

Sociology and Anthropology*

Department Location

Giles Hall – Room 303

Special Entry Requirements

None

Goals

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology* offers courses that encompass sociological and anthropological analyses, methodologies, technologies and theoretical perspectives. The department offers two majors: Sociology, and Sociology and Anthropology. In addition to the resources within the College and the Atlanta University Center, the department uses the vast reservoir provided by social agencies and research projects in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Objectives

Upon completion of the prescribed program for a major in sociology or a major in sociology and anthropology, the student should be able to

1. demonstrate knowledge essential for understanding society and culture from sociological and anthropological perspectives on a global scale
2. identify and critically evaluate the contributions of female and Black sociologists, anthropologists, social scientists and scholars
3. identify and critically evaluate the social and historical forces and institutions that influence her life
4. pursue graduate study or careers in sociology, anthropology, law, medicine, public health, criminal justice, social work, and other fields in which social and cultural expertise is essential
5. apply the analytical and research methods analysis of sociology and anthropology to social issues and conflicts in preparation for participation as an agent of creative social change

General Core Requirements

Most 200 level sociology or anthropology courses may be taken to fulfill the general social science divisional requirement. Some courses have prerequisites or are open only to majors or to students with junior or senior status.

International/Women's Studies Requirement

Courses that satisfy the International/Women's Studies requirement are listed in the Course Sequence Booklet or on the Spelman Web page.

Sociological Honor Society

Spelman sociology majors who qualify are nominated by the department for membership in Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the International Sociology Honor Society. In the state of Georgia, the "alpha" charter of AKD is held by

Clark Atlanta University (CAU). Spelman College along with other departments of sociology in the Atlanta University Center collaborates on AKD activities. Students interested in the requirements for membership should see the department chair.

Departmental Honors

Faculty members nominate students for Departmental Honors in three areas: Outstanding Senior Thesis, Student Scholarship and Scholar Activism. On occasion, other departmental honors are awarded to students.

Major Requirements

Majors in sociology and in sociology and anthropology are part of the B.A. degree program at Spelman College. Both the major in sociology and the major in sociology and anthropology consist of 44 semester hours, 28 hours (32 hours for sociology and anthropology majors) of which must be in major core courses. For the major in sociology, the remaining 16 elective hours must be selected from sociology or anthropology courses offered in the department or, with approval of the department chair, at other appropriate schools. The major in sociology and anthropology is awarded to students who complete the major core requirements, Anthropology 203, "Introduction to Anthropology," and 12 elective hours of anthropology courses.

For both majors, Sociology 203 (the course designated for majors) is required. The Sociological Imagination: Introduction to Sociology for Majors is a prerequisite for all other courses in the department. The following major core courses are required of all sociology majors and must all be taken at Spelman (unless special permission is granted by the department chair):

- SOC 203 The Sociological Imagination: Introduction to Sociology for Majors (It is required that majors enroll in the course designated for majors)
- SOC 320 The History of Social Thought
- SOC 334 Statistics (Juniors only)
- SOC 335 Methods of Research (Juniors only)
- ANTH 336 Qualitative Methods (Juniors only)
- SOC 422 Contemporary Social Theory (Juniors and Seniors)
- SOC 432 Sociology Thesis* or
- ANTH 432 Anthropology Thesis*

*All required courses must be completed prior to enrollment (seniors only).

Focus areas within the department are offered as preparation for graduate school or professional careers or both. Focused electives consist of courses chosen from the following areas: (1) anthropology for students interested in pursuing careers in anthropology; (2) theory and methods for those interested in careers in sociology; (3) prelaw and criminology for students who want to develop social, historical and theoretical understandings of law, crime and deviance or

* Major requirements under review. Please see the Department or the Spelman College web site for current requirements.

who anticipate careers in some other aspect of law and/or criminal justice and (4) the sociology of health for students interested in advanced degrees in sociology or public health.

Sociology Thesis or Anthropology Thesis

The senior thesis, an original independent and empirical project, is required of all seniors majoring in sociology or in sociology and anthropology. Designated faculty advisors and readers supervise the research projects. All majors must successfully complete SOC 432 or ANTH 433 in order to complete the major.

