

Sociology and Social Thought

Program Type

Major

Director: PETER BLUM

Visiting Assistant Professor: CHRISTOPHER ROBERTSON

The interdisciplinary program in sociology and social thought brings together contemporary perspectives from the social sciences with religious and philosophical perspectives in particular, and with Hillsdale's liberal arts emphasis in general. The goal of the program is to provide a broad, cross-disciplinary understanding of contemporary society and culture, organized around a core of studies in the theoretical and methodological traditions specific to sociology. It approaches sociological perspectives sympathetically, while also addressing critical questions regarding tradition, authority, and commitment from the standpoint embodied in the mission statement of Hillsdale College. Its theoretical and methodological focus is historical and interpretive, while core courses are geared toward familiarizing students with the range of contemporary approaches in the discipline. Majors in sociology and social thought will mix core courses in sociology with approved courses in philosophy and religion, and in other appropriate disciplines, in consultation with the program director.

Required Courses

The major in sociology and social thought requires a minimum of 27 semester hours (not including SOC 101), including:

Course Code	Title	Hours
SOC 390	Qualitative Research Methods	3
SOC 391	Emergence of Sociological Thought	3
	SOC 317 or PSY 341	3
	SOC 306 or 319	3
	Sub-Total Credits	12

Electives

Choose 15 hours from:

Course Code	Title	Hours
SOC 306	Cultural Anthropology	3
SOC 317	Interaction and Social Definition	3
SOC 319	Comparative Human Societies	3
SOC 327	Deviance and Social Control	3
SOC 329	Crime and Punishment	3
SOC 393	Topics in Sociology	1-3
SOC 597	Special Problems	1-3
PHL 320	American Pragmatism	3
PHL 350	Philosophy of Law	3
REL 373	Religion, Society and Culture	3
SOC 493	Seminar in Sociology and Social Thought	3
PSY 341	Social Psychology	3
	Sub-Total Credits	15

Non-sociology courses which are approved as in-major electives will be specified in the course listings each semester. At least one of these electives must be at the 400 level. Seniors are required to submit a senior paper (normally one written for a major course), give a senior presentation, and take a comprehensive examination. Details on how to meet these requirements are available from the program director.

Students who meet the following additional criteria will graduate with honors in sociology and social thought:

- A minimum 3.70 GPA in major courses
- Performance at currently defined minimum level on the comprehensive exam (consult director)
- A senior paper at least 20 pages in length, not including notes or references
- A-level grades on the senior paper and the senior presentation

A course in statistics (e.g., PSY 209) is also strongly recommended as background for graduate study, but such a course may be counted for the major only if the student is not pursuing a second major or a minor which includes a statistics course.

Total Credits

27
