



# SOCIOLOGY STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Fall 2009**

**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY**

**Volume 11**

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# Welcome to the Sociology Major!

The Sociology faculty wants you to feel at home and to know that all of us are ready to help you in making your Santa Clara experience productive and exciting. Never hesitate to talk with us.

We think that you have made a very good choice in selecting Sociology as your major. The world is changing at a very fast pace and it is fair to say that the biggest problems of our times and the solutions to these problems are products of how people live and work collectively in families, organizations, communities, and nation states.

## Mission Statement

The overarching goal of Sociology at SCU, is to prepare students to meet the challenges of a modern and rapidly changing world by fostering a commitment to life-long learning and on-going growth in conscience (awareness of how our conduct impacts on others), competence (adroit ability in the effective and efficient pursuit of ends), and compassion (considering the long-term as well as short-term needs, interests, and feelings of an array of others when we decide how to act). In more disciplinary terms, the sociology major helps students to understand how social environments are structured and how they work (and don't work) by imparting the tools and insights of the discipline that can:

- Contribute to a fuller understanding of organizational and community problems which are caused or aggravated by patterns of social organization and shared meaning (that is, community or organizational structure and culture).
- Enhance the abilities of our graduates to work effectively in organizations of all kinds (especially businesses and human service organizations) and assess or improve upon organizational programs and policies.
- Prepare our graduates to engage in organizational improvement and community building activities throughout their lives.

Thus, Sociology's programmatic goals directly flow from Santa Clara University's efforts to broadly train students with the reasoning, communication abilities, and the inclination to work ethically and effectively in complex organizations and diverse communities in order to promote the common good.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Sociology as an academic discipline is its emphasis on the reality of community—revealing ways that individual thought, choice, and action take place in a broader social context. In terms of the moral and ethical formation of all Santa Clara students (Sociology and non-Sociology majors alike), Sociology plays

an important role in critiquing the dominant perspectives of our

culture, which seems to see choice and action as based on immediate self-interest. These goals have been summarized in a statement of Sociological understanding that appears on all Sociology course syllabi. The statement reads:

“Sociology is a social science that uses quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the relationships among individual actions, social institutions, societal forces, and social change. Sociological understanding provides us with tools for analyzing the practical impact and ethical implications of our choices and decisions in the workplace, family, and community.”

## History of the Department

Dr. Krassowski was the first full-time sociologist at SCU. He was hired by the University in the Fall of 1957. He taught a wide variety of courses in Sociology and was given the assignment to establish the Sociology Department with an academic program leading to a B.S. degree in Sociology. In May 1958, both the department and sociology as a major were approved by the SCU Board of Trustees.



Dr. Witold Krassowski, 1957-2004

The advent of co-education at SCU, in 1961, brought a sharp increase in student enrollment to the university and a significant increase in the number of students who were taking sociology courses. In response to student demand, additional sociologists were hired and the department also began to

offer anthropology courses. A separate Anthropology major was approved in the Spring of 1978. The Anthropology and Sociology programs functioned in a closely integrated way until 1997-98. After that the programs became more autonomous and in the fall of 2005, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Atom Yee, announced to the department that President, Rev. Paul Locatelli, S.J. had approved the setting up of two separate departments. Once again Sociology became its own department.

## What is Sociology

Sociologists study social organization (structure) and shared meaning (culture) in human groups. We most often study the United States, but we do our work all over the world. Sociology faculty at Santa Clara have lived and worked in Latin America, Asia, and Europe. At its conceptual heart, sociology studies the way in which patterns of shared meanings and systems of social organization are created, maintained, and transformed over time, and the consequences which result from those particular patterns of shared meaning and systems of social organization.

# Developmental Curriculum

Our curriculum is developmental in character.

- Introductory courses expose students to basic concepts.
- Substantive topic courses apply disciplinary concepts and analytical tools to real world problems.
- Theory and research courses, Soci 118-120, hone skills in data gathering and analysis of complex problems.
- Capstone courses in research and applied sociology help students integrate what they have learned, figure out what they would like to do with their major, and begin to produce work of professional style and quality. Special projects and internships related to, among other things, policy formulation and program implementation, are available for students who are close to graduation.

