

Departmental Policy Statement: Sociology

College of Arts & Sciences

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Library Liaison: Tom Mendina
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Curriculum

The Department of Sociology offers a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, and in collaboration with the University Honors Program offers additional opportunities for undergraduates through course work, special topics, freshman forums, individualized research, and honors theses.

Sociology also offers graduate studies leading to the Master of Arts degree. Training in theory, research methods, and statistics is required of all students. In addition, the program offers a wide selection of courses in many substantive areas such as race, class and gender studies, globalization and development, social change, family, deviance and medical sociology.

Purpose and Scope of the Collection

Sociology materials in the University Libraries are intended to meet instructional needs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and to support both student and faculty research. While an emphasis is on the methodological and theoretical core, other areas of primary interest reflect the substantive research interest of the faculty:

- Social inequality: studies of gender, race, class, and social movements;
- Institutions and organizations: studies of religion, family, education, economy, and medicine
- Comparative social change: studies of community, development, globalization, and quality of life
- Deviance and social psychology: studies of mental health, marginality, small-group interaction, social identities, and changing belief patterns
- Methodology: studies incorporating qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as the latest technology for teaching and research.

Quantitative analysis is regarded as an essential research skill for the meaningful appraisal of social interaction at all levels and is therefore a major instructional focus. Undergraduate students taking the Senior Thesis Seminar and graduate students are expected to do research involving collection and/or analysis of data. Faculty members are also regularly engaged in research ranging from a more macro level of cross-national research to studies of attitudes and beliefs involving individual level data. There has been an effort in recent years to collect materials supporting such research.

Location of Materials Collection

Core materials in sociology are located for the most part in the Ned R. McWherter Library with current works falling into the Library of Congress classifications HM through HV and earlier holdings in the Dewey 300s. Two traditional components of sociology, the "applied" areas of Social Work and Criminology, are not included in the current University of Memphis curriculum development policy due to the fact that these sub-areas are separate units and order their own reference materials.

Languages

Nearly all materials collected are in English. The traditional interests and directions of scholarship have resulted in greater emphasis on English. However, there may be some developing interest in Spanish-language materials intensified by the newly hired faculty interests.

Cooperative Agreements

None specified

Geographical Coverage

American materials are collected in greatest depth although British, Canadian, and European works are also acquired. Current interest in Third World cultures and development has widened considerably the geographic parameters of the collection, with special attention given to Africa and Latin America. No areas are specifically excluded.

Types of Materials

Monographs:

Monographs are primary to the collection.

Serials/Series:

Serials are primary to the collection.

Electronic Resources:

The library buys or subscribes to electronic indexes and full-text databases that offer research value.

Microforms:

Research collections in microforms are purchased when deemed relevant.

Audio/Visual:

Video and audio materials are acquired when relevant to the curriculum.

Special Collections

None specified.

Subject Areas by LC Classification**Related Areas of Collection**