of the social influences that shape science including how scientific knowledge is contested and legitimated; how social forces (among them mass communication) influence the choice of innovations; and the role social systems and sectors play in the use and benefit of science. Communication intensive-discussion, presentation and essay based.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

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**RU_SOC 2225W: Science, Technology and Society - Writing Intensive**

Overview of the social influences that shape science including how scientific knowledge is contested and legitimated; how social forces (among them mass communication) influence the choice of innovations; and the role social systems and sectors play in the use and benefit of science. Communication intensive-discussion, presentation and essay based.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

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**RU_SOC 2289: Towns in Missouri and the Midwest: Voices and Inequalities**

(same as PEA_ST 2289, GEOG 2289). Focusing on towns and communities and their regional history and cultural traditions, we will examine the issues and concerns of small town America in the context of recent hardships and adverse economic trends. Examples of topics to be covered include case studies of communities such as Marceline, Missouri (Walt Disney’s boyhood home), race and the immigration of non-whites in to rural areas; gender roles in small communities, the role of religion in small-town identity formation, and other current issues faced by “middle America”. The responsiveness of government, large corporations, and institutions to the problems of diverse communities will be critically examined, with a multidisciplinary approach that will draw on key theories and works in the disciplines of sociology, rural sociology, community development, and geography.

**Credit Hours:** 3

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**RU_SOC 2950: Social Research I**

(same as SOCIOL 2950). Introduction to principles of methodology; theory and research; survey of basic research designs and perspectives; preparation for understanding and conducting social research. Required for Sociology majors.

**Credit Hours:** 3

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**RU_SOC 3010: Leadership in Today’s World**

(same as AG_ED_LD 3010). Critically examines the leaders and leadership surrounding the greatest challenges to society today and in the future, while developing awareness and understanding of global and local issues in agriculture, democracy, civil society, business, and the environment. Course also focuses on fostering civil discourse and enhancing engagement. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

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**RU_SOC 3010H: Leadership in Today’s World - Honors**

(same as AG_ED_LD 3010H). Critically examines the leaders and leadership surrounding the greatest challenges to society today and in the future, while developing awareness and understanding of global and local issues in agriculture, democracy, civil society, business, and the environment. Course also focuses on fostering civil discourse and enhancing engagement. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Honors eligibility required  
**Recommended:** RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

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**RU_SOC 3085: Problems in Rural Sociology**

**Credit Hour:** 1-99  
**Prerequisites:** instructor's consent

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**RU_SOC 3100: Recent Theories in Sociology**

(same as SOCIOL 3100). Introduction to major theoretical positions and issues in contemporary American sociology. Logical and intellectual structure of major theoretical schools: functionalism, conflict, exchange, symbolic interaction, phenomenological-ethnomethodological theories.

**Credit Hours:** 3

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**RU_SOC 3235: Global Perspectives and Realities**

Designed for students who have or wish to study, live or work outside of their home country. Presents sociological perspectives on globalization and intercultural communication as well as the steps needed to prepare for a valuable and safe experience abroad.

**Credit Hours:** 3

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**RU_SOC 3235W: Global Perspectives and Realities - Writing Intensive**

Designed for students who have or wish to study, live or work outside of their home country. Presents sociological perspectives on globalization and intercultural communication as well as the steps needed to prepare for a valuable and safe experience abroad.

**Credit Hours:** 3

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**RU_SOC 3304: Topics in Rural Sociology - Social Science**

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit vary from semester to semester. May be repeated.