Sociology Internship

During their junior or senior year, majors are encouraged to enroll in the internship course (SOC 435). The internship provides students with practical experience by allowing them to work in metropolitan Atlanta area non-profit, governmental, social service, or research institutions. Students are required to work at least 15 hours per week for an entire semester. In addition, students must complete weekly reports, an agency description, a research paper and make a formal presentation as part of their course requirements. A faculty advisor makes a site visit during the semester. Students who successfully complete an internship will earn 4 hours of elective credit for the experience.

Minor Requirements

Two minors, one in sociology and one in anthropology, are available within the department.

Sociology Minor

The minor in sociology consists of 20 hours and includes the following courses:

- SOC 203 The Sociological Imagination: Introduction to Sociology for Majors (4) (It is strongly recommended that sociology minors enroll in the course designated for majors.)
- SOC 320 History of Social Thought (4)

One of the following:

- SOC 334 Statistics in Social Research (4) or
- SOC 335 Methods of Research (4) or
- ANTH 336 Qualitative Methods (4)

Two sociology electives, numbered 300 or above (8). Elective courses must total eight hours.

Anthropology Minor

The minor in anthropology consists of 20 hours and includes the following courses:

- ANTH 203 Introduction to Anthropology (4)
- SOC 320 History of Social Thought (4)
- ANTH 336 Qualitative Methods (4) or
- Two anthropology electives, numbered 300 or above (8). Elective courses must total eight hours.

Course Descriptions: Anthropology

ANTH 203 – INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY (4)

An introduction to the methods and theoretical concepts of cultural and social anthropology. Comparison of the uniformities and variations among societies and how humans cope with their natural and social environments. Focus on traditional societies.

ANTH 230 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY (4)

Topics vary and are announced in the semester in which the course is offered (e.g., Africans in the Americas).

ANTH 250 – SOCIAL HISTORY OF CARIBBEAN MUSICS (4)*

How is it that an area comprising less than 1% of the world's population can have such a disproportionately gigantic impact on global music and culture? How have forms emerged from various sacred, festival, dance, and social aid organization traditions? How have these forms been used to contest colonial authority and identity? This introductory ethnomusicology course explores ethnomusicological history and method, traces comparative musicology's struggle to break out of Eurocentric models of musical analysis and moves toward a more reflexive and transparent holistic model that studies music within its own culture and sociopolitical context. Prerequisite: ANTH 203 or permission of instructor.

* Course number and name change pending approval of the Curriculum Committee

ANTH 305 – CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)

This course will explore gender and sexuality from a cross-cultural perspective by introducing students to classic and contemporary research on gender and sexuality in the sub-field of feminist anthropology. Readings will focus on debates around cultural relativism and human rights, and Western and transnational feminisms. Some of the issues that will be discussed include femininities and masculinities, identity, personhood, kinship, the body, reproduction, women's rights, activism, and intersex and transgender identities. This course is open to students beginning at the sophomore level and/or with special permission from the professor. While there are no formal prerequisites, some background in Anthropology (SANT203) or Comparative Women's Studies (CWS270) is highly recommended.

ANTH 311 – CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ISSUES (4)

This course introduces some of the major political, social and economic issues shaping Africa today from an anthropological perspective. Some of these issues include colonialism, post-colonialism, neo-colonialism, and neo-liberalism; ethnicity and ethnic conflict, patronage politics, corruption, and state implosion; globalization; and gender and generational conflict. Prerequisite: ANTH 203 or permission of instructor.

ANTH 322 – URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY (4)

A study of urban life and culture from the perspective of cultural anthropology. An analysis of several urban ethnographies. The use of methods and theories of cultural anthropology to examine selected communities in Atlanta and other American cities. Prerequisite: ANTH 203.

ANTH 333 – RITUAL AND PERFORMANCE (4)

A survey that explores rituals, as formal and informal performances, for their meanings and the ways they affect both their participants and society. Cross-listed in the Department of Drama and Dance as DRA 333.

***ANTH 336 – QUALITATIVE METHODS (4)**

An examination of qualitative methodologies in the social sciences, particularly in sociology and anthropology, including participant observation, interviewing and oral history, focus groups, textual analysis of narratives, documents and visual representation. Research stages to be explored include planning and designing research projects; generating qualitative data; sampling and selecting; and sorting, organizing and indexing. Special emphasis is placed on designing a qualitative research project suitable for the senior thesis. Prerequisite: SOC 203 or ANTH 203 (Juniors only).

