

# SOCIOLOGY: VOLUNTARY/OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS

The Department of Sociology at Santa Clara University offers three concentrations open to all sociology majors and minors: 1) **Technology and Social Entrepreneurship**, 2) **Community and Social Justice Studies**, and 3) **Diversity and Inclusion**.

Each of the concentrations consists of **four elective courses**, one of which could be substituted by Soci 198. All students must still complete the Sociology Core requirements for the major or minor in all concentrations. While students may complete one or more of the concentrations, the concentrations are voluntary and are not required to graduate with a sociology degree.

Students completing any of the concentrations will be awarded a department certificate of completion which will be celebrated along with other student awards issued by the department. The concentrations enhance Sociology students' robust skill sets in research methods and public sociology to prepare them for postgraduate success in key sectors of society. To receive the certificate of completion, graduating seniors must submit [the Voluntary Concentration Form](#) by the second week of the quarter before their graduation.

## **I Technology and Social Entrepreneurship Concentration**

Through the *Technology and Social Entrepreneurship Concentration* students will learn skills in Social Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking. Students will also enhance their expertise in key growth fields including innovation, technology, frugal technologies, sustainability, and STEM. This combination of enhanced competencies will prepare them to use their sociological skills to both create new products and services to meet social needs and to solve emerging problems in society. From Silicon Valley across the United States and beyond, the Technology and Social Entrepreneurship concentration supports a range of information society careers in private sector organizations, nonprofits, and governments. [Find Approved Classes for this Concentration Here](#)

## **II Community and Social Justice Studies Concentration**

By taking the *Community and Social Justice Concentration*, students will be able to develop their knowledge and skills that will be helpful for future careers and graduate programs in law, advocacy, public policy and administration, education, community-based research, non-profit management, social work, health care, public health, public service/government, social, community, criminal justice, and international/global service and advocacy. Students will understand structural and systemic barriers in their chosen areas of specialization and the paths to social change. [Find Approved Classes for this Concentration Here.](#)

## **III Diversity and Inclusion Concentration**

The *Diversity and Inclusion Concentration* prepares students for careers and graduate programs that examine how contemporary inequalities impact social relations and organizations in society. Following our commitment to promote more equitable and just socialization, the concentration provides opportunities to reflect about social barriers and impediments and how to imagine more supportive and engaging initiatives and practices to promote more diverse and inclusive environments. [Find Approved Classes for this Concentration Here.](#)

## **Courses for Concentrations**

Courses for all concentrations are listed below. Students should note that the list of courses in each concentration will be updated periodically as the department faculty creates new courses to update our sociology curriculum. When the faculty creates a new course, she/he will be asked to identify if they wish the new course to be included in one or more of the concentrations and the Sociology Department curriculum committee will consider the faculty recommendation along with the petition to approve the new course.

## **I Technology and Social Entrepreneurship Concentration Courses**

### **49. Tech, Social Media, and Society**

Examines the impact new media and computer technologies have had on society as well as the role of individuals, groups, and societies on the development of this technology. Looks at the transforming or potentially transforming effects of communication technology on civic engagement.

### **60. Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship---Leading Change**

This interdisciplinary course examines social entrepreneurship and innovation in the context of global and local social issues. Critical skills such as creativity, critical and ethical thinking, reflection, transformative communication, leadership, empathy, and teamwork, are enhanced. Students participate in a human-centered design thinking skills training, innovate a solution to a social or environmental problem, and create a business model canvas and case study of the innovation for the final project.

### **128: Religion, Science, and Technology**

Critically examine how religion, science, and technology are related, complemented, and departed. Understand foundational theories in sociology of science and religion. Critically examine the role that religion plays in the public life

### **130. Social Entrepreneurship: Leading Change**

This interdisciplinary course examines social entrepreneurship and innovation in the context of global and local social issues. Essential skills, such as creativity, critical and ethical thinking, reflection, transformative communication, leadership, empathy, and teamwork, are enhanced. Students participate in a human-centered design thinking skills training, innovate a solution to a social or environmental problem, and create a business model canvas and case study of the innovation for the final project.

