Sociology

Overview

Sociology is the study of social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. The subject matter you study ranges from the family to social movements and revolutions, and from divisions based on race, gender and social class to the underlying and shared beliefs of a common culture. You learn to use a variety of investigative methods and analysis to better understand human behavior at the level of the individual and at the level of groups and structures. Few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory and practical applications. Sociology addresses the most pressing issues of our time, and it is increasingly applied by those who make policy and create programs. It offers you broad opportunities for careers and graduate studies.

Special Opportunities

As a sociology major or minor, you examine complex issues from many intellectual, ethical and intercultural perspectives. You explore a topic, issue or problem using the conceptual framework and tools of more than one academic discipline. You might double major or design your own unique major, or pursue a certificate from one of the College’s interdisciplinary centers.

Personalized Learning

You are encouraged to take advantage of study away opportunities and to pursue research. If you have a deep interest in a given topic, you can undertake an honors study -- an in-depth, yearlong research project done in close coordination with a faculty member.

Brooke Dinsmore

Sociology, Gender & Women’s Studies

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: I was drawn to the environment of intellectual curiosity, mutual respect and courtesy among the students. What really sold me was the opportunity to work closely with my professors.

Q: What was your most challenging or rewarding class?
A: “The Sociology of Globalization” seminar was very challenging and a new subject area for me. As Professor Jafar said on the first day of class, the topic doesn’t necessarily leave you with answers but sometimes just more questions. My feminist theory seminar taught me a completely new way of reading and provided a number of highly useful analytical tools I draw on regularly.

Q: What role has the College’s career development and funded internship program (CELS) played for you?
A: CELS was invaluable in helping me translate my academic experiences into my future plans. Through the funded internship program, I was a member of sociology professor Ana Campos-Holland’s summer research team, the true culmination of my experience as a sociology major. My honors thesis used a subsample of the social media interviews we conducted to look at how youth navigate adult presence to freely participate in peer culture on social media sites.
Faculty

Ana Campos-Holland, Assistant Professor of Sociology
B.A., University of California-Santa Barbara; M.A., Ph.D., University of Iowa
Law and society; deviance, crime, drugs and society; punishment and its consequences; families and parenthood; childhood and adolescence

Ronald Flores, Professor of Sociology; Chair of Sociology Department
A.B., A.M., Fordham University; Ph.D., Brown University
Immigration studies; urban sociology; racial and ethnic groups; family sociology; Latino studies; community-based learning and engagement; sociology of education

Robert Gay, Professor of Sociology
B.A., London University; M.A., Syracuse University; Ph.D., Brown University
Democracy; civil society; organized crime; violence; Brazil

Cherise Harris, Associate 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, Associate Professor of Sociology
B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Gender; globalization; the body and embodiment; media; nationalist and fundamentalist movements; Muslim immigrants in the U.S.; transnational women’s movements

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

About Connecticut College
Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY?
Global Brand Development Manager, Unilever Inc.
Senior Planner, City of Agoura Hills
Producer, CBS Television
Social Studies Teacher, U.S. Federal Courts, 9th Circuit
Marketing/Design Specialist, Starbucks Coffee Co.
Global Sourcing Business Analyst, Target
Professor of Sociology, Augsburg College
Social Worker, State of Rhode Island
Director of Public Relations, Chicago Blackhawks
Dean of Students, Hebron Academy
Attorney, Day, Berry & Howard
Section Chief, Connecticut Department of Public Health
Cinematographer, 447 Productions

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN SOCIOLOGY
Brooke Dinsmore ’14
“Chicks Be Like”: Masculinity, Femininity and Gendered Double Standards in Youth Peer Cultures on Social Media
Telayah Sturdivant ’15
I Am Project: An Analysis of the Representation of Homelessness in American Visual Culture

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CONNCOLL.EDU/ACADEMICS/