Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology

Department Chair and Associate Professor: Thomas
MA in Sociology Program Director and Assistant Professor: M. Burnham
MSW Program Director and Assistant Professor: Giesler
Professors: Hoskin, Williams
Associate Professors: Heam, Kim, Running, Thomas
Assistant Professors: M. Burnham, Caputo-Levine, Giesler, Hageman, Jindra, Lee
Lecturer: J. Burnham
Instructor: Ashley
Emeriti: Aho, Hunter, Pierson

The Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology offers two graduate programs, the Master of Arts in Sociology and the Master in Social Work.

The Master of Arts in Sociology program was established in 1977 and is the only sociology graduate program in Idaho.

The Master of Social Work program was established in 2018. The MSW program prepares graduates for advanced social work practice with a primarily seated program at the Pocatello campus. There are two options in the MSW program: a one-year, advanced standing track for those with a BA in Social Work (2 years part-time); and a traditional two-year track for those who do not have a BA in Social Work degree (4 years part-time).

Master of Arts in Sociology

Mission and Goals

The mission and goals of the MA in Sociology program are to prepare graduates for positions as sociological researchers in charitable non-governmental organizations, business, or government. This is accomplished by providing them with the theories, findings, and methods distinctive to sociology. Some graduates choose to pursue a sociology doctorate with the hope of college teaching, others apply to law school, still others go into counseling or private consulting.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will master literature in one substantive area of sociology.
2. Graduates will develop an understanding of sociological theories, related findings, research design, and statistics.
3. Graduates will further their professional careers by either continuing education at the doctoral level or finding employment in public service utilizing their advanced degree.

Admission Requirements

The student must apply to and meet all criteria for admission to the Graduate School. In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School, the student must comply with the following departmental requirements:

- Three letters of recommendation must accompany the application.
- Submit a writing sample.

For full admission to the graduate program in Sociology, the student must have completed the following courses or their equivalent:

- Introduction to Sociology.
- Social Theory.
- Social Statistics, and
- Social Science Research Methods.

In cases of deficiencies, students may be granted waivers, alternative courses, or Classified with Performance Requirements (w/PR) admission at the discretion of the Sociology Graduate Director.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 5502</td>
<td>Proseminar in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 5508</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6600</td>
<td>Comparative Sociological Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6603</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6650</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 33

The Sociology electives may be selected from 5500- and 6600-level courses in Sociology or other graduate courses approved by the Sociology Graduate Director. If SOC 4408 Advanced Sociological Methods was taken as an undergraduate, 3 credit hours of electives will be substituted for SOC 5508 Statistical Analysis. If SOC 4402 Proseminar was taken as an undergraduate, the student is not required to take SOC 5502 at the graduate level.

Other requirements include the successful presentation and defense of a thesis proposal prior to the third semester in the program, and the completion of a thesis and successful oral defense of the thesis.

For more information, please consult the Sociology Graduate Student Handbook and Sociology Graduate Director.

Interdisciplinary Specialized Area in Criminology

For the specialized area in Criminology, students need to take the 5 courses (18 credits) required for the MA program in Sociology and take additional 15 credits from the courses listed below to fulfill the elective requirements. Other requirements include the successful presentation and defense of a thesis proposal prior to the third semester in the program and the completion of a thesis and successful oral defense of the thesis. The specialized area is an interdisciplinary curriculum shared between the Department of Political Science and the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology. Other courses appropriate to the Criminology emphasis may be offered by both departments and can be taken by the student with the permission of the advisor.

MA in Sociology with Interdisciplinary Specialized Area in Criminology

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can complete the MSW degree in 35 credits. All other students must complete all 59 credits in order to earn the MSW degree.

The degree culminating experience is a 500 hour Field Practicum, which allows students to apply research to practice.

Students who are admitted to the program without a recent BSW degree complete the following required courses:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5501</td>
<td>Foundations of Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 5510</td>
<td>Human Behavior Theory and Cultural Diversity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 5520</td>
<td>Direct Practice with Individuals and Families</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 5550</td>
<td>Direct Practice with Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5571</td>
<td>Social Justice, Advocacy, and Policy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5576</td>
<td>Field Practicum I</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 5577</td>
<td>Field Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5578</td>
<td>Field Practicum II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 5579</td>
<td>Field Seminar II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5594</td>
<td>Practice Interventions with Organizations and Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6615</td>
<td>Applied Research for Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6620</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Interventions and Comparative Theories</td>
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<td>SOWK 6625</td>
<td>Evaluation of Mental Disorders and Strengths-Based Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6630</td>
<td>Professional Communication in Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6671</td>
<td>Advanced Policy Legislation and Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6676</td>
<td>Field Practicum III</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6677</td>
<td>Field Seminar III</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6678</td>
<td>Field Practicum IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6679</td>
<td>Field Seminar IV</td>
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Students who are admitted to the program with Advanced Standing complete the following required courses:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 5510</td>
<td>Human Behavior Theory and Cultural Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6615</td>
<td>Applied Research for Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6620</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Interventions and Comparative Theories</td>
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<td>Professional Communication in Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6671</td>
<td>Advanced Policy Legislation and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6676</td>
<td>Field Practicum III</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6677</td>
<td>Field Seminar III</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6678</td>
<td>Field Practicum IV</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 6679</td>
<td>Field Seminar IV</td>
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</table>