### **134. Globalization and Inequality**

Encompasses overview of globalization as a long-term historical process. Focus on the impact in the developing world; on people moving from the developing to the developed world; the displacement of some and new opportunities for others during different periods of globalization; and the long-term implications of privilege and marginality that globalization has produced. Examination of case material based on Latin American, African, and Asian historical experiences; exploration of theoretical models of high rates of poverty in the developing world; and practical steps to reduce marginalization on a global scale.

### **137. Global Development and Social Change**

Examines how conflicts and significant social, economic, and political trends and issues in contemporary United States society and in the world contribute to social change and global migration. The course discusses contemporary sociological concepts, principles, theories, and applications for understanding population movements as they search for social justice around the world.

### **141. Climate Justice**

How does climate change affect people differently across the U.S. and the world and what can we do about it? Sociology can help us understand the challenges of climate change and its disproportionate burdens on marginalized communities. We will briefly review climate science, but the core themes of the course concern questions about economics and social justice, power and institutions, and the possibility of creating new, more sustainable ways of living on earth. By incorporating principles of sustainability, we will learn to understand the interrelated spheres of social, environmental, and economic research and action that compose climate justice.

### **149. Tech, Innovation, and Culture**

Examines the impact the organization of business and social culture has on the development of science/technology and the transforming effects of rapid scientific and technological innovations on our economies and societies.

## **II Community and Social Justice Studies Concentration**

### **30. Self, Community, and Society**

Explores a specific topic related to the self, community, and society. Use of sociological theories, research, community-based learning, and civic engagement activities to help students analyze and explore the role of the individual in influencing community and society as well as how the individual is shaped by these entities.

### **33. Social Problems in the United States**

Provides an overview of contemporary social problems in the United States from a sociological perspective, with a major emphasis on the ways race, class, and gender shape the development of specific social problems and the public policies offered to address them. Topics may include the economy, poverty, homelessness, and social inequality.

### **65. Crime and Delinquency**

Broadly surveys major issues surrounding the causes and nature of, and solutions to, the problem of crime and delinquency in the United States.

### **109. Sociology of Education**

Introduces students to the main issues in the sociology of education, including the role of individuals, different types of schools and organizations, community, and policy. Students will analyze their own educational trajectories and understand the experiences of others by engaging in a community-based learning placement and reflecting on their observations and by analyzing data from schools and neighborhoods. The education system in the United States will be the main focus, with some opportunities for cross-cultural analysis. This course requires that students meet all the qualifications for enrolling in and completing an Arrupe placement.

### **127. Interpersonal Relations and Group Dynamics**

Explores the structure and social processes of socialization in small and large groups. Concepts such as power and prestige, leadership, communication networks, collaboration and conflict, game theory, and distributive justice are examined.

### **140. Urban Sociology**

Involves critical inquiry into urban sociology and theoretical and practical exposure to urban issues. Explores unresolved paradoxes in how we understand urban life and the role of structural and cultural conditions in creating or adding to urban problems such as marginalization, gentrification, displacement, crime, housing, and the social organization of urban America.

#### **145. Popular Culture in the Era of Mass Imprisonment**

We will discuss how particular tropes and narratives about crime and justice have been used to justify increasing police budgets and legal powers, as well as magnify restrictions and penalties against criminalized communities. Students will explore the ways that these stories and images have been represented in various forms of media (particularly film and television), and learn to connect these representations to the politics of carceral expansion prevalent at the time

#### **158. Deviance and Social Control**

Examines noncriminal violations of social norms from a variety of sociological perspectives. Topics typically include eating disorders, relationship abuse, child abuse, sexual harassment, substance abuse, and homosexuality. Theoretical emphasis on classical and contemporary critical theory, including feminist, critical race, and queer perspectives.

#### **157. Sociology of Family**

Examines the socio-historical development of American marriage and family as complex and dynamic social institutions, with emphasis on the ways in which private and public spheres interact. Topics may include dating, relationship, and family formation, marriage, childhood and parenting, divorce, gender, work, and family, and U.S. family policy.

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#### **159. Crime and Punishment**

Examines criminal behavior on the aggregate level, and its effects in the United States and other societies. Topics typically include sexual assault and domestic violence, homicide, global terrorism, corporate, and political crime. Theoretical emphasis on classical and contemporary critical and social justice perspectives.

#### **160. Law and Society**

Surveys classical and contemporary sociological theories of law and society. Topics typically include the social construction of law; law and capitalism; law and social solidarity; gender, race, and class inequality and the law; and private/public divisions and the law.

