

Naomi Larsen (1996). Professor of Sociology and Department Chair. B.A. and M.A., Mankato State University; Ph.D., Iowa State University; Certified Family Life Educator.

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The mission of the Department is to provide students with a broad background in the study of society and human relationships from a Christian perspective, to enable them to enter graduate programs or entry level positions in their respective discipline.

I. Sociology major—33 semester hours

The courses in Sociology are designed for two types of students: (1) those who desire pre-professional training for sociology or other related fields of human relations, and (2) those who seek to understand underlying principles in human relations, the role of custom and group psychology in collective behavior, the structure of society, the problems of group living, and the tendencies toward the improvement or the disintegration of society. Courses are designed to present both a practical and a scientific analysis of human relationships in the various areas of social life.

A. SOC 211, 317, 417, 418, 419, 422

B. SOC Electives: 15 hours.

II. Family Studies major—42 hours

The family, as a basic building block of society, is critical to the functioning of society as a whole. The contribution of the Christian community to the development of leaders in family relations is crucial. The Family Studies major focuses on the development of the individual in the context of family and society. The program is designed to prepare students for (a) professional careers in a variety of human service areas; (b) leadership roles in church, school, and community; (c) personal roles in family living; and (d) graduate education. Graduates with the major meet all requirements for the provisional Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) designation from the National Council on Family Relations. Graduates who do not pursue graduate study typically find employment as parent educators, child life specialists and program directors in public and private agencies.

The interdisciplinary Human Studies minor is designed to give flexibility to the student interested in education and human studies.

A. Include two of the following: PSY 213, SOC 211, SE 225.

319. Sociology of Religion (3) F—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A sociological analysis of religious practice and belief. The intersection of religion with personal, family and social life is emphasized. Cults, sects, fundamentalism and radicalism are all examined in this context.

320. Juvenile Delinquency (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250; Reciprocal credit: CRJ 320. See CRJ 320 for description.

321. Social Gerontology (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 321.

A brief, comprehensive introduction to the subject of aging. The social and socio-psychological aspects will be examined.

324. Social Deviance (3) S—Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 324.

Focuses on why certain individuals violate social norms and the ways society responds and attempts to control deviant behavior. Topics include: defining, measuring and explaining social deviance and types of deviant behavior as well as personal and social consequences of deviant behavior.

325. Families Across Cultures (3) F, S

Reciprocal credit: SW 325.

The family as an object of sociological inquiry within the context of cross-cultural, multi-cultural and historical bases. Continuity and change, similarities and differences are emphasized.

333. Parent-Child Relations (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

Social and historical context of parent-child interaction over the life course; analysis of theories, research and educational programs; socialization into the family; examination of parenting as a developmental process. Overview of the parenting process in diverse cultural and familial structures. Current issues in child rearing.

355. Cultural Anthropology (3) F—Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

A study of humanity, biologically and culturally, including its origins, changes, and present-day manifestations utilizing a cross-cultural approach. Topics: language, food gathering, kinship, social stratifications; economic, political, religious structures.

370. Gender and Sexuality (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 370.

Gender and sexuality in American society and cross-culturally with consideration to the role of gender in structuring identity, male/female interaction, and constraining or expanding opportunities. Topics: Sexual development, function and dysfunction, cultural and socio-psychological issues, and Christian, ethical and moral responses.

411. Internship (3) S

Prerequisites: 21 SOC hours including 417 or 425; 422; and departmental approval.

A field situation in a community agency. Supervision will be provided by the agency and department. A journal and substantive term paper are required.

417. The History of Social Thought (3) S

Prerequisites: 6 hours of SOC including SOC 211.

The origin and development of social thought with an emphasis on contemporary social theory.

418. Social Psychology (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211, PSY 213. Reciprocal credit: PSY 418. See PSY 418 for description.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 419.

422. Research Methods (3) F

Prerequisite: MAT 114; 6 additional hours in SOC including 211.

Research design, applied techniques, and data analysis methods with emphasis on a research project, from problem formulation to research report.

425. Strengthening Marriage and Families (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 225.

Family theories from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, assumptions, concepts, and applications for strengthening relationships. Emphasizes premarital and family life education, marriage and family enrichment.

435. Contemporary Issues in the Family (3) W

Prerequisites: SOC 211, 225. Reciprocal credit: PSY 435.

An in-depth look at the family, life issues, threats and challenges today. Biblical principles related to such issues as parent-child relationships, work and family, divorce and family violence are discussed. Preventive techniques and solutions are considered.

497. Senior Capstone Seminar (3) S

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and permission of instructor; Pre or Corequisites: SOC 417, 422.

An in-depth look at the family, life issues, threats and challenges today. Biblical principles related to such issues as parent-child relationships, work and family, divorce and family violence are discussed. Preventive techniques and solutions are considered.

() Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

250. Introduction to Criminal Justice (3) F

Reciprocal credit: SOC 250.

An introductory study of the criminal justice system, including the structure, process and function of the police, the court system and its subsystems, and the processing of offenders.

312. Criminology (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 312.

A study of theories and research in relation to the causes of crime, punishment and treatment of crime.

315. Fundamentals of Criminal Law (3) S

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250.

An analysis of the origins and principles of criminal law; crimes against property, persons, and public order; criminal liability; complicity and conspiracy.

320. Juvenile Delinquency (3) S

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250. Reciprocal credit: SOC 320.

An examination of theories and research concerning juvenile delinquency, the processing of juvenile offenders, and social factors in uencing delinquency.

325. Corrections (3) S

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250

An examination of the correctional system, incarceration, alternatives to incarceration and some of the controversial issues involving corrections in the United States.

330. Criminal Investigation (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250

An analysis of methods of investigation of felony crimes. Techniques of crime scene analysis, interrogation and other investigative techniques are emphasized.

335. Prevention and Deterrence (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250

A survey of procedures and materials used by the private and public sectors in providing site security and crime prevention.

410. Criminal Justice Administration (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and CRJ/SOC 250

An examination of the organization, duties and responsibilities of criminal justice agencies with emphasis on police agencies (local, state, and federal).

Available in all pre ces:

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) As Needed

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

498-9. Seminar (1-3) F As Needed

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.