ANTH 350 – RACE AND IDENTITY IN LATIN AMERICA (4)

This course will help students analyze, understand and compare multiple dimensions of race, gender/sexuality, class, and ethnic identity in several Latin American societies, including Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Panama, among others. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the complexities of racial formations as well as the historical and political context of social movements in Latin America. Students will have an opportunity to develop a deep intellectual engagement with Latin American history, culture and politics.

ANTH 404 – THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION (4)

This course introduces students to some of the major issues associated with "globalization," the increasing interconnectedness of the world's peoples, from an anthropological perspectives. There is a focus on recent anthropological literature concerning transnationalism, refugees, diaspora, environmental issues, and neo-liberalism. Prerequisite: ANTH 203.

ANTH 405 – SELECTED TOPICS IN GLOBALIZATION (4)

This course explores particular topics in the anthropology of globalization. A preponderance of contemporary anthropological research and analysis entails processes of globalization: the subject matter is vast. Each course concentrates on a particular, focused aspect of globalization. Topics will vary; the course can be taken multiple times when the topic is different. Prerequisite: ANTH 203 or permission of instructor.

ANTH 405A – GENDER AND TRANSNATIONALISM (4)

With the advent of globalization, people, capital, commodities, and ideologies are crossing borders at an increased rate. This course explores the gendered implications of globalization and transnationalism from an anthropological/social science perspective. This course will cover topics ranging from transnational feminisms, global restructuring, development, migration, families and intimacy to resistance, sexuality, non-governmental organizations, the media, beauty and consumer culture, tourism and the media, and human rights. The format of the class combines lectures and class discussions. SANT430A is open to students beginning at the sophomore level and/or with special permission from the professor. While there are no formal prerequisites, some background in Anthropology (SANT203) or Comparative Women's Studies (CWS270) is highly recommended.

ANTH 430 – SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR IN ANTHROPOLOGY (4)

Topics of this advanced seminar vary and are announced in the semester in which the course is offered. Prerequisite: any SOC or ANTH 200 level course (e.g., Ethnicity in Black Communities).

ANTH 431 – INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ANTHROPOLOGY (1-4)

This in-depth and rigorous course is designed for students who wish to pursue topics not covered in existing courses. The coursework usually involves a formal research paper and prearranged bi-weekly meetings with the pre-selected faculty mentor. It is expected that the faculty member will have particular expertise or research interests in the topic area selected by the student. Students who enroll in the course are expected to have demonstrated (through coursework) that they have the intellectual maturity and discipline to work independently under the direction of a faculty advisor. Students must have a grade point average of at least 3.2, have completed at least 12 hours of anthropology or sociology electives and have obtained the permission of the faculty member with whom they desire to work.

ANTH 433 – ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS (4)

The anthropology thesis is the capstone course in the department. It is an intensive senior-level research experience involving creative research design, data collection, analysis and formal presentation. One semester. (Honors anthropology thesis is ANTH 492). Prerequisite: ANTH 203, ANTH 336, SOC 320, SOC 334, SOC 335.

ANTH 444 – FOOD AND CULTURE (4)

This course explores the anthropology of food through diverse readings, films, and food itself while addressing a wide variety of topics including food and social identity; food taboos and fads; food and health; the rituals and ceremonies of eating; food production and human ecology; and the industrialization and globalization of food ways. Prerequisite: ANTH 203.

ANTH 450 – SEXUAL ECONOMIES (HONORS ELECTIVE) (4)

This advanced, writing intensive seminar explores controversial issues pertaining to how sexuality, romance, and intimacy are connected to transnational capitalism, globalization, and market relations. It analyzes sexual and/or romantic encounters that traverse geographical, cultural, and virtual borders. How have myths of the hypersexuality of people of color circulated around the world, and what impact have these ideas had on processes of colonialism, sex tourism, trafficking, and internet-mediated transnational romance? Course readings will explore the gendered, racial and class politics of the sex trade; surveillance, policing, violence and stigma surrounding the sex trade, as well as trafficking, 'mail-order brides,' sex tourism, and human rights.

Course Descriptions: Sociology

SOC 200 – SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSES TO HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES: A STUDY TRAVEL COURSE (4)

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of South Africa and a comparative study of South African and U.S. health systems – with a particular focus on the sociology of health. The course explores con-

cepts of health disparities, HIV / AIDS morbidity and prevention and women's health. The course includes lectures, discussions, guest speakers, assigned readings, small group activities, film, and site visits. Students are recruited from all majors (with an emphasis on those majoring in the social sciences and humanities).