Students in our program prepare to help shape a more humane world by putting their disciplinary knowledge, tools, and sensibilities to work in business, social service, government, law, and the media, or by pursuing graduate studies in sociology leading to a college teaching career.

## BECOMING A SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

Students interested in declaring a major/minor in Sociology need to complete a Program Declaration form, which can be obtained from the SAA/Office Manager. The department offices are located in O'Connor Hall 329 (both Sociology and Anthropology share this office).

### Major Requirements

**Foundation:** (2 lower division courses) **REQUIRED**

- Soci 1 Principles of Sociology
- Anth 3 Intro. to Social and Cultural Anth

**Lower division elective (recommended but not required):**

- Soci 33 Social Problems in the United States

**Inquiry Sequence:** (3 Methods courses)

- Soci 119 Sociological Theory (*wtr. junior yr.*)
- Soci 120 Quantitative Methods/Applied Statistics (*wtr. junior year*)
- Soci 118 Qualitative Methods (*spr. junior year*)

**Capstone Courses:** (2 courses **after** completion of Soc 118, 119, 120) Basic/Pure Research capstone and the second an Applied capstone.

- Soci 121 Basic/Pure Research Capstone #1 (*fall senior yr.*)
- Soci 170 Applied Sociology #2 (*senior year if possible*)

**FOUR Upper Division Sociology Electives:** *Must take TWO courses from TWO OF THE FOUR CLUSTERS* (total of 4 courses)

#### **Criminology/Criminal Justice Cluster**

- Soci 158 Deviant Behavior
- Soci 159 Sociology of Crime
- Soci 160 Law in a Changing Society
- Soci 161 Sociology of the Criminal Justice System

#### **Immigrant Communities Cluster**

- Soci 137 Social Change
- Soci 138 Demography
- Soci 150 Ethnic Enterprises
- Soci 180 Immigrant Communities

#### **Inequalities Cluster**

- Soci 132 Social Stratification
- Soci 134 Globalization and Inequality
- Soci 135 Gender & Social Change in Latin America
- Soci 140 Urban Society and Social Conflict
- Soci 153 Race, Class, and Gender in the US
- Soci 165 Human Services
- Soci 175 Race and Inequality

#### **Organizations/Institutions Cluster**

- Soci 127 Group Dynamics
- Soci 148 Stakeholder Diversity in Contemporary American Organizations
- Soci 149 Business, Technology, and Society
- Soci 152 Women and Men in the Workplace
- Soci 157 Sociology of Family
- Soci 163 Sociology of Work and Occupation
- Soci 164 Collective Behavior
- Soci 172 Management of Health Care Org.

#### **Other Recommended (but not required)**

#### **Outward Bound Courses (after 118, 119, 120 and 121)**

- Soci 125 Honors Thesis
- Soci 198 Internship (preferably in the senior year)
- Soci 199 Directed Reading/Directed Research

### Minor Requirements

Sociology offers a minor for students who wish to major in another discipline. The minor introduces students to the general orientation of Sociology in selected lower-division courses, and then requires more in-depth examination of the subjects in upper-division courses.

- Sociology 1 (Principles of Sociology)
- Sociology 33 (Social Problems)
- Sociology 117 (Sociology's Analytical Frameworks and Conceptual Approaches) **usually only offered in the spring quarter**
- **Three** upper division courses in Sociology (in addition to Sociology 117)

(Note: Soci 118, 119, 120 and 121 are reserved for Sociology majors only.)

**Study Aboard Courses:** Up to **two** upper division study abroad courses may be used to fulfill the 4 upper division sociology cluster courses required for the major. **One** study abroad upper division course maybe used toward the minor sociology requirement.

# Special Aspects of Our Curriculum

## Research Practicum

Practicum projects in Sociology 121 offer majors the opportunity to work on research projects under the supervision of department faculty. Each year a project focus is selected by a faculty member and studied by students working in conjunction with their classmates.

The faculty member provides guidance for the projects and directs the research process. The methods used in these projects grow out of understanding and skills acquired in Sociology 118, 119, and 120 (prerequisites for Soc 121). The program looks upon the Research Practicum as one of its capstones.

