SOCIOLOGY

DESCRIPTION

Sociology is a social science involving the study of the lives of people in relation to groups and societies. Sociologists examine everything from the analysis of brief interactions between anonymous individuals on the street to the study of global social processes.

The goal of the sociology program at PCC is to support students in cultivating a sociological imagination; that is, the ability to connect their personal experience to broader social and historical contexts. In doing so, students develop the skills to identify, analyze and intervene in the larger social forces that shape their lived experiences, their communities, and the broader social world.

At PCC, sociology students will: 1) develop a sociological imagination, 2) apply social theories and empirical evidence to analyze larger social forces, 3) analyze the construction of culture and its relationship to systems of inequality, 4) articulate a sociological perspective in written form, and 5) apply a sociological understanding of social change to intervene in the larger social forces that shape their lived experiences, their communities, and the broader social world.

Many sociology courses offer community-based learning options, which allow students to apply course material to volunteer work in the greater Portland community. Whichever career a student chooses, from engineering to social services, sociology provides a foundation for understanding how the social world works and the roles we play within it.

SOC 204. Sociology in Everyday Life. 4 Credits.
Introduces the sociological perspective and the scientific study of human social behavior. Focuses on the core concepts, theories, and research on human interactions within social groups and how people are shaped by their social locations (status, roles, race, class, sex, age, etc.) within society’s structures, stratification systems, and institutions, and by cultural processes such as socialization and group dynamics. Prerequisite: RD 115 or IRW 115 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 205. Social Change in Societies. 4 Credits.
Explores how societies change by utilizing sociological perspectives to compare and contrast the impacts of changes on individuals and our social institutions (such as the family, economy, politics, education, and religion). Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Social Sciences/AOT-B, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 206. Social Problems. 4 Credits.
Applies the sociological perspective to the study of social problems, including their identification, analyses of causes and consequences, and considerations of possible solutions. Explores topics such as inequality, poverty, crime and delinquency, substance abuse, discrimination, domestic violence, the environment, global stratification, and international conflict. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AOT-B, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 211. Peace and Conflict. 4 Credits.
Explores causes and manifestations of violence in actions involving oneself, society, one’s nation, and the global community. Alternatives to oppressive behavior, undemocratic institutions, and the violent resolution of conflict are considered. Prerequisite: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 213. Diversity in the United States. 4 Credits.
Frames social status differences within the context of social structure and culture. Examines how inequalities and privilege play out through social status and are reinforced through both culture and social structure. Includes statuses such as race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, etc. Includes concepts such as: privilege, social stratification, cultural bias, institutional inequality, and social construction. Prerequisite: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 214A. Illumination Project: Tools for Creative Social Activism 1. 4 Credits.
Applies the sociological perspective to the study of social problems and possible solutions. Explores topics such as institutional privilege, power and oppression, social identity, cultural assumptions and discrimination. Includes social analysis, group facilitation, social change interventions, creative production and basic acting. This is the first course of a three course sequence. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement and instructor permission. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 214B. Illumination Project: Tools for Creative Social Activism 2. 4 Credits.
Explores the sociological perspective to the study of social problems and possible solutions. Explores topics such as racism, immigration, xenophobia, institutional privilege and oppression and social activism through classroom and community presentations utilizing interactive theater. Includes social analysis, group facilitation, social change interventions, creative production and basic acting. This is the second course of a three course sequence. Prerequisites: SOC 214A and instructor permission. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 214C. Illumination Project: Tools for Creative Social Activism 3. 4 Credits.
Applies the sociological perspective to the study of social problems and possible solutions. Explores topics such as racism, xenophobia, institutional privilege and oppression and social activism through classroom and community presentations utilizing interactive theater. Includes social analysis, group facilitation, educational methods and practice, social change interventions, creative production and basic acting. This is the third course of a three course sequence. Prerequisites: SOC 214B and instructor permission. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 215. Social Issues and Movements. 4 Credits.
Explores important social issues and movements from around the world. Examines the impact of social changes and actions on individuals and social structures. Focuses on organized social responses and movements to social problems, utilizing a multicultural and critical-thinking approach. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT, Social Sciences/AS.
SOC 218. Sociology of Gender. 4 Credits.
Foci on how socialization is affected by gender. Topics include how gender is reflected in culture through values, norms, language, media, power, violence, various theoretical approaches, significant social institutions, social movements and issues. Recommended: SOC 204 or SOC 205 or instructor permission. Prerequisite: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/ASOT-B, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AOT.