SOC 201 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (4)

The exploration of a scientific approach to social phenomena, including varieties and uniformities in culture, symbols, beliefs, socialization, family, religion, and government. Focus on social research, social issues and social change. Prerequisite to junior and senior level course in the department. (This course does not satisfy requirements for majors in sociology or sociology and anthropology.)

SOC 202 – SOCIAL PROBLEMS (4)

A critical analysis of contemporary social, economic, and political problems and their relationship to patterns of human interaction and social change. Emphasis upon the development of conceptual tools to analyze and address social problems.

SOC 203 – THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY FOR MAJORS (4)

(This course is designated for major and minors only.) The exploration of a scientific approach to social phenomena, including varieties and uniformities in culture, symbols, beliefs, socialization, family, religion, and government. Focus on preparation for senior thesis social research, social issues and social change. Prerequisite to all courses in the department for majors.

SOC 230 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY (4)

Topics vary and are announced in the semester in which the course is offered. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 242 – HEALTH – SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES (4)

This course is an inter-disciplinary analysis of topical issues in health care delivery and health disparities with a emphasis on sociological and economic theories and perspectives. Prerequisite: none – students must be sophomores or higher classification. Cross-listed in the Department of Economics as ECON 142.

SOC 275 – INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY (4)

An analysis of delinquency and criminal behavior, theories of causation, structures of criminal justice, correctional institutions, apprehension, treatment of offenders, and prevention of delinquency and crime.

SOC 290 – AFRO-BRAZILIAN CULTURE & SOCIETY: A STUDY TRAVEL COURSE (4)

This course examines the major social, economic, and political factors facing Brazilian society. There will be a special emphasis on racial inequality, so that students will be able to analyze the notion of whiteness as well as the role of Afro-Brazilian culture in reproducing and resisting dominant racial hierarchies. Students will leave the class able to locate the development of Brazilian society (beginning with slavery) and discuss the contemporary issues facing Brazilian society.

SOC 291 – RACE, CLASS AND GENDER (4)

An analysis of the significance of the role of race, class, and gender in defining one's personal and social identity, and an exploration of how the social sciences and literature (fiction and nonfiction) provide critical insights about the roles of race, gender, and class.

SOC 301 – VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (4)

This service-learning course examines how cultural, social and political ideologies create environments that support and nurture various manifestations of violence against women. Theoretical analysis of gender role constructions will form the foundation for this investigation. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 304 – SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (4)

An analysis of the structure and function of religion in society. A study of the relationships of religion to culture, to social institutions, and to the individual. Also an investigation of the social nature of religious institutions and religious experience, and the role of religion in social change. Special emphasis on Black religion. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 310 – SOCIOLOGY OF ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (4)

The study of addiction and substance abuse as a social issue within the larger context of U.S. systems of racial, gender and ethnic stratification.

Emphasis on prevention and treatment strategies in the African American community. Prerequisite: PSY 200 or 201, or any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

***SOC 320 – HISTORY OF SOCIAL THOUGHT (4)**

A critical review of major African American theorists (DuBois, Johnson, Drake, Cayton, Frazier, etc.) and major early European theorists (Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, etc.) with the purposes of delineating relationships between cultural setting, ideology, and sociological theory, and of revealing the impact of sociological thought upon American society. Prerequisite: SOC 201, SOC 203 or ANTH 203.

SOC 321 – COMMUNITY ORGANIZING (4)

A study of the nature of community and its place in the modern world. Discussion of how neighborhoods and communities can organize for self-determination, and an analysis of the problems related to community organizing. Focus on “people power” and “citizen participation” as strategies for social change. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 334 – MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS IN SOCIOLOGY (4)

An introduction to statistics (quantitative measures used to describe and analyze empirical information). The course is designed to familiarize students with quantitative techniques used in social sciences to investigate and make meaning of social phenomena. Focus on both descriptive and inferential statistics. The course includes an emphasis on computer applications and SPSS. Prerequisite: MATH 205, SOC 203, SOC 320 (Juniors only).

SOC 335 – METHODS OF RESEARCH (4)

An introduction to quantitative methods of measurement, research methodologies, research design, data collection, data analysis, concept clarification and hypothesis testing. Includes preparation of a formal research proposal for the senior thesis. Prerequisite: SOC 203 or ANTH 203, SOC 320 (Juniors only).