## Applied Sociology

The main goal of the Applied Sociology (Soc 170) capstone is to help prepare students to use their sociological knowledge in the various contexts they will find themselves in after graduation. This will be accomplished by exposing you to the ways that your sociological skills can be applied in a variety of organizational settings. You will use the skills and knowledge acquired in the inquiry sequence and substantive classes to examine issues in real-life situations and to propose solutions grounded in informed knowledge. The assignments for the course will be very practical and useful for both you as well as the organizations for which they are completed.

## Honors Thesis Option

Students interested in pursuing an honors thesis should focus on a topic, find a prospective advisor whose areas of expertise are related to this topic, and write a research proposal. Ordinarily a Sociology honors thesis can be initiated only if a student has:

- Maintained a 3.5 grade point average in the major and a 3.3 grade point average overall. (In special circumstances, positive recommendations by at least two faculty members in the student's discipline could be sufficient for admission to the honors thesis program).
- Already completed Sociology 121.
- Gained approval of a well developed independent plan of research from a faculty member willing to supervise the project.
- Received approval from the Sociology Department Chair for the project design.

In order for an honors thesis proposal to be considered, it must be submitted by the middle of the quarter prior to the term in which the proposed work would be done.

Sociology honors candidates, if they are eligible, register for Sociology 125, Honors Thesis. The final manuscript must be submitted to the department by the last day of class in that quarter. During exam week, the candidate will present an oral defense of the thesis to a panel of three faculty who will evaluate the thesis and the presentation. Readers are appointed by the

Sociology Chair in consultation with the supervising faculty. Readers may include faculty from other SCU departments and/or from outside SCU, depending on the topic.

Each candidate will receive a course grade for Sociology 125 based on the supervisor's evaluation of the quality of the student's overall performance and written paper prepared during the term. The decision whether or not to award Sociology Program Honors (independent of the course grade) will be determined by a majority vote of the thesis readers. The Sociology Program Honors designation will be requested to appear on the successful candidate's transcript.

## Internships

Internships give students the opportunity to work and conduct studies in corporations, community agencies, government bureaus, political organizations, and professional associations. Acting under the supervision of the Internship Coordinator students earn course credit as they apply lessons learned in the classroom to specific work settings.

Some examples of recent internship placements include:

- Siren Immigrant Services
- Law offices
- Grail Family Services
- Santa Clara County Probation Department
- Community Foundation Silicon Valley
- Northern California Service League
- Intel

Internships are most appropriate for upper-division students, preferably seniors, who have completed several upper-division courses in their major and who have developed sufficient disciplinary foundation to relate to specific field assignments. Ordinarily, lower-division students are not eligible for the Internship Program. *All internships must be approved by the Internship coordinator and Department Chair.*

Not every student who applies is suited for our Internship Program. The screening and selection is done by the Internship Coordinator, who, in addition to a student's academic performance, takes into account qualities such as maturity, responsibility, dependability, and seriousness. Students must also have a B- (2.7) grade point average or higher in courses in their major. Internships typically require 1) a minimum of 10-12 hours of work per week working at an organization or agency, 2) a specific set of written requirements, and 3) regular meetings with the Internship Coordinator and a group of interns.

## Krassowski Award

Each year, Sociology seniors can ask to have research papers they wrote in a Sociology course considered for the Krassowski Award. A clean non-returnable review copy must be submitted with a letter of self-nomination. Nominations must be submitted by students to the Sociology Chair by the first Friday of the Spring quarter each year. The exemplary senior paper in Sociology is designated by the faculty, and a cash award is granted. Papers may also be selected for honorable mention.

# Professional Socialization

## Introduction to The Sociology Profession

The "Introduction to the Sociology Profession" program is aimed at professional socialization of our Sociology majors. The Sociology Department provides partial financial support for students who wish to present at or participate in regional (e.g., California Sociological Association and Pacific Sociological Association) and national (e.g., American Sociological Association and Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology) Sociology Conference. Student requests for funds are sponsored by Sociology faculty.