All MSW students will complete nine approved elective credits relevant to their Advanced Specialized Emphasis, Children and Families, or Forensic Social Work.
Work. These courses ensure that MSW students gain expertise in one specialty area by expanding knowledge and enhancing clinical practice skills with the specific client population and its surrounding environment. Students may take electives in other related disciplines with advisor approval.

Sample Electives in Children and Families
SOWK 5582 Independent Problems Consultation

SOWK 5591 Special Topic
- Migrant and Refugee Children and Families
- Grief and Loss for the Helping Professionals
- Children and Families: Practice Perspectives and Wellbeing
- Substance Abuse: A Family Affair

SOWK 6691 Advanced Special Topic
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Play Therapy
- Couples and Family Therapy
- Interprofessional Practice with Children and Families

SOWK 6699 Experimental Course

SOC 5508 Statistical Analysis

Sample Electives in Forensic Social Work
SOWK 5582 Independent Problems Consultation

SOWK 5591 Special Topic
- Victims in the Criminal Justice Systems
- Sexual Crimes
- Community Re-entry After Prison

SOC 5592 Statistical Analysis

SOWK 6691 Advanced Special Topic
- Special Topic: Criminology
- Special Topic: Elite Deviance and Crime

SOWK 6699 Experimental Course

Social Work Courses
SOWK 5501 Foundations of Social Work: 3 semester hours.
Course will cover foundational concepts of the Social Work profession including introduction of frameworks and models to understand human behavior in the social environment and diversity issues. Required for Traditional Two-Year Program students who have not completed an undergraduate degree in social work. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. F

SOWK 5510 Human Behavior Theory and Cultural Diversity: 3 semester hours.
Course will cover advanced theoretical concepts to prepare students to apply conceptual frameworks and issues for understanding human behavior as a function of bio-psycho-social-spiritual processes and interactions in the environment. Advanced information related to human diversity and at-risk populations, including issues pertaining to racial and ethnic groups, and gender and sexual orientations will be covered. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. F, S

SOWK 5515 Research in Social Work: 3 semester hours.
Introduces the principles and techniques of scientific research and includes a variety of strategies and tools for studying social phenomena. Course also includes a survey of statistical techniques focusing on descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and correlations. Students work in computer labs and use software for statistical analysis commonly used in the social sciences to produce descriptive and summary statistics for large data sets. PREREQ: Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 5517 Interdisciplinary Evaluation Team: 1 semester hour.

SOWK 5520 Direct Practice with Individuals and Families: 3 semester hours.
Examine micro level systems within the generalist social work framework. Theoretical frameworks for use with individuals and families as well as interviewing and problem-resolution methods will be covered. Students will utilize a generalist skill base in learning to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate individuals and families. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program.

SOWK 5521 Families in Social Context: 3 semester hours.
Examination of the family as a social institution shaped by larger social structures. The course introduces students to basic concepts and theories, historical perspectives, facts, and processes of family formation and dissolution. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. F, S

SOWK 5550 Direct Practice with Groups: 3 semester hours.
Mezzo level systems within the generalist social work framework. Group theory, process, dynamics, and practice applications will be covered. Students will use a generalist skill base in learning to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate small group systems. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program.

SOWK 5571 Social Justice, Advocacy, and Policy Practice: 3 semester hours.
Examine social policies created as society’s strategy for addressing social concerns such as unemployment, poverty, and mental illness. Students will critically evaluate programs and policies in order to develop skills to advance social and economic justice and to deliver effective social work services. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program.

SOWK 5576 Field Practicum I: 2 semester hours.
Placement within a social service agency under direct supervision of a licensed masters-level social worker for a minimum of 200 hours. Meets CSWE accreditation requirements to provide generalist practice for students to demonstrate social work competencies with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. PREREQ: Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 5577 Field Seminar I: 1 semester hour.
Seminar permits discussion and reflection upon field experience gained in SOWK 5576 and serves an integrative function for linking theory to applied practice.
SOWK 5578 Field Practicum II: 2 semester hours.
Placement within a social service agency under direct supervision of a licensed masters-level social worker for a minimum of 200 hours. Meets CSWE accreditation requirements to provide generalist practice for students to demonstrate social work competencies with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. PREREQ: Admission to the MSW program. S

SOWK 5579 Field Seminar II: 1 semester hour.
Seminar permits discussion and reflection upon field experience gained in SOWK 5578 and serves an integrative function for linking theory to applied practice. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. COREQ: SOWK 5578. S

SOWK 5582 Independent Problems Consultation: 1-6 semester hours.
Consultation course which may be repeated for maximum of 6 credits. PREREQ: 12 credits in Social Work.

