Welcome to the program of Sociology. We are located on the fourth floor of DeBartolo Hall in room 444 and our program phone number is 330-941-3442.

We offer a BA degree and minor in Sociology. All of our programs are hands-on, offering students opportunities for internships, fieldwork, and study abroad so that they emerge well-qualified to pursue graduate degrees and rewarding careers.

Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of society, human social relationships, and social institutions. At the core of sociology is the sociological imagination – a need to make the familiar strange and look beyond what is normally taken-for-granted to more nuanced understandings of social life. Much like society itself, sociological investigations are diverse, covering everything from the analysis of strangers interacting on the street to global social movements. The Sociology Program at YSU gives students a broad education in the field of sociology, emphasizing contemporary issues related to inequality, social institutions, gender and the family, deviance and criminology, aging, and research. Students learn how to think critically about human social life, seek answers to research questions, and help others understand how society works and how we might improve it. Our students have the opportunity to intern with a number of local and regional organizations, such as the Northeast Ohio Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Compass Community and Family Services.

Chair
Loren R. Lease, Ph.D., Professor, Chair

Professor
Amanda Fehlbaum, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Qi Jiang, Ph.D., Professor
Matt O’Mansky, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Major:
• Major in Sociology (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-sociology-anthropology-gerontology/ba-sociology/)

Minor:
• Minor in Sociology (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences-education/department-sociology-anthropology-gerontology/sociology-minor/)

SOC 1500  Introduction to Sociology  3 s.h.
An introduction to the science of human societies and groups: analysis of the structures, functions, and processes that bring about changes in societies, groups, communities, classes, and institutions.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

SOC 1500H  Honors Introduction to Sociology  3 s.h.
An introduction to the science of human societies and groups: analysis of the structures, functions, and processes that bring about changes in societies, groups, communities, classes, and institutions.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

SOC 2601  Social Problems  3 s.h.
A sociological overview of various contemporary social issues, analyzing significant discrepancies between standards of expectation and actual social behavior, attempting to ascertain possible causes, and discussing trends and possible changes.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

SOC 2630  Criminology  3 s.h.
Study of the social context of crime in America. Review of historical theories offered in explanation of criminal behavior.

SOC 2640  Gender in Society  3 s.h.
Sociological analysis of gender role issues by major institutions of society, including political, educational, economic and legal systems as well as media and the family. Focus is on effects of stratification, culture, gender norms, and the socialization process.
Cross-Listed: WMST 2640.
Gen Ed: Domestic Diversity, Social Science, Social and Personal Awareness.

SOC 2650  Human Trafficking  3 s.h.
An introduction to human trafficking by exploring the social constructs that define the sex and labor trade and understanding how social institutions support them. Topics include identifying traffickers, buyers and victims/survivors; legislation; state and local responses; coalitions and law enforcement; and society’s efforts to prevent trafficking in persons.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

SOC 2690  Identities and Differences  3 s.h.
A study of personal and social issues that shape the understanding and development of identity and diversity.
Gen Ed: Domestic Diversity, Social and Personal Awareness.

SOC 3700  Minority Groups  3 s.h.
Survey of the origins and characteristics of ethnic and racial minority groups, with emphasis on the significance of membership in such a group for in-group, out-group, and community solidarity.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.
Cross-Listed: AMER 3700.

SOC 3701  Social Statistics  4 s.h.
Measurement and interpretation of social data by use of descriptive techniques. Examines methods of probability theory as a basis for statistical inference, hypothesis testing, correlation, chi-square, and variance analysis.
Cross-Listed: ANTH 3701, CRIM 3710.

SOC 3703  Aging and Society  3 s.h.
An interdisciplinary introduction to studies in aging. Examines the impact of population aging and its effect on the society at large. Also examines individual aging processes and social significance of aging. Listed also as GERO 3703.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or GERO 1501.