## ALPHA MU OF CALIFORNIA

### The Sociology Honor Society

Alpha Kappa Delta, the national sociology honor society, was founded at the University of Southern California in 1920. Its primary goal is to encourage social research for the purpose of service. The Santa Clara Chapter "Alpha Mu" was founded in 2000. To be invited to join, a student must be a sociology major of senior standing; have an overall grade-point average of 3.3 or higher; have completed at least 4 Sociology courses at SCU; must have completed Sociology 118, 119, and 120 (research inquiry courses) with a B- or higher grade in each of the classes. A one-time fee of \$40.00 gives you life-time membership in the honor society. This fee entitles you to many benefits including a one-year subscription to the Society's journal *Sociological Inquiry*, a membership certificate and a graduation honor cord.



## Student Research Paper Series

In 2001-02 we started a new in-house publication for Sociology majors. Every year, the Sociology dept. will consider printing 2-4 research papers that have been prepared by SCU Sociology majors in their Sociology courses. The overarching theme of the series will be "Silicon Valley Notebook" and will have sub-titles that capture the themes of the papers selected for inclusion in the series in a given year.

The papers must be of high quality and, at the minimum, be theoretically grounded and methodologically rigorous. Any junior or senior majoring in Sociology at Santa Clara can submit a completed research paper for consideration. Submissions should be accompanied with a recommendation by the Sociology faculty member under whose direction the paper was prepared.

This student paper series is a great opportunity for Sociology majors and the Department to showcase the research that they have undertaken while in the program.

## Undergraduate Research Conference

In April, the departments of Sociology and Anthropology jointly host the Western Undergraduate Research Conference, the oldest such conference in the country. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum in which undergraduates doing original research can share their findings and ideas with students from other colleges and universities on the West Coast. In fact, some students have traveled to Santa Clara from as far away as New York and New Jersey, attesting to the unique opportunity this conference provides.

In past years, the conference has typically consisted of approximately 50 papers organized into 10 sessions which are held throughout the day. The sessions are chaired by faculty from participating colleges. The day includes a lunch and a presentation by a well-known scholar. A reception ordinarily ends the day.

The conference is always exciting. Santa Clara students can participate both in helping to organize and conduct the conference, and by presenting papers. The conference provides an opportunity to meet students from other campuses, and to be a part of an event that has achieved national recognition for its contribution to undergraduate education.

## James E. Pavisha Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program

Our Visiting Scholar Program brings top scholars with sociological training or interests to the campus each year to meet with undergraduates, conduct seminars, and give public talks. Plan to take advantage of this unique opportunity by spending time with and learning from our guests.

## SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Computer Lab

A computer lab located in O'Connor 334, near faculty offices, enables students to complete course related computer assignments and research work in a setting where faculty assistance is readily available. The lab also serves as a reading room, study area, and gathering place for students in the department.

### Student Involvement

All Sociology majors and minors are urged to be active in the life of the department. The Sociology department tries to foster a "culture of participation" in which students arrange for and organize events.

We have an active Sociology Student Association. Trips to Sociology conferences, career and graduate school workshops and social gatherings are some activities that club members have organized.

# FACULTY

## **Marilyn Fernandez**, Professor

Ph.D. (Sociology) - Loyola University of Chicago, 1982. Joined SCU in the Fall of 1992. **Courses:**

- Quantitative Methods and Applied Statistics
- Human Services
- Demography: Population and Resources
- Principles of Sociology
- Social Change
- Internship

Dr. Fernandez's areas of specialization include Population Studies, Asian American Communities, and Sociology of Development. She has published articles on Asian American issues, domestic violence, adolescent parenting, and recently co-authored a book titled, Altered Lives, Enduring Community: Japanese Americans Remember Their World War II Incarceration. Her current research includes evaluation of domestic violence services and caste in the high-tech occupations in India. She was recently elected Vice-President of the Pacific Sociological Association for 2006-2007 and has served as a board member of the San Jose Grail Development Corporation.

