

**Ph.D.  
Concentrations  
in the  
Department of Sociology**

**Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa**

**Fall 2010**

The Department of Sociology at Iowa State University offers Ph.D. degrees in sociology and rural sociology. Both programs require Ph.D. students to select two areas of concentration for advanced study. The selection of these concentrations and associated coursework is jointly decided by the student and his/her Ph.D. advisory committee. One or more faculty members from each of the two designated concentrations should be included on the Ph.D. advisory committee. A student’s mastery of the selected concentrations is normally demonstrated by written and oral examinations and by successful completion of a dissertation.

This document will help students and advisory committees select areas of concentration and determine appropriate coursework to fulfill degree requirements. It contains the following information:

- Concentrations in which the Department of Sociology offers advanced training.
- Faculty members who have interests and expertise in each of the areas of concentration.
- Coordinators who can be contacted for additional information about each of the concentrations.
- Expectations and offered courses for the concentration. The semester the course is planned to be offered is indicated. This information is taken directly from the course catalog. Seminars are offered as determined by the concentration faculty members.
- Information about formal minors and interdisciplinary programs that complement the concentration.
- Courses in other departments that are suitable for inclusion in the concentrations.

Requirements for the Ph.D. degree in sociology and rural sociology are given in: Graduate Study for Degrees in Sociology and Rural Sociology, which is available from the Department of Sociology, Graduate Program Office, 103 East Hall, Ames IA 50011. Sociology Department home page: <http://www.soc.iastate.edu/>

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## Responsibilities of the Concentration Area Committees

The concentration area committees devote themselves to providing high quality training within a sub discipline of sociology and nurturing a healthy and collaborative learning environment for faculty and students. As part of their responsibilities, the committees meet at least once each academic year to review courses, administration, and curriculum issues.

The purposes of the annual meeting are:

1. *To assess goals specific to the concentration area.* All Ph.D. students should meet the “expectations of the Ph.D. Graduate in Sociology as specified in Degree Requirements: Graduate Study for Degrees in Sociology and Rural Sociology. In addition to these general expectations, concentration areas will establish goals that help define the content of their three core courses. The annual meeting will be used to assess these goals for the purpose of reviewing the area’s core curriculum.
2. *To discuss which faculty members will teach the core area courses.* It is not required that instructors be rotated. The purpose of this agenda item is to facilitate rotation should the members of the concentration committee decide that rotation would benefit the concentration area.
3. *To discuss which faculty member should act as program coordinator for the concentration area.* It is not required that area coordinators be rotated on a regular basis. The purpose of this agenda item is to facilitate the appointment of a new coordinator should the members of the concentration committee decide that a new coordinator will benefit the concentration area.
4. *To monitor curriculum issues in the area.* Although the responsibility for monitoring the progress of individual students rests with the major professor and POS committee, it is anticipated that some issues might arise that affect all students in the area and therefore need to be addressed by the area committee.
5. *To maintain a well-organized and concise reading list of materials considered essential for Ph.D. candidacy.* Note that this reading list is not intended to be comprehensive. Ideally, it is approximately 1-2 pages in length to list essential readings.
6. *To maintain brief profiles of faculty and graduate student research and teaching interests.* It is anticipated that up-to-date profiles of faculty and student interests will facilitate collaboration and collegiality within the area.

Concentration area committees might choose to hold separate meetings to address these six topics. They might, for example, hold a “business” meeting of just faculty to discuss course content, instructors, and program coordinator, and then hold a “general” meeting with faculty and students to discuss the other topics.

Ph.D. Concentration in **Community Studies and Development**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Besser, C. Flora, J. Flora, Korsching, Lasley, Mazur, Morton

**Program Coordinator:** C. Flora

**Purpose and Expectations:**

Students explore the community concept with a focus on communities of place and their interaction with individuals and groups. The meso-level theoretical and methodological approach is particularly useful in the analysis of collective action. Students selecting this area are expected to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.

**Concentration Courses**

- 533 Models of Community
- 536 Seminar in Community Studies and Development
  - A. Urban Sociology
  - B. Strategies of Community Engagement

**Recommended Courses in Sociology**

- 542 Rural Development in Industrialized Countries
- 698L Seminar in Community Studies and Development

**Recommended Courses in Other Departments:**

Anthropology

- 511 Culture Change and Applied Anthropology
- 518 Global Culture, Consumption and Modernity
- 526 Peoples and Cultures of East and Southeast Asia

Community and Regional Planning

- 525 Growth Management
- 535 Planning in Small Towns
- 555 Community Economic Development

Economics

- 521 Labor Markets
- 544 Public Economics I
- 576 Spatial Economics

Political Science

- 470 Public Choice

Ph.D. Concentration in **Criminology**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** DeLisi, Hochstetler, Monahan

**Program Coordinator:** DeLisi

**Expectations:** Students selecting this concentration are expected to master the range of basic concepts and theories relating to criminology. Courses appropriate to a concentration in criminology are listed below. Other courses may be selected depending upon the student's interest.

