

Sociology

Convener: Dr Kevin McDonald

Sociology at the University of Melbourne explores the social patterns that characterise contemporary society. The program equips students with research skills that allow them to design and carry out data collection, analysis and research. This emphasis on fieldwork-based study underpins the professionally oriented skills students will develop. Students are encouraged to undertake internship placements in public, corporate or community sector organisations. The program has a strong research identity, with international links to North America, Asia and Europe. Graduates of sociology are able to choose from a variety of career pathways that draw on the analytical and research knowledge gained in this area of study. Students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge in sociology are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree options at the University of Melbourne.

Sociology is the study of social and cultural questions at the centre of contemporary life. The discipline addresses the phenomena of social action, identity and social movements and investigates the forms of crisis evident in contemporary social problems such as addiction or social dislocation. Investigations proceed from a range of perspectives, including family, sexual identity, urban life and new forms of work, and draw substantially upon interdisciplinary frameworks of analysis. The program in sociology includes subjects offered by the Departments of Anthropology, political science, criminology, geography and Social theory.

Prerequisites

The program commences at first year and there are no prerequisites for entry at this level.

The general prerequisite for second/third year subjects in sociology is 25 points of first year sociology. Students with a 12.5 point sociology subject and another first year subject from anthropology, criminology, political science or geography may also proceed.

Requirements for a major

A major in sociology usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects in sociology (25 points) and;
- seven second/third year subjects (totalling 87.5 points), five of which must be chosen from the list of sociology core units.

Sociology subjects

First year

Students take two of the following first year subjects towards a major in sociology.

First year subjects	Sem.
166-003 Inequalities in Australian Society (<i>p.300</i>)	1
166-006 Media, Politics and Society (<i>p.300</i>)	2
166-080 Society and Self Identity (<i>p.330</i>)	1
166-104 Doing Sociology (<i>p.330</i>)	2

Second/third year

Students must take **five** of the following subjects at second/third year toward their sociology major. Please note the honours entry requirements.

Core subjects	Sem.
Sociology	
166-081 Quantitative Social Research (<i>p.330</i>)	1
166-082 Work, Management & Globalisation (<i>p.332</i>)	N/A
166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy (<i>p.330</i>)	2
166-084 Global Cities: Sociological Explorations (<i>p.332</i>)	N/A
166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements (<i>p.330</i>)	2
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (<i>p.331</i>)	1
166-087 Sociological Theory (<i>p.332</i>)	N/A
166-089 Sociology Internship Research Project (<i>p.331</i>)	2
166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (<i>p.332</i>)	N/A
166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness (<i>p.331</i>)	1
Criminology	
191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance (<i>p.128</i>)	2
Geography	
121-017 Society and Environments (<i>p.181</i>)	2
History and philosophy of science	
136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (<i>p.324</i>)	
Public policy and management	
166-071 Policy Research Skills (<i>p.377</i>)	N/A

Optional subjects	Sem.
Political science	
166-015 Transforming Australian Culture (<i>p.308</i>)	N/A
166-032 Sexual Politics (<i>p.303</i>)	1
Social theory	
136-073 Critical Theories (<i>p.324</i>)	2
Anthropology	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (<i>p.56</i>)	2
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (<i>p.56</i>)	2
Criminology	
191-003 Crime and Public Policy (<i>p.128</i>)	2
191-014 Youth Crime and Society (<i>p.129</i>)	2
191-015 Corporate and White Collar Crime (<i>p.129</i>)	2
191-020 Women, Gender and Crime (<i>p.130</i>)	2
Geography	
121-015 Development and the Third World (<i>p.180</i>)	1
121-016 Landscapes of Power (<i>p.185</i>)	N/A

Honours entry

The prerequisite for entry to Fourth Year Honours in Sociology is:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA and;
- completion of a major in sociology with an average grade of H2A or higher over the second/third year subjects within the major and;
- completion of 166-081 Quantitative Social Research (*p.330*), 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (*p.331*) and 166-087 Sociological Theory (*p.332*).

Entry to honours must be approved by the convener of sociology and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

Students wishing to undertake their thesis in sociology will need to make a written application to the sociology convener 31 by October. Forms are available in the Political Science office from September.

Honours requirements

Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in sociology must complete:

- 166-500 Sociology Thesis (*p.331*) or 166-528 Sociology Thesis (MYE) (*p.331*) (37.5 points) and;
- five honours subjects in Sociology chosen from the list below (totalling 62.5 points).

Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in sociology and another area of study must complete:

- 166-500 Sociology Thesis (*p.331*) or 166-528 Sociology Thesis (MYE) (*p.331*) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects chosen from the list below and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects chosen from the list below (37.5 points).

Honours subjects

Honours subjects	Sem.
Sociology	
166-092 Advanced Sociological Theory (<i>p.332</i>)	1
121-503 Research Methods and Design (<i>p.185</i>)	Summer
History and philosophy of science	
136-079 Reading Texts in Social Theory (<i>p.324</i>)	1
136-080 Theories of Modernity (<i>p.325</i>)	N/A
Politics	
166-055 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (<i>p.306</i>)	1
166-062 Heterarchy, Networks & Self-Organisation (<i>p.306</i>)	1
166-066 Globalisation and its Discontents (<i>p.307</i>)	1
166-067 Australia's Welfare State: Comparisons (<i>p.307</i>)	2
Criminology	
191-015 Corporate and White Collar Crime (<i>p.129</i>)	2
191-020 Women, Gender and Crime (<i>p.130</i>)	2
191-029 Victims (<i>p.130</i>)	2

Further study

Masters and doctoral thesis supervision is available, depending on the area of research of the candidate. Currently there are no postgraduate sociology subjects offered.