SOC 3703H  Honors Aging and Society  3 s.h.
An interdisciplinary introduction to studies in aging. Examines the impact of population aging and its effect on the society at large. Also examines individual aging processes and social significance of aging. Listed also as GERO 3703.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or GERO 1501.

SOC 3705  The Family  3 s.h.
Family and kinship systems as major institutions; their development, functions, and relation to other basic institutions found in different cultures and social strata.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or ANTH 1500.

SOC 3707  Urban Sociology  3 s.h.
A comparative study of cities of pre-industrial and industrial societies, historical and contemporary. The process of urbanization and changing urban structure and functions.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.
SOC 3708  Political Sociology  3 s.h.
The social conditions that affect government and politics and that may help to
determine political order and regulate struggles for power; associations and
movements leading to stability or change.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3720  Applied Sociology  3 s.h.
Uses of sociology in practical affairs, providing theory and data for public
policy, institutional reform, social action programs, and social inventions.
Contributions to architectural design, industrial engineering, community
planning, and innovative legislation.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3731  Social Deviance  3 s.h.
Focuses on problems of drug abuse, sexual deviation, crime, and other forms
of deviance. Theoretical approaches to deviant behavior; etiologies and
methods of social control are explored.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or CJJS 1500.

SOC 3733  White Collar Crime  3 s.h.
Focuses on distinguishing between various types of white-collar crime, such
as corporate fraud, corruption of public officials, and environmental crime.
Also examines theoretical explanations for white-collar crime and situates it
within larger social contexts of power and status.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or CRJS 1500.

SOC 3735  Juvenile Delinquency  3 s.h.
Social and psychological factors underlying delinquency; the juvenile court
and probation; treatment and preventive measures.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or CRJS 1500.

SOC 3736  Crime and the Life Course  3 s.h.
Examines the development, stability, and change of criminal behavior
throughout different stages of the life course. Themes such as criminal
trajectories, transitions, and turning points are discussed.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or CJJS 1500.

SOC 3740  Complex Organizations  3 s.h.
Structures and processes of large-scale organizations: leadership, control
techniques, tensions, bureaucratic pathologies, organizational change.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3741  Social Movements  3 s.h.
Analysis of the role of social movements, intellectual criticism, and
socioeconomic trends; study of the dynamics of change initiated outside of
regular and institutionalized channels, including mobs and crowds.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3743  Social Stratification and Inequality  3 s.h.
Comparative analysis of social stratification systems with major emphasis on
modern Western societies.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3745  Sociology of Health, Illness, and Healthcare  3 s.h.
Social attitudes toward illness. Cultural and social factors in disease definition
of illness, and organization of the health professions and health facilities.
Listed also as GERO 3745.
Prereq.: SOC 1500, GERO 1501, or admission to NEOMED-YSU program.

SOC 3746  Sociology of the Body  3 s.h.
This course examines the body and its relationship to the self as a product
of complex social arrangements and processes. The body is studied as an
object of social control and as the focus of shifting race, gender, and sexual
categories. Topics include health, medicine, consumerism, sports, and popular
culture.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3747  Sociology of Sexuality  3 s.h.
Examines sexuality and how it is perceived, defined, and experienced in the
context of society. Sexuality is studied as subject to social norms, attitudes,
and beliefs through public and private policies, practices, and institutions.
Explores how the social construction of sexuality influences both sexual and
non-sexual relationships.
Prereq.: 3 semester hours in Sociology.
Cross-Listed: WMST 3747.

SOC 3749  Sociological Theory  3 s.h.
The major theoretical traditions in Sociology emerging from the enlightenment
period and evolving to the present.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or ANTH 2602.

SOC 3755  Theories of Gerontology  3 s.h.
Review and critical analysis of current theories of the social aspects of aging,
and their use in research. Listed also as GERO 3755.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or GERO 1501.

SOC 3757  Aging and Social Policy  3 s.h.
Critical examination of social policies and social systems which affect aging
and retirement. Listed also as GERO 3757 and POL 3757.
Prereq.: SOC 1500, GERO 1501, or POL 1560.