**Credit Hour:** 2-3  
**Recommended:** 6 hours Rural Sociology or Sociology, or junior standing
RU_SOC 3310: Society, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Explore the human dimensions of agriculture and natural resources through an overview of key areas in natural resource social science. Diverse conceptual approaches and empirical research topics related to society-natural resource interactions are included.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: junior standing or instructor's consent

RU_SOC 3325: Sociology of Food and Nutrition
This class explores individual food choices and larger social forces. Topics include: world hunger, food and the environment; food choices and culture, class and personal identity; the effects of social stigmas, advertising trends, and government regulations on body image; new social movements for sustainable food systems.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: ENGLISH 1000 and junior or senior standing or instructor's permission

RU_SOC 3325W: Sociology of Food and Nutrition - Writing Intensive
This class explores individual food choices and larger social forces. Topics include: world hunger, food and the environment; food choices and culture, class and personal identity; the effects of social stigmas, advertising trends, and government regulations on body image; new social movements for sustainable food systems.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: ENGLISH 1000 and junior or senior standing or instructor's permission

RU_SOC 3950W: Social Research I - Writing Intensive
(same as SOCIOL 3950). Introduction to principles of methodology; theory and research; survey of basic research designs and perspectives; preparation for understanding and conducting social research. Required for Sociology majors.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 4325: American Community Studies
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 7325). An introduction to the study of American communities. The course starts with community theories and then focuses on a wide variety of historic and contemporary community studies such as Plainville, Middletown, Sidewalk and others. Seminar format.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 4335: Social Change and Development
(same as SOCIOL 4335; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 7335, RU_SOC 7335). Nature of social change and development. Emphasizes sociological theories of social change and development contrasting them with approaches from the disciplines.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000 and junior standing

RU_SOC 4335H: Social Change and Development - Honors
(same as SOCIOL 4335; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 7335, RU_SOC 7335). Nature of social change and development. Emphasizes sociological theories of social change and development contrasting them with approaches from the disciplines.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 4342: Empowering Communities for the Future
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 7342). Focuses on the professional practice and applications of community-based development including participatory action research, community economic development, organizational development, use of technology, citizen education and integration of practice. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: instructor's consent

RU_SOC 4343: Creating Capacity for Dynamic Communities
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 7343), Addresses community and citizen power; large group intervention processes for change; facilitating small group process; community organizing; community sustainability, dealing with poverty and disenfranchisement; community conflict resolution; ethics; and integration into practice. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

RU_SOC 4370: Environmental Sociology
(same as SOCIOL 4370; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 7370, RU_SOC 7370). An interdisciplinary examination of domestic and international environmental issues focusing on social, cultural, and policy dimensions. Perspectives of the social sciences and humanities are included.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: junior standing

RU_SOC 4371: Social Statistics
(same as SOCIOL 4371; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 7371, RU_SOC 7371). Descriptive statistics and bivariate quantitative analysis techniques commonly used by social scientists. Includes coverage of parametric and non-parametric methods. Introduction to computer analysis.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: SOCIOL 2950

RU_SOC 7325: American Community Studies
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 4325). An introduction to the study of American communities. The course starts with community theories and then focuses on a wide variety of historic and contemporary community studies such as Plainville, Middletown, Sidewalk and others. Seminar format.
Credit Hours: 3
RU_SOC 7335: Social Change and Development
(same as SOCIOL 7335; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 4335, RU_SOC 4335). Nature of social change and development. Emphasizes sociological theories of social change and development contrasting them with approaches from other disciplines.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: RU_SOC 1000 or SOCIOL 1000

RU_SOC 7341: Building Communities from the Grassroots
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 4341). Introduction and application of basic community development concepts, methods and practical skills for involving and empowering local citizens and leaders effectively in community-based efforts regardless of the issue.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

RU_SOC 7342: Empowering Communities for the Future
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 7342). Focuses on the professional practice and applications of community-based development including participatory action research, community economic development, organizational development, use of technology, citizen education and integration of practice. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

RU_SOC 7343: Creating Capacity for Dynamic Communities
(cross-leveled with RU_SOC 4343). Addresses community and citizen power; large group intervention processes for change; facilitating small group process; community organizing; community sustainability, dealing with poverty and disenfranchisement; community conflict resolution; ethics; and integration into practice. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