SOWK 5591 Special Topic: 3 semester hours.
Students will explore special topic content in practice with children and families or in forensic social work. This course may be repeated with a different content focus. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

SOWK 5594 Practice Interventions with Organizations and Communities: 3 semester hours.
Advanced focus on community and organizational structure and function. Uses the generalist model of social work with macro level systems including building knowledge and skills focusing on social action and social change. Specific attention is given to helping students develop necessary skills to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate with organizations and communities (macro level) effectively. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. S

SOWK 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. May be repeated.

SOWK 6615 Applied Research for Social Work: 3 semester hours.
Students will be required to complete a research project to demonstrate competency in utilizing practice-informed research and research-informed practice within their specialty area. The project will contribute to the professional field, i.e., program evaluation, manuscript for submission, etc. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. F

SOWK 6620 Advanced Practice Interventions and Comparative Theories: 3 semester hours.
Course will cover advanced interventions and comparative theories in social work with emphasis on utilizing evidence-based practices in counseling with individuals, families, and groups at the clinical level. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. F

SOWK 6625 Evaluation of Mental Disorders and Strengths-Based Assessment: 3 semester hours.
The course builds on the generalist practice courses and enhances clinical knowledge and skills regarding best practices in engagement and assessment with clients. Students learn to apply diagnostic procedures from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, as well as a strengths-based approach to assessment. This course prepares students for advanced clinical practice in mental health. Course registration restriction: PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. S

SOWK 6630 Professional Communication in Practice: 3 semester hours.
Course will cover written and oral communication required for the profession including court testimony and written reports, public speaking, case documentation, training, curriculum development, and grant writing. PREREQ: Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 6671 Advanced Policy Legislation and Administration: 3 semester hours.
Course will cover knowledge and skills designed to build student competency in the areas of advancing human rights, and social, economic, and environmental justice. Topics will include administrative social work. PREREQ: Admission to MSW program. S

SOWK 6676 Field Practicum III: 3 semester hours.
Continuation of field practicum experience consisting of placement within a social service agency under direct supervision of a licensed social worker for a minimum of 250 hours. Students will refine and utilize professional values, knowledge and skills. PREREQ: SOWK 5576 and SOWK 5578 and Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 6677 Field Seminar III: 1 semester hour.
Weekly on-campus seminar permits discussion and reflection upon the field experience in SOWK 6676 and serves an integrative function for linking theory to applied practice. PREREQ: Admission to the advanced standing MSW program or completing SOWK 5576 and SOWK 5578 in the two-year MSW program.

SOWK 6678 Field Practicum IV: 3 semester hours.
Continuation of field practicum experience consisting of placement within a social service agency under direct supervision of a licensed social worker for a minimum of 250 hours. Students will refine and utilize professional values, knowledge and skills. PREREQ: SOWK 6676 and Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 6679 Field Seminar IV: 1 semester hour.
Weekly on-campus seminar permits discussion and reflection upon the field experience in SOWK 6678 and serves an integrative function for linking theory to applied practice. PREREQ: SOWK 6676 and Admission to the MSW program.

SOWK 6691 Advanced Special Topic: 3 semester hours.
Advanced Special Topic courses may be repeated with a different content focus. Content is relevant to practice with children and families and/or forensic social work.

SOWK 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. May be repeated.

Sociology Courses

SOC 5502 Proseminar in Sociology: 3 semester hours.
An overview of the field of sociology, with emphasis on the teaching of sociology, orientation to graduate education, major sociological theories, issues, research approaches, and ethical problems in the field today. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

SOC 5503 Contemporary Sociological Theory: 3 semester hours.
Survey and appraisal of sociological theories since 1945: structural functionalism, rational choice, conflict, symbolic interactionism, and phenomenology.

SOC 5508 Statistical Analysis: 3 semester hours.
Emphasizes advanced techniques in research design, data measurement, and multivariate analysis utilizing computer application.

SOC 5513 Mind Body and Society: 3 semester hours.
Symbolic interaction and its relation to selfhood, sympathy, illness, sexuality, and addiction; and to groupings like enemies, communities, and associations.
SOC 5521 Families in Social Context: 3 semester hours.
Examination of the family as a social institution shaped by larger social structures. The course introduces students to basic concepts and theories, historical perspectives, facts, and processes of family formation and dissolution. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus. F, S

SOC 5531 Criminology: 3 semester hours.
Analysis of criminal law, law enforcement, judicial roles and processes, correctional approaches, the criminal offender and societal reactions. Theory and research as applicable to behavior and institutional relationships.