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## **Alma M. Garcia**, Professor

Ph.D (Sociology) Harvard University, 1982. Joined SCU in the Fall of 1982. **Courses:**

- Social Problems
- Race, Class and Gender in the U.S.
- Gender and Social Change in Latin America
- Immigrant Communities
- Ethnic Enterprises
- Qualitative Methods

Dr. Garcia's scholarship and research interests include the following topics: the development of feminist movements, specifically among Mexican American women, immigrants and the second generation, oral history, Latin American development with an emphasis on women's roles, and ethnic entrepreneurs. She has published/edited five books in the field of Mexican American studies. The most recent is Narrative of Mexican American Women: Emergent Identities of the Second Generation. She serves on the editorial board of several academic journals including *Gender & Society* and is past national president of two academic professional organizations including the National Association for Chicano/a Studies.

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## **Laura Nichols**, Associate Professor and Chair

Ph.D. (Sociology)- University of Akron, 2000. Joined SCU faculty in the Fall of 2000. **Courses:**

- Principles of Sociology
- Applied Sociology
- Social Stratification
- Sociology of Family
- Qualitative Methods
- Group Dynamics
- Self, Community, and Society

Dr. Nichols conducts program planning, implementation, and evaluation research to help organizations work more effectively. In addition to working with organizations to improve their services she also has experience conducting policy-based research in Washington, D.C. She has published articles and presented papers on work/family issues, homelessness, welfare reform, and teaching sociology.

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## **Charles Powers**, Professor

Ph.D. (Sociology) - University of California- Riverside, 1981. Joined SCU in the Fall of 1986. **Courses:**

- Principles of Sociology
- Social Theory
- Analytical Framework and Conceptual Approaches
- Business, Technology, and Society
- Applied Sociology
- Diversity Issues in Contemporary American Organizations
- Globalization and Inequality

Dr. Powers studies sociological theory and organizational change. He has written numerous papers for social science journals in the United States and Europe, and has authored, co-authored and edited five different books, one of which has appeared in multiple editions and has been re-published in Korean. Dr. Powers is active in professional associates and is a past President of the California Sociological Association.

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## **Laura Robinson**, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. (Sociology) - UCLA, 2006. Joined SCU faculty in the fall of 2008. **Courses:**

- Principles of Sociology
- Computer, Internet & Society
- Business, Technology, and Society

Dr. Robinson's areas of specialization include New Media, Digital Inequality, Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Communication and Media, Cross-National Sociology of the U.S., Western Europe, Brazil, and Latin America. She is a Council Member at-large of the Computer and Information Technologies Section of the American Sociological Association.

Her work on sociology of new media has appeared in journals including *Qualitative Sociology*, *The Social Science Computer Review*, *New Media & Society*, and the *JCMC*. Prior to joining the Sociology Department, Dr. Robinson carried out two years of fieldwork on digital inequality as a Postdoctoral Fellow at USC. She is currently expanding this project through a multi-national comparison of digital inequality in the U.S., Brazil, Argentina, France, and Norway.

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## **Anke T. Schulz**, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. (Sociology) - University of California-San Francisco, 2006.

Joined SCU faculty in the Fall of 2007. **Courses:**

- Principles of Sociology
- Sociology of Deviant Behavior
- Criminal Justice Systems
- Sociology of Crime

## ■ Law and Society

Dr. Schulz specializes in criminal justice issues, with an emphasis on domestic violence, court systems, gender, youth, and juvenile delinquency. Before joining the sociology faculty at Santa Clara, Dr. Schulz worked as a social scientist and policy researcher for nationally-known advocacy organizations, such as the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and the Population Council, in New York. She also served on the board of directors at the Family Violence Law Center in Oakland, and provided advocacy and counseling services to battered women and children at a domestic violence shelter in the East Bay. Dr. Schulz holds master's degrees in sociology and public administration from Columbia University and New York University. She is now preparing manuscripts from her dissertation, entitled *Judgment Days: On Domestic Violence, Battered Women and Children, and a Liberal Court*, for journal publication.