RU_SOC 7370: Environmental Sociology
(same as SOCIOL 7370; cross-leveled with SOCIOL 4370, RU_SOC 4370). An interdisciplinary examination of domestic and international environmental issues focusing on social, cultural, and policy dimensions. Perspectives of the social sciences and humanities are included.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 7446: Community Social Structure
(same as SOCIOL 7446). A comparative study of communities in different nations and in urban and rural areas. A primary focus of the course will be on social change in communities in response to changing economic, political, social, cultural, and ecological factors.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 8085: Problems in Rural Sociology
Research for student capable of semi-independent work.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor’s consent

RU_SOC 8090: Research in Rural Sociology
Research leading to thesis or dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.
Credit Hour: 1-99

RU_SOC 8130: Advanced Social Statistics
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: RU_SOC 4120 or equivalent

RU_SOC 8287: Seminar on Sustainable Development
(same as SOCIOL 8287). An interdisciplinary examination of sustainable development focusing on social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of development. International and domestic issues and approaches to sustainable development are included.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 8435: Political Ecology
Political ecology is an analytical approach to environment and natural resource issues at local, regional and global scales. Emphasizing political, economic, cultural, social and historical factors and their relationship to ecological trends and processes. Seminar format. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 8436: Community, Natural Resources and Sustainability
A graduate seminar on conceptual and methodological (mixed methods) approaches to natural resource sustainability issues at the human community level. Focuses on theoretical, methodological, and empirical topics related to the interactions between community, natural resources and sustainability. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: RU_SOC 4310 or RU_SOC 7310

RU_SOC 8444: Agriculture, Food and Community
Introduces key debates in the sociology of food and agriculture. Includes research on the structure and history of the agriculture system and its impacts on farmers, communities and the natural environment.
Credit Hours: 3

RU_SOC 8447: Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Rural Sociology
Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Rural Sociology
Credit Hour: 1-99

RU_SOC 8450: Research in Rural Sociology
Research not expected to terminate in thesis or dissertation.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor’s consent

RU_SOC 8510: Research Methods and Design
(same as AG_ED_LD 8510, AAE 8510). This course will give students a foundational understanding of quantitative research methods and design in the social and behavioral sciences. The main objective is to
help students identify and formulate their own research questions and develop and implement a process for answering them. Students will examine the nature of the research process, explore the connection between theory and empirical research, identify viable research topics, critique published research, learn how to structure good arguments, understand the structure of research papers and proposals, plan and manage research activities, and become familiar with research ethics. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**RU_SOC 8540: Methods of Qualitative Research**  
(same as AG_ED_LD 8540). Overview of philosophies, approaches toward, design, data collection, analysis and reporting of qualitative research.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**RU_SOC 8610: Economic and Sociological Approaches to Collective Action**  
(same as AAE 8610). This course identifies analytical and methodological tools, including rational choice and social capital, to deal with practical problems of collective action in: agricultural cooperatives, rural community development, political interest groups and other mutuals.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** AAE 7972

**RU_SOC 9090: Research in Rural Sociology**  
Research leading to thesis or dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99

**RU_SOC 9287: Seminar in Qualitative Methods in Sociology**  
(same as SOCIOL 9287). Examination of various qualitative methods of research, including problem-formulation, access and interpretation of data, theory-generation, and preparation of research reports.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** RU_SOC 8510 or instructor's consent

**RU_SOC 9437: Synthesis of Theory and Method in Sociology**  
The purpose of the course is to provide the student with a critical understanding of the basic theoretical paradigms employed in the development of research projects in sociology. The course is designed for graduate students.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** RU_SOC 4130 and RU_SOC 8510, or instructor's consent

**RU_SOC 9480: Community Survey Research**  
(same as SOCIOL 9987). This course applies social science survey research methods to the unique kinds of problems that arise in the study of whole communities.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** RU_SOC 8510 or equivalent