Sociology

J. Gubrium, Chair
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Sociology is a discipline founded over 100 years ago to bring the scientific method to the study of human societies. It has pioneered in the development of methods and techniques designed to provide accurate and verifiable information about contemporary societies. It is the inventor of survey research and a host of statistical measures. The techniques created by sociologists are now used in all disciplines concerned with human behavior.

Sociologists today conduct research and reason from research findings to generate deeper understandings of how societies work. The generation of theoretical statements and the testing of those statements in a wide variety of social settings is the core of sociological work. Sociologists are knowledge builders, rather than change agents, although there is an emergent group of scholars who apply sociological knowledge to create changes in organizations, individuals and communities. Sociology contributes to human improvement by seeing that change can be based on credible information and reasoned understanding of how humans work together in groups or larger aggregates.

Faculty

Professor E. E. Brent Jr.**, J. F. Gubrium**, I. Pearce**
Assistant Professor S. Prasad**

* 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

• BA in Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/ba-sociology)
• Minor in Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/minor-sociology)

Departmental Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 are eligible for departmental honors in sociology. Qualified students who seek this option must write an honors thesis under the supervision of a sociology faculty member. Students who take the honors thesis option are not required to take SOCIOL 4970 (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/ba-sociology). Students enroll in SOCIOL 4995 (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/ba-sociology) for 3 credits each semester of the senior year for a total of 6 credits.

Graduate

• MA in Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/ma-sociology)
• PhD in Sociology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/sociology/phd-sociology)

Department of Sociology
312 Middlebush Hall
573-882-8331
http://sociology.missouri.edu/graduate/requirements.shtml

Director of Graduate Studies: Eileen Bjornstrom

About the Program

The Department of Sociology engages students in research, utilizing qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, in order to analyze issues and problems affecting societies. The core of doctoral training is in classical and contemporary theory, and research methods including quantitative, historical, and feminist methodologies, and interviews and field work.

Specializations

Students may focus their studies on any two of the following graduate program areas:

• Culture and Identity
• Health, Aging, and Environment
• Political Economy, Power, and Movements
• Social Inequalities

Within these program areas, students conduct research on such topics as gender, health-care policy, popular culture, hunger, race, criminology, sexualities, and elites and protest movements in the global economy.

Financial Aid from the Program

Financial support for students includes teaching and research assistantships, both of which include remission of educational fees. International students cannot be awarded teaching assistantships until they have completed one semester of residence at MU and pass a test of spoken English.