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**Regina Davis-Sowers**, Inclusive Excellence Post-Doctoral Fellow, Ph. D. (Sociology) - Georgia State University, 2006. Courses:

- Principles of Sociology
- Social Problems in the US
- Introduction to Human Services
- Sociology of Family
- Quantitative Methods & Applied Statistics

Dr. Davis-Sower's areas of specialization are the Black Family, education regarding and prevention of domestic violence, the uses of humor in racial and ethnic bonding, and the meanings and social obligations attached to family roles such as aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, and cousin. She has published articles on involuntary celibacy and the use of the Internet date collection. She is currently preparing chapters from her dissertation, entitled *Salvaging Children's Lives: Understanding the Experiences of Black Aunts Who Serve as Kinship Care Providers within Black Families*, for journal publication. She recently received a Faculty-Student Research Assistant (FSRAP) award to her in preparing her project, entitled, *The Use of Cartoons in Ebony Magazine to Facilitate Class Bonding and Boundaries*, for analysis and journal publication. She has presented papers on involuntary celibacy, domestic violence and gender socialization, and the experiences of black aunts in salvaging the lives of their nieces and nephews. She has taught undergraduate sociology classes since 2002.

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## Sociology at Santa Clara; An Award Winning Program

### ★ **Winner of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology's 2007 Student Problem Solving Competition**

The Applied Sociology student team of Rebecca Jones, Zachary Mariscal, Patricia McGlynn, Cristina Sanidad, and Olga Vasserman, won the award for their research and paper on "Providing Outreach to the Homeless of Santa Clara County" written under Dr. Nichols direction.

### ★ **Winner of the Grail Family Services 2002 Community Partner Award**

This award was in recognition of years of useful program evaluation work provided by Santa Clara University's Applied Sociology class to improve and enhance Grail's child literacy programs.

### ★ **Winner of the American Sociological Association's 1998 Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award**

In conferring its Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award on Santa Clara's Sociology program, the American Sociological Association spokesperson said: "In selecting the Program for the award, the Selection Committee recognizes that the Program could well serve as a national model of purposive, effective curriculum design."

### *Awards won by department members include:*

- ★ **2009 LAURA NICHOLS**  
Brutocao Award for Curriculum Innovation
- ★ **2008 ALMA M. GARCIA**  
Cedric Busette Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to SCU's Ethnic Studies Program
- ★ **2007 ALMA M. GARCIA**  
University Recognition for 25 years of Teaching
- ★ **2005 MARILYN FERNANDEZ**  
Brutocao Award for Teaching Excellence
- ★ **2005 CHARLES POWERS**  
Dr. John B. Drahmann Advising Award
- ★ **2004 LAURA NICHOLS**  
Advancement of the University Mission Award
- ★ **2001 MARILYN FERNANDEZ**  
President's Faculty Recognition Award
- ★ **2001 SANDRA CHIARAMONTE**  
Nancy Keil Service Excellence Award
- ★ **1999-2000 WITOLD KRASSOWSKI**,  
Faculty Senate Professor
- ★ **1998 CHARLES POWERS**,  
President's Faculty Recognition Award
- ★ **1997 SANDRA CHIARAMONTE**,  
Staff Recognition Award
- ★ **1996 SANDRA CHIARAMONTE**,  
Staff Outstanding Service Achievement Award
- ★ **1993 CHARLES POWERS**,  
Brutocao Award for Excellence in Curriculum Innovation, Santa Clara University.
- ★ **1992 WITOLD KRASSOWSKI**,  
Pacific Sociological Association Distinguished Teaching Award.

## Contact us

The Sociology Department is located on the Third Floor of O'Connor Hall, room 329 (Sociology shares office space with

the Anthropology Department), the building to the right of the Mission Church. The offices and phone numbers are listed below:

**Sandra (Sandee) Chiaramonte,**  
**SAA/Office Manager**  
O'Connor 329  
408/554-2794  
[schiaramonte@scu.edu](mailto:schiaramonte@scu.edu)

## **Faculty mailboxes are located in O'Connor 329.**

- **Dr. Marilyn Fernandez**  
O'Connor 331 - 408/554-4432  
[mfernandez@scu.edu](mailto:mfernandez@scu.edu)
- **Dr. Alma M. Garcia**  
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- **Dr. Regina Davis-Sowers**  
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## **Academic Year Lecturer**

- **Dr. Sabeen Sandhu**  
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