SOC 345 – RACE AND GENDER IN HIGHER EDUCATION (4)

This course is designed to engage students in the process of research about their own academic experiences and environment. This interdisciplinary one-semester course has theoretical and research components designed to build students’ knowledge about research and develop their skills in conducting collaborative research projects. By participating in this course, students will be participant-observers of their own experiences, asking questions and charting out systematic plans for answering those questions. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course. Cross-listed in the Department of Psychology as PSY 345

SOC 350 – RACE IN THE AMERICAS (4)

This course is designed to help students analyze and compare race and ethnic group relations in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean. The readings focus primarily on Latin America, and special attention is devoted to Brazil. This course seeks to familiarize students with racial ideologies and the history of race and social class relations throughout the Americas. This course will be approached through the use of films (documentary and non-documentary) and readings that offer theoretical perspectives, empirical evidence and cultural analyses of historical and contemporary issues of race and ethnic relations. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 352 – URBAN SOCIOLOGY (4)

An examination of the transformation from rural to urban lifestyles with concentration on background concepts and theories. An exploration of specific issues and problems of urbanization and urbanism associated with cities of the United States as well as cities in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Focus on Atlanta as a case study. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 402 – THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH (4)

A comparative investigation of the social institutions of health and health care. Emphasis on global health trends, health disparities and sociological/public health theory. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 405 – WOMEN, VALUES AND THE LAW (4)

An issue-based examination of the legal system and its response to women in the workforce, to women in the area of family law, and to women as perpetrators and victims of crime. Prerequisite: any 300 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 407 – COMPARATIVE RACE AND ETHNICITY (4)

A socio-historical and comparative investigation of several discourses on race and ethnicity. This seminar course will expose students to seminal and contemporary scholarship on constructions of “race” within specific national, transnational and gendered contexts, including the U.S., Asia, the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora. Prerequisite: Any 200 level sociology or anthropology course.

SOC 408 – SOCIOLOGY OF THE LAW (4)

Examines the influence of societal values, philosophies, ideals and norms on the creation, enactment and enforcement of laws within society. Emphasis placed on the variables of race, class and gender as they interact and influence law and society. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 411 – NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE (4)

A study of nonviolence as a method of social change in the past and as an option for social change today. Focus on men and women who promoted nonviolence as a method of social change and the social movements they led or inspired. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 415 – SOCIOLOGY OF WOMEN (4)

An interdisciplinary examination of the sociohistorical realities of women. Focus on African American women and their relationship to the African American community, other women, and political, cultural, and economic institutions. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 422 – CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY (4)

An examination of contemporary theoretical perspectives such as feminism, world systems theory, phenomenology/postmodernism and sociology of the body. Prerequisite: SOC 203 or ANTH 203, SOC 320, SOC 334, SOC 335, ANTH 336 (juniors and seniors).

SOC 430 – SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGY (4)

Topics of this advanced seminar vary and are announced in the semester in which the course is offered. Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.

SOC 431 – INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY (1-4)

This in-depth and rigorous course is designed for students who wish to pursue topics not covered in existing courses. The coursework usually involves a formal research paper and prearranged bi-weekly meetings with the pre-selected faculty mentor. It is expected that the faculty member will have particular expertise or research interests in the topic area selected by the student. Students who enroll in the course are expected to have demonstrated (through coursework) that they have the intellectual maturity and discipline to work independently, under the direction of a faculty advisor. Students must have a grade point average of at least 3.2 in the major, have completed at least 12 hours of sociology or anthropology electives and have the permission of the faculty member with whom they desire to work.

SOC 432 – SOCIOLOGY THESIS (4)

The sociology thesis is the capstone course in the department. An intensive senior-level research experience involving creative research design, data collection, analysis and formal presentation. One semester. (Honors sociology thesis is SOC 491). Prerequisite: ANTH 336, SOC 203, SOC 320, SOC 334, SOC 335.

SOC 435 – SOCIOLOGY INTERNSHIP (4)

The internship is a directed and supervised experience in a non-profit, governmental, social service, or research institution in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The student is required to work 15 hours per week, submit an agency description, weekly reports and write a sociological research paper based on her experience. A faculty advisor makes a site visit during the internship semester. Students are required to make a formal presentation about their experience at the end of their internship. This course is not to be taken during the same semester as Sociology or Anthropology Thesis. Open to juniors and seniors (majors and minors only). Prerequisite: any 200 level SOC or ANTH course.