



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Annie Motch '11

Sociology



Q: What made you decide on Connecticut College and the sociology major?

A: The interdisciplinary curriculum and unique certificate programs

set the College apart. I knew it would give me the guidance and opportunities necessary to explore my interests and give me experiences (in and out of the classroom) that would lead me to be a more intellectually curious, cultured, and skilled human being. I chose to major in sociology because of its applicability to everyday life. The range of topics covered in sociology keep the coursework interesting and challenging. Gender, age, race, globalization, politics, culture, and economic status are only a few of the recurring themes we explored.

Q: What has been your favorite class?

A: My favorite was "Perspectives on Modern Global Society", the gateway course to the Toor Cummings Center certificate program. The course was team-taught by five professors in different departments who each presented on a topic that related to the origins and dynamics of contemporary society.

Q: Have you studied abroad?

A: I spent the fall of my junior year in Paris, France, attending classes at the Université de Paris VII. As a Toor Cummings Center student, I spent the summer following my junior year in Martinique where I interned with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies to gain information for my senior integrative project, which took a socio-economic approach to understanding the island's well-developed and longstanding underground economy.

Sociology

Overview

Sociology is the study of social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Because sociology addresses the most pressing issues of our time, it is a field whose potential is increasingly tapped by those who create programs and craft policies. Sociologists investigate the structure of societies, organizations and groups and the ways people act and interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the family to social movements and revolutions, from the divisions based on race, gender and social class to the underlying and shared beliefs of a common culture. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory and the application of knowledge.

Interdisciplinary Study

A sociology major or minor explores complex issues from different intellectual, ethical and intercultural perspectives and hones the skills of analysis and problem solving. If you wish to expand upon your major in sociology, the College offers you a wide range of opportunities to explore a topic, issue or problem using the conceptual framework and tools of more than one academic discipline. You may wish to double major or design one in consultation with faculty advisers. Students also can apply to earn a certificate from one of the College's innovative interdisciplinary centers.

Honors Research

If you have a deep interest in the study of sociology, you have the opportunity to do an honors thesis, an in-depth research project in close coordination with a faculty member. In consultation with your adviser and the department, you'll formulate a tentative plan for a senior thesis that has a scope of a year-long project.

After Connecticut College

The study of sociology at Connecticut College will provide you with the theoretical and methodological tools that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life and prepare you for a wide variety of careers, including law, education, social work as well as pursuing advanced degrees.

Faculty

Ron Flores, *Associate Professor of Sociology*

A.B., A.M., Fordham University; Ph.D., Brown University
Population studies; urban sociology; racial and ethnic groups; family sociology; community-based learning/engaged pedagogies; sociology of education

Robert Gay, *Professor of Sociology; Chair of Sociology Department*

B.A., London University; M.A., Syracuse University; Ph.D., Brown University
Democracy; civil society; organized crime; violence; Brazil

Cherise Harris, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*

B.A., Seton Hall University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Georgia
Race, class and gender; marriage and the family; social psychology

Afshan Jafar, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*

B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Gender; globalization; colorism; transnational women's movements; nationalist and fundamentalist movements; Muslim immigrants in the U.S.

Selected Courses

Identity, Community and Democracy; Sex, Gender and Society; The Sociology of Work; AIDS and Society; Urban Sociology; Group Dynamics; City and Society; Industrialization, Dictatorship and Democracy; American Society and Politics; Sociology of Inequality; Race, Gender and the Mass Media; Immigration in an Urban Context; Family Analysis and Lifestyles; Post-Authoritarian Brazil; Middle Class Minorities; Perspectives on Modern Global Society

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 43 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences, humanities and other interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY?

Paola Coste '10

Child development specialist in New York City. Supervises Head Start teachers and works with students identified as having special needs.

Celso "Oslec" Villegas '03

Doctoral candidate in sociology at Brown University. Dissertation involves collecting data on middle-class formation in the Philippines, Venezuela and Ecuador.

As a student, was named a Winthrop Scholar, was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, earned the sociology department prize, and was inducted into the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha.

Rochelle Cruz Duyan '02

Senior assistant and paralegal to Ulysses Hammond, the College's vice president for administration. Also serves as secretary for the Connecticut College Alumni of Color (CCAC).

While a student at Connecticut College, worked all four years for a prestigious local law firm, Mariani & Reck. After graduation, worked as international trade legal assistant at Sidley Austin Brown & Wood in Washington, D.C.

Collins Anderson '04

Lead chef at Parties That Cook in San Francisco. Previously worked as executive chef at Florio, as well as sous chef at the Cottage Eatery, both in San Francisco.

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