SOC 219. Religion & Culture: Social Dimensions. 3 Credits.
Explores the relationship between culture, social structure, and religion, through comparative and cross-cultural examination of religious beliefs, practices, and organization. Audit available.

SOC 221. Globalization and International Relations. 4 Credits.
Provides an introductory survey of economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions of globalization and evaluates its impacts on international relations. Examines patterns of conflict and cooperation among countries including the influence of international institutions, NGOs, and global corporations. Introduces selected issues such as war and peace, global security, environment, elites and concentration of power, wealth and income distribution, cultural and ethnic identities and explores possible peaceful solutions to these global problems. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. PS 221, EG 221 and SOC 221 are equivalent and only one may be taken for credit.

SOC 222. Social Gerontology/Sociology of Aging. 4 Credits.
Explores the diversity of individual and population aging and their consequences for individuals, families, communities and societies, through a life course and social change perspective. Recommend: Introductory sociology course or instructor permission. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

SOC 228. Introduction to Environmental Sociology. 4 Credits.
Examines the relationship between society and the environment, with a focus on how industrialization and our increasing demand for natural resources has significantly impacted the planet’s ability to meet the needs of humanity and other species. Explores the structural and cultural causes and consequences of such topics as production, consumption, population, development, pollution, and environmental justice and how to respond to these global problems. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

SOC 230. Introduction to Gerontology. 4 Credits.
Introduces current practice, programs, and policies in the field of gerontology. Addresses professional standards of practice and service delivery, as well as advocacy and policy directions, from a person-directed perspective, responsive to social inequalities and cultural diversity. Recommend: Introductory sociology course or instructor permission. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/ASOT-B, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAOT.

SOC 231. Sociology of Health & Aging. 4 Credits.
Introduces age-related health issues in social and cultural context. Includes the social structuring of age, health and illness; demographics and patterns of health and illness of diverse older adults; issues related to medical and healthcare services, health and long-term care policy and programs. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/AAOT, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

SOC 232. Death and Dying: Cultural and Issues. 4 Credits.
Introduces the institution of death in the United States. Includes a broad multicultural, interdisciplinary approach, including sociological, psychological, historical, ethical, cultural, and religious approaches to death, dying, and bereavement across the lifespan. Recommend: SOC 204, 205, or instructor permission. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Social Sciences/ASOT-B, Social Sciences/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS.

SOC 233. Social Gerontology/Sociology of Aging. 4 Credits.
Explores the process of aging, including the diversity and complexity of social conditions and policies that affect the social lives of older adults. Includes a broad multicultural, interdisciplinary approach, including sociological, psychological, historical, ethical, cultural, and religious approaches to death, dying, and bereavement across the lifespan. Recommend: SOC 204, 205, or instructor permission. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. Audit available. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Social Sciences/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS.

SOC 234. Death: Crosscultural Perspectives. 4 Credits.
An interdisciplinary study of the cross-cultural variations regarding human responses to death and the differing cosmological implications these suggest. Death, a cultural universal, is addressed in its diversity from both anthropological and sociological perspective. The topic of death as experienced by several major regions and cultures of the world is explored including Asia, India, Brazil, Middle East, Melanesia and Native Americans; historical trends in Western Europe and the Americas are assessed regarding the evolution of contemporary perspectives on mortality. ATH 234 and SOC 234 cannot both be taken for credit. Recommend: A prior course in Anthropology or Sociology. Audit available.

SOC 280A. Cooperative Education: Sociology. 1-3 Credit.
Expands knowledge of sociology through work and/or volunteer experiences which provide opportunities for application of sociological learning objectives and practical skill development. Prerequisite: Instructor permission required.

SOC 280B. Cooperative Education: Community Service & Action Seminar. 2 Credits.
Expands knowledge of sociology through work and/or volunteer experiences which provide opportunities for application of sociological learning objectives and practical skill development. Prerequisite: Instructor permission required.

SOC 288. Independent Study: Sociology. 1-3 Credit.
Advanced, individualized study of areas of sociology not considered in other courses to meet special interests or program requirements. Includes a term project and readings approved by the instructor. Instructor permission required. Recommended: prior study of sociology. Audit available.