#### **161. The Criminal Justice Systems**

Examines criminal justice systems in the United States and other countries from a comparative perspective. Topics typically include law enforcement, the courts, corrections (prisons and probation), and juvenile criminal justice systems. Theoretical emphasis on classical and contemporary critical and social justice perspectives.

### **162. Gender and Justice**

Includes topics relevant to gender and justice related to criminology and criminal justice systems, with a particular emphasis on the experiences of women and justice.

### **164. Social Movements**

The course focuses on why some people join movements when others do not, how technology affects movement building, how movements work with organizations to mobilize resources, why political actors and context matter and how framing significantly affects movement success. The course focuses on several major social movements including the Civil Rights Movement, the Feminist Movement, Gay Liberation Movements, Disability Justice, Immigrant Rights Movements, Black Lives Matter and recent Far Right Movements.

### **165. Human Services**

Introduces the field of human services. Topics include the connections between societal understanding of social problems, programs, and policies; work and management issues in public and nonprofit human service agencies; human services in a multicultural context; and opportunities to learn through community-based placements serving marginalized communities and from human service professionals.

### **172. Management of Healthcare Organizations**

Explores the sociological and practical issues of operations, financing, and management in organizations providing services for people with health problems (organizations such as nursing homes and hospitals) or people with infirmities (organizations such as senior care centers and assisted living facilities).

### **175. Race and Inequality**

Examines the racial/ethnic inequality that African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans and other groups experience in contemporary United States society. This course covers theories of race and ethnicity, examines empirical research on a range of topics (poverty, social class, assimilation, identity, segregation, stereotyping), and explores the meaning and consequences for racial/ethnic inequality in the future.

### **176. Caring for the Greatest Generation**

A survey of public policy issues particularly affecting the elderly. Includes consideration of the legal aspects of death and dying, involuntary commitment, guardianship and conservatorship, age discrimination, public benefit programs, and nursing homes.

### **180. Immigrant Communities**

Explores the impact of immigration to the United States, particularly the effect of the immigration reform law of 1965 that resulted in large increases in immigration to the United States, particularly from Latin America and Asia. This wave of immigrants and their U.S.--born children has significantly changed the fabric of American society. Examines case studies of immigrants and the second generation from Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Vietnam, and Haiti using comparative sociological perspectives and theories of community formation.

## **III Diversity and Inclusion Concentration Courses**

### **33. Social Problems in the United States**

Provides an overview of contemporary social problems in the United States from a sociological perspective, with a major emphasis on the ways race, class, and gender shape the development of specific social problems and the public policies offered to address them. Topics may include the economy, poverty, homelessness, and social inequality.

### **109. Sociology of Education**

Introduces students to the main issues in the sociology of education, including the role of individuals, different types of schools and organizations, community, and policy. Students will analyze their own educational trajectories and understand the experiences of others by engaging in a community-based learning placement and reflecting on their observations and by analyzing data from schools and neighborhoods. The education system in the United States will be the main focus, with some opportunities for cross-cultural analysis. This course requires that students meet all the qualifications for enrolling in and completing an Arrupe placement.

### **131. Sociology of Gender**

This course develops the sociological analysis of gender systems in contemporary American society. In this course, we will critically examine the multiple ways that gender structures the social world in which we live, and the way that race and sexuality interact with gender. We will highlight social practices at multiple levels of analysis, including biological and socialization processes at the individual level. Next, we will explore how gender shapes the interactions between and among women and men, creating and recreating gender. We will then use this multilevel framework to examine the workings of gender in the American workplace and as individuals balance work and family obligations.

### **132. Inequality and the American Dream**

This course examines how inequality has emerged and is sustained in American society, and how it has contributed to the creation of a social hierarchy---that is, the process of social stratification. We will specifically examine this phenomena through the lenses of economic class, which is the root of social stratification theory, as well as gender and race. You will gain tools to critically examine the historical and contemporary operation of social inequality broadly defined and how it relates to the American dream.

### **134. Globalization and Inequality**

Encompasses overview of globalization as a long-term historical process. Focus on the impact in the developing world; on people moving from the developing to the developed world; the displacement of some and new opportunities for others during different periods of globalization; and the long-term implications of privilege and marginality that globalization has produced. Examination of case material based on Latin American, African, and Asian historical experiences; exploration of theoretical models of high rates of poverty in the developing world; and practical steps to reduce marginalization on a global scale.