SOC 5536 Elite Deviance and Crime: 3 semester hours.
Explores the types of criminal behaviors engaged in by the American socioeconomic and corporate elite. The course first explores and identifies who this elite is and then examines their ideological and economic history in American society. Specific examples of elite and corporate crime are presented and discussed in class. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

SOC 5538 Sexual Crimes: 3 semester hours.
Complex relationships of human sexuality to law and crime. A range of sexual attitudes, practices and lifestyles will be discussed in the context of cultural norms, legal parameters and personal expression. Students will be introduced to cultural variations in defining and addressing sexuality and crime. Current theoretical explanations of sexual offending and U.S. social policies and clinical interventions for sexual offenders. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

SOC 5559 MA Sociology Internship: 1-3 semester hours.
The MA sociology internship will give eligible graduate students the opportunity to explore the applied work of sociology in public and private agencies and organizations, private firms and foundations. Students will be placed in supervised internship positions commensurate with their skills, abilities and career goals. Only classified students with satisfactory academic progress are eligible for this course. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

SOC 5562 Power Class and Prestige: 3 semester hours.
Theories and methodology of status systems; the relation of class to the social structure; analysis of class in different societies, with emphasis upon the class system and power. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

SOC 5567 Community Networking: Cultivating the Sociological Imagination: 3 semester hours.
Advanced study of the sociology of community through readings, class discussions, lectures, and a community networking internship.

SOC 5583 Independent Problems in Sociology: 1-4 semester hours.
Readings, observations, applied work, or data analysis in content area not offered in our curriculum. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

SOC 5591 Topics in Sociology: 3 semester hours.
Readings, discussion, and preparation of reports on selected topics. May be repeated with different content.

SOC 5592 Topics in Criminal Justice: 3 semester hours.
Readings, discussion, and preparation of reports on selected topics. May be repeated with different content. Specific, evaluated graduate-level activities and/or performances are identified in the course syllabus.

SOC 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. May be repeated.

SOC 5600 Comparative Sociological Theories: 3 semester hours.
Comparative analysis of various theoretical perspectives in sociology with special emphasis on structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, exchange theory, conflict theories, phenomenology, and ethnomethodology. Primary emphasis will be placed on the major propositions of each perspective and the significant contributions of scholarship in each area. PREREQ: SOC 4403 or SOC 5503 or equivalent.

SOC 6601 Sociological Theories: 3 semester hours.
A seminar in selected topics in theory which will focus on either historical, comparative or contemporary theories. May be repeated for up to 9 credits.

SOC 6603 Qualitative Methods: 3 semester hours.
A course in qualitative methods with varying topics. May be repeated up to 6 credits with different topics.

SOC 6605 Social Organization: 3 semester hours.
A seminar in selected topics of social organization and disorganization which will include such themes as complex organization, industrial sociology, community, and urban studies. May be repeated for up to 6 credits.

SOC 6607 Topics in Diversity: 3 semester hours.
A seminar in selected topics of social differentiation such as stratification, minorities, etc. May be repeated for up to 6 credits.

SOC 6613 Social Behavior: 3 semester hours.
A seminar in social interaction which will consider such themes as collective behavior, social psychology, deviance, ethnography, and neo-positive approaches to behavioral analysis. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

SOC 6615 Social Institutions: 3 semester hours.
A seminar in selected aspects of medicine, law and crime, media, corporations, sports, religion, family, education, and political society. May be repeated up to 9 credits.

SOC 6620 Seminar Philosophy of Social Science: 3 semester hours.
The application of mathematical and scientific methods to the study of social, economic, and political life will be considered through the reading of certain seminal writings. Attention will be given to the fundamental assumptions about the nature of scientific rationality. Required of all D.A. students.

SOC 6621 Seminar Interdisciplinary Topics in Social Science: 3 semester hours.
Examination of selected topics in the social sciences from the analytic orientations and perspectives common and peculiar to the disciplines of political science, economics and sociology. Required of all D.A. students.

SOC 6649 Independent Studies: 1-4 semester hours.
Consultation course consisting of independent student effort under the guidance of the instructor. Students are assigned to, or request assignment to, specific independent problems on the basis of interest and preparation. This may include preparation and presentation of a major research project, directed readings, or tutorial study. May be repeated.

SOC 6650 Thesis: 1-6 semester hours.
Research, analysis, and writing of master's thesis. 6 credits of SOC 6650 are required for graduation. Continuous enrollment at a minimum of 1 credit must be maintained until the thesis is defended. May be repeated. Graded S/U.

SOC 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. May be repeated.