SOCIOLOGY

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/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

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/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.
SOC 218. Sociology of Gender. 4 Credits.
Focusses 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/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/ AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

SOC 219. Introduction to Sociology of Religion. 4 Credits.
Introduces the sociological perspective to the study of religion and spirituality. Focusses on the relationship between religion, culture and social structure through a cross-cultural examination of religious beliefs, practices and organizations. Evaluates religion as a social identity and the impact of religion on social class, race, gender and sexuality. Explores the role of religion in current events including social conflict. Prerequisite: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. 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 their 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. 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 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 issues through policies and actions. 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/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

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/AAOT, Social Sciences/AS, Social Sciences/AAS, Social Sciences/AGS, Social Sciences/ASOT-B.

SOC 232. Death and Dying: Culture 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, 265, 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 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, Bali, 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 289. 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.

SOC 298. 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.