SOC 3758  Long-Term Care  3 s.h.
Examines critical issues in long-term care systems, services, and programs.
Impacts of social demographic and economic changes on long-term care
needs, demands, and supplies. Contemporary trends and future outlooks of
long-term care. Listed also as GERO 3758.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or GERO 1501.

SOC 3759  Sociology of Dementia  3 s.h.
The understanding of the nature, causes, symptoms, and social consequences
of dementia. Attention to the status of aging, and to the status of those who
suffer from dementia in contemporary society.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3760  Sociology of Death and Dying  3 s.h.
Analysis of the social aspects of human death, dying, and bereavement using
various sociological approaches. Explores data from secondary sources,
surveys, and field investigations that relate to the institutional contexts of
dying and grieving processes. Includes practical application of sociological
analysis of dying and death.
Prereq.: SOC 1500.

SOC 3761  Elder Crimes - Elder Justice  3 s.h.
Issues in gerontology and aging that affect law enforcement and the criminal
justice system.
Prereq.: GERO 1501 or SOC 1500 or CJJS 1500.
Cross-Listed: GERO 3761.

SOC 3790  Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspectives  3 s.h.
Examines the phenomenon of aging from cross-cultural perspectives with
an emphasis on cultural evolution and its impact upon the status, roles, and
cultural values associated with aging and the aged. Listed also as ANTH 3790
and GERO 3790.
Prereq.: SOC 1500 or ANTH 1500 or GERO 1501.

SOC 3798  Select Topics in Sociology  3 s.h.
In-depth examination of various sociological topics and issues of both current
and long-standing interest. May be taken twice with different topics.
Prereq.: 3 s.h. in Sociology.

SOC 4800  Undergraduate Research  1-2 s.h.
Research participation under the direction of a faculty member. Designed to
acquaint the advanced student with special research problems associated
with various aspects of the discipline. May be repeated for a maximum of 4
s.h.
Prereq.: Permission of chairperson and 20 s.h. in Sociology.
SOC 4801  Later Life Issues  3 s.h.
An examination of contemporary issues and concerns among the elderly.
Topics include family relations, finances, entitlements, Social Security, quality
of life, and euthanasia.
Prereq.: SOC 3703.

SOC 4810  International Study in Sociology  3 s.h.
Sociological study of a selected international area. Travel to the area of
study under the supervision of a Sociology faculty member. The course
grade is based on participation in the trip and a term paper or comparable
assignments. May be repeated once. Permission of the chairperson.

SOC 4821  Internship in Sociology  3-9 s.h.
Application of sociological knowledge in settings such as social agencies,
government offices, hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and
industry. Maximum of 6 s.h. may be applied to the Sociology major.
Prereq.: Junior standing and at least 9 s.h. of Sociology, and permission of
chairperson.

SOC 4850  Research Methods  3 s.h.
An introduction to methods employed in social research. Attention is given
to (1) the logic of scientific inquiry and the relationship between theory and
methods; (2) the various qualitative and quantitative methods; (3) research
design, data collection, organization, analysis, interpretation and application;
(4) the social, cultural, political, and ethical context of social research; and
(5) computer skills employed in data analysis. Listed also as ANTH 4850 or
GERO 4850. Prereq.: SOC 3701, ANTH 3701.

SOC 4860  Senior Thesis  3 s.h.
A capstone experience for the major in sociology. Implementing and
completing a quantitative or qualitative research project and/or paper on a
topic approved by thesis advisor.
Prereq.: Senior status in Sociology; SOC 4850.

SOC 6900  Special Sociological Problems  3 s.h.
Advanced seminars focusing on independent study at the graduate level;
social organization in a changing world; social disorganization (or deviance)
and social controls; social and cultural factors in personality development;
minority relationships; sociology of law; social change; and comparative
institutions.

SOC 6905  Social Gerontology  3 s.h.
Integration and application of gerontological theories; major conceptual issues
regarding life span development; and contemporary gerontological concepts
and research.