### **135. Women and Social Change in Latin America**

Examines the relationship between gender, political participation, national development, and the process of social change in Latin America. With an emphasis on selected case studies such as Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, Bolivia, and El Salvador, the contributions of women to social justice is situated in the context of transnational relations.

### **136. Sociology of Sexualities**

This course examines sexuality and the various theoretical and methodological approaches that have been used in sociological studies of sexuality, including those that guide sexuality-related analyses of identities, practices, and behaviors; power and politics; sexual interaction and social relations (at the micro and macro levels); morality and social control; and intersectionality. Such explorations include examining the history of sexuality in the West, and social and academic debates on sexuality, including the types of evidence used to support various theoretical and/or political conclusions that impact particular groups of people differently. .

### **139. Sports and Society: Controversies and Issues**

This course introduces the sociological study of sports in society by considering the following questions: 1) How do culture and values influence sports, 2) How do sports influence culture and values, and 3) What is the relationship between sports and the media, politics, economics, race, social class, sexual orientation, and other critical variables sociologists use to understand society. This course will also include discussion of student questions related to sports and society, which will be integrated throughout the course. The course is thus interested *in* social change *in* sports as well as social change *through* sports.

### **148. Diversity Issues in Contemporary American Organizations**

Offers a serious exploration of both the ethical and practical challenges posed by the diversity of stakeholder interests in organizations. Critical reflection on the implications of client-centered approaches to organizational activity for people working in organizations, and also for structure, culture, communication, and process in those organizations. Requires a community-based learning placement working alongside and/or in the service of persons who are marginalized in the local community.

### **150. Immigrant Business in the United States**

Immigrant businesses represent a growing sector within the United States economy and contribute to social, political, and cultural changes in the United States. Examines the development and significance of immigrant business owners and the communities clusters within which these businesses are located including Silicon Valley.

### **152. Inequality in the Economy and Workplace**

This course examines socioeconomic, racial, and gender disparities in the economy and workplace, how these differences have developed, the impacts of socialization, and the changing nature of labor markets, work, and family dynamics. We will explore fundamental social theories and research methods used by sociologists to examine social structures; policies and practices; mobility and opportunity; wealth and wage gaps; family dynamics; and labor unions.

### **153. Race, Class, and Gender in the United States**

Examines the sociological nature of the intersectionality of race/ethnicity, social class, and gender by focusing on the interrelationships among social institutions, power relationships, and cultural patterns. May also focus on the impact of popular culture on the social construction of social identities.

### **155. Sociology of Childhood**

This course introduces students to the sociological study of U.S. childhood, by applying fundamental sociological principles and concepts to the experiences of being a young person in America today. We will begin by examining the meaning(s) of childhood and adolescence from a historical perspective, and how and why these meanings have changed over time. Then, the course is organized around the

primary structures of inequality—race/ethnicity, class, gender, and health/ability—and how these axes intersect to inform diverse experiences of childhood in America today (21<sup>st</sup> Century)

### **170. Body Politics: Race, Gender & Power**

Cosmetic surgery, skin bleaching, reproductive justice and dancing... What do they have in common? Body politics. The body is an important site of power relations affecting individual interactions, as well as social structures. How do race, gender and other aspects of power influence the body? The course will focus on topics such as policing and the construction of "criminal bodies," the beauty industry and the construction of "ugly bodies," healthcare and the construction of "sick bodies," reproductive justice and the construction of "in/fertile and irresponsible bodies." The readings will offer an intersectional approach to studying the body by looking at race, gender, class, citizenship, disability, and sexuality.

### **172. Management of Healthcare Organizations**

Explores the sociological and practical issues of operations, financing, and management in organizations providing services for people with health problems (organizations such as nursing homes and hospitals) or people with infirmities (organizations such as senior care centers and assisted living facilities).

### **175. Race and Inequality**

Examines the racial/ethnic inequality that African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans and other groups experience in contemporary United States society. This course covers theories of race and ethnicity, examines empirical research on a range of topics (poverty, social class, assimilation, identity, segregation, stereotyping), and explores the meaning and consequences for racial/ethnic inequality in the future.