**Concentration Courses**

- 582 Theories of Social Deviance
- 584 Current Issues in Crime and Justice

**Advanced Seminar (strongly recommended):**

- 698M Seminar in Criminology (This course may be taken for credit each time it is offered.)

**Recommended Courses in Sociology:**

- 534 Race, Class and Gender Inequality

**Recommended Courses in Other Departments:**

Human Development and Family Studies

- 567 Family Violence
- 572 Family, Stress and Community

Philosophy and Religious Studies

- 332 Philosophy of Law

Political Science

- 420 Constitutional Law
- 421 Constitutional Freedoms
- 580 Ethics and Public Policy

Psychology

- 434 Applied Behavior Analysis
- 460 Abnormal Psychology
- 534 Applied Behavior Analysis
- 561 Psychopathology and Behavior Deviations
- 563 Developmental Psychopathology
- 581 Applications of Social Psychology Theories

Ph.D. Concentration in **The Economy, Organizations, and Work**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Besser, Jones Johnson, Maldonado, Peters, Prokos, Krier, Schweingruber

**Program Coordinator:** Besser

**Concentration Description:**

The central premise of the scholarship in this subject area is that economic activity is embedded in a societal milieu; influenced by cultural norms, values, and beliefs; and imbued with social meanings. The concentration focus includes topics such as the political economy of capitalism, the sociology of markets, economic globalization and restructuring, occupations and work, complex organizations, and business social responsibility. Faculty in this concentration conduct research related to the social meaning of money; the rise of finance capital and income polarization; workplace dynamics and the racialized and gendered division of labor; the political economy of consumerism; the impact of economic restructuring on communities and labor; alternative economic organizations; and business social responsibility.

**Concentration courses:**

- 550 Sociology of the Economic Life
- 551 Seminar in Economy, Organization, and Work
  - A. Advanced Sociology of Work
  - B. The Sociology of Complex Organizations

**Recommended courses:**

- 698N Seminar in The Economy, Organizations, and Work

Management

- 570 Organizational Behavior

Political Science

- 571 Organizational Theory in the Public Sector

Ph.D. Concentration in **Food Systems, Agriculture, and the Environment**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Arbuckle, Bain, C. Flora, J. Flora, Korsching, Lasley, Maldonado, Morton, Sapp, Wells

**Program Coordinator:** J. Flora

**Expectations:**

**Concentration Courses:**

- 544 Sociology of Food and Agricultural Systems
- 548 Sociology of the Environment

**Additional Recommended Sociology Courses:**

- 698P Seminar in Food Systems, Agriculture and Environment
- 509 Agroecosystem Analysis
- 536B Community Action, Practice and Theory
- 543B Sociology of Adoption and Diffusion
- 543C Technological Innovation, Social Change, and Development
- 610 Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture

**Recommended Courses in Other Departments and Programs:**

Agricultural Education and Studies

- 560 Role of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Extension in Technology Transfer
- 561 Agricultural and Extension Education in Developing Countries

Agronomy

- 342 World Food Issues: Past and Present

Community and Regional Planning

- 584 Sustainable Communities
- 591 Environmental Law and Planning

Economics

- 332 Cooperatives
- 460 Agricultural, Food, and Trade Policy
- 480 Intermediate Environmental and Resource Economics

Environmental Studies

- 482 Environmental Politics and Policies

History

- 472 American Environmental History
- 550 Proseminar in European Agricultural History and Rural Studies
- 552 Proseminar in American Agricultural History and Rural Studies
- 572 Seminar in American Environmental History
- 610 Seminar on American Rural Life

Political Science

- 482 Environmental Politics and Policies

Sustainable Agriculture

- 515 Integrated Crop and Livestock Production Systems
- 530 Ecologically Based Pest Management Strategies
- 600 Sustainable Agriculture Colloquium

Ph.D. Concentration in **Social Change and Development**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Bain, C. Flora, J. Flora, Krier, Korsching, Lasley, Mazur, Roberts

**Program Coordinator:** Mazur

**Goals:** The Ph.D. concentration in Social Change and Development engages emerging scholars in the theories, methods and empirical examples for analyzing processes of social change and development at the individual, household, community, organizational, institutional, national, and global levels. Analyses that link two or more levels of analysis are encouraged, as are comparative analyses over time and space. Principal foci are (1) technological innovation, diffusion, adoption and impacts; (2) social, cultural, demographic, economic and environmental issues in international and domestic development; (3) agency and social movements.

**Concentration Courses:**

- 540 Comparative Social Change
- 543 Seminar in Social Change and Development
  - A. Rural Development in Industrialized Countries
  - B. Sociology of Adoption and Diffusion
  - C. Technological Innovation, Social Change, and Development

**Recommended Courses in Sociology:**

- 509 Agroecosystem Analysis
- 527A Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- 527B Sociology of Gender
- 534 Race, Class and Gender Inequality
- 536A Urban Sociology
- 536B Strategies of Community Engagement
- 543C Technological Innovation, Social Change, and Development
- 544 Sociology of Food and Agricultural Systems
- 548 Sociology of the Environment
- 610 Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture
- 698K Seminar in Social Change and Development

**Declared Minor:** Students with international interest are encouraged to declare a minor in the Technology and Social Change Program or Latino/a Studies Program, or Women's Studies Programs, or co-major in Sustainable Agriculture.