Career opportunities

Sociologists work in a wide range of areas, in government, private and community sectors. They work on questions such as changing family patterns, changes in ethnic communities, health and employment issues. In the public sector sociologists work in areas such as neighbourhood and community service development, or in social policy in areas dealing with ageing, youth or women's issues and services. They are involved in program implementation and development, in social and environmental impact assessment, and in evaluation in areas such as health programs, urban development or housing policies.

Sociologists also work in the media, public communication and marketing. They are involved in workplace change, employed by union or employer organisations, or work as consultants. They are found in private and public social forecasting organisations. They are involved in community consultations and community relations work, where for example, large organisations such as hospitals have to understand and respond to community concerns or specific groups.

Sociologists are also found in non-government organisations such as social change groups, peak bodies and research and policy organisations such as the Institute of Family Studies.

Sociologists are involved in policy evaluation and program implementation. They are involved in promoting public debate, constructing competing ways of exploring questions facing our society and culture. In a whole range of areas, sociologists are employed in jobs that are part of shaping and making sense of the world we live in.

For more information

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First year subjects

166-003 Inequalities in Australian Society

See full subject details on page 300.

166-006 Media, Politics and Society

See full subject details on page 300.

166-080 Society and Self Identity

Note: Formerly available as 166-130. Students who have completed 166-130 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject introduces students to sociology through exploring the relationship between changing experiences of selfhood and new patterns of social life. It locates new questions of self-identity in the context of globalisation, changing work and family patterns, emerging forms of consumerism, weakening social roles and institutions. It introduces sociological approaches to questions of gender and sexuality, embodied subjectivity, subcultures, and contemporary social problems such as drug use and addiction.

Assessment: An essay of 1500 words, a field work report of 1500 words and a 1-hour class test.

Prescribed texts: K McDonald, *Pressing Questions: Explorations in Sociology*, (Issue 2) Melbourne AWL, 2000. • R Sennett, *The corrosion of character: the personal consequences of work in the new capitalism*, Norton New York, 1998.

166-104 Doing Sociology

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces students to sociology as a discipline, as well as to what sociology graduates do in their professional lives in local and global contexts. Concerning sociology as a discipline, this subject uses various classical and contemporary sociological perspectives to examine various dimensions of society in both Australian and cross-cultural/global contexts. Social dimensions covered in this subject include race/ethnicity, class, gender, life course, marriage, family, sexuality, education, popular culture, religion and belief. Concerning what sociologists can do as a profession, this subject organizes career panels and gives students an understanding of how to do sociology empirically in their everyday lives and through a hands-on research project conducted over the whole semester.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising in-class tests, a 1000 word essay, a research essay, a group workshop and oral presentation, and an individual final report. Tutorial participation is worth 15%.

Prescribed texts:

A subject reader will be available.

Second/third year subjects

Core second/third year subjects

166-081 Quantitative Social Research

Note: Students who have previously enrolled in, and successfully completed 166-131 Sociology 1B in 1997 and 1998, cannot enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Prerequisites: Usually two first year sociology subjects.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial/workshop per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject teaches students the linkage between sociological theories and empirical data. Particularly this subject teaches students how to do sociology empirically by introducing the logic and major processes of quantitative social research via lectures and hands-on workshops or labs. The topics include deductive and inductive logic, research design, conceptualisation, operationalisation, questionnaire design, probability sampling, non-probability sampling, coding/recoding, identifying available on-line survey data sets and constructing uni-variate and bi-variate tables and graphs.

Assessment: In-class test of 1000 words and workshop assignments totalling 3000 words.

Prescribed texts: E Babbie, *The Basics of Social Research*, Wadsworth Publishing, 1999.

166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy

Note: Formerly available as 166-250/350. Students who have completed 166-250/350 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Peter Dwyer

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces major sociological approaches to youth, and explores ways youth experience interacts with the state through examining youth policy. The subject locates youth experience in changing forms of socialisation, with reference to school, family, gender and sexual identities. It examines ways youth is constructed as a category of policy, discussing contemporary issues such as youth homelessness, health and legal issues. It focuses on young people's responses, exploring ways young people can be understood as social actors. On completion of this subject students should have a knowledge of contemporary sociological approaches to youth; have a knowledge of contemporary youth policy, with reference to current Australian debates; and have an ability to critically evaluate areas of contemporary youth policy.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: J Wyn & R White, *Rethinking Youth*, Allen & Unwin, 1997. • A McRobbie, *Feminism and Youth Culture*, Macmillan, 1991. • C Griffin, *Representations of Youth*, Polity, 1993. • P Dwyer, *Opting Out: Early School Leavers and the Degeneration of Youth Policy*, National Clearing House for Youth Studies, 1996.

166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements

Note: Formerly available as 166-257/357. Students who have completed 166-257/357 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject explores emerging patterns of identity and action associated with contemporary social movements, and the implications for ways of thinking about contemporary social life. It examines the emerging forms of face-to-face organization and personalised commitment that characterise these movements, and the implications in terms of individual and collective identity, models of society and ethics. The subject develops a series of case studies, from the labour movement to new social movements such as the women's movement, gay and ethnic mobilisations, the student movement, and contemporary forms of humanitarian action such as animal rights, international solidarity movements, volunteering and anti-poverty action. On completion of the subject students should have a knowledge of main sociological approaches to action, commitment and identity, and be able to use these to undertake a case study.

Assessment: An essay of 2000 words and a fieldwork report of 2000 words.

Prescribed texts: A Melucci, *Nomads of the Present: Social Movements and Individual Needs in Contemporary Society*, Hutchison London, 1989. • D Della Porta & M Diani, *Social Movements: An Introduction*, Blackwell, 1999.

166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies

Note: Students intending to do Fourth Year Honours in Sociology, must have completed this subject as part of their major. Formerly available as 166-258/