**Recommended Courses in Other Departments:**

Agricultural Education and Studies

- 560 Role of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Extension in Technology Transfer
- 660 Participatory Evaluation in Agricultural and Extension Education

Anthropology

- 510 Theoretical Dimensions of Cultural Anthropology
- 511 Cultural Change and Applied Anthropology
- 518 Global Culture, Consumption and Modernity
- 536 Development Anthropology

Community and Regional Planning

- 511 Introduction to Community and Regional Planning
- 529 International Planning

- 535 Planning in Small Towns
- 555 Community Economic Development
- 584 Sustainable Communities

Economics

- 585 Economic Growth and Development

Food Science and Human Nutrition

- 565 Malnutrition in Low-Income Countries

History

- 488 History of American Technology
- 489 History of American Science

Journalism and Mass Communication

- 574 Communication Technologies and Social Change

Political Science

- 547 Political Leadership and Elites
- 559 International Relations Theory
- 581 International Political Economy

Technology and Social Change

- 342 World Food Issues: Past and Present
- 343 Philosophy of Technology

Women's Studies

- 450 Topics in Women's Studies

Ph.D. Concentration in **Social Inequality**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Bird, Dobratz, Downing-Matibag, C. Flora, Harrod, Jones Johnson, Lasley, Maldonado, Prokos

**Program Coordinator:** Allen/Bird

**Expectations:** Students in this concentration are expected to master the concepts and theories relating to inequality in human society. Inequality can be manifested as age, ethnic and racial, gender, rural/urban, social class as well as international differences.

**Concentration Courses:**

- 534 Race, Class and Gender Inequality
- 527 Seminar in Social Inequality
  - A. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
  - B. Sociology of Gender

**Recommended Courses in Sociology:**

- 53A Urban Sociology
- 540 Comparative Social Change
- 698R Seminar in Social Inequality

**Recommended Courses in Other Departments:**

There are many interesting and relevant courses offered across the university that can help strengthen your expertise in the area. Please consult an inequality area faculty for recommendations on current non-departmental course offerings that may fit your needs.

Ph.D. Concentration in **Social Psychology**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Bird, Cast, Downing-Matibag, Harrod, Hochstetler, Jones Johnson, Monahan, Schweingruber, Waggoner

**Program Coordinator:** Schweingruber

**Expectations:** The course and credit requirements for a concentration in social psychology will be determined by the student's Ph.D. POS committee. All students in the area must take a preliminary exam (area 1 or area 2) in social psychology. It is recommend that students take Soc 520, available versions of Soc 525 and any topic seminars (Soc 698) related to social psychology. Since there are many interesting and relevant courses related to social psychology offered across the university, students should consult with social psychology area faculty about non-sociology courses that may contribute to their plan of study.

**Concentration Courses:**

- 520 Social Psychology: A Sociological Perspective
- 525 Seminar in Social Psychology
  - A. Small Groups
  - B. Attitudes and Attitude Change

**Recommended Courses in Sociology:**

- 527A Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- 527B Sociology of Gender
- 698S Seminar in Social Psychology

**Recommended Courses from Other Departments:**

Anthropology

- 500 Language and Culture
- 512 Psychological Anthropology

Journalism and Mass Communication

- 501 Theories of Mass Communication

Political Science

- 547 Political Leadership and Elites

Psychology

- 401 History of Psychology or 601 History of Philosophy of Psychology
- 440 Psychological Measurement I
- 484 Psychology of Close Relationships
- 485 Health Psychology
- 488 Cultural Psychology
- 580 Advanced Social Psychology: Psychological Perspectives
- 581 Applications of Social Psychology Theories
- 586 Research Methods in Social Psychology

Ph.D. Concentration in **Sociology of Families**  
Fall 2010

**Participating Faculty:** Cast, Schweingruber, Stewart, Downing-Matibag

**Program Coordinator:** Stewart

**Expectations:** Students selecting this concentration are expected to master a range of basic concepts and theory relating to sociology of families. Strongly recommended courses for the concentration are Sociology 585, 675, and one of the following (520, 525, 527, 534, or 582). Any additional course and credit requirements for a concentration in family sociology will be determined by the student's Ph.D. advisory committee (POS) and the sociology of families concentration committee.

**Concentration Courses:**

585 Sociology of Families: Current Research in the Family  
675 Current Topics in Family Sociology

**Recommended Courses:**

698T Seminar in Sociology of Families

**Declared Minor:**

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Gerontology is available for students interested in specializing in the area of aging. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Women's Studies is available for students interested in specializing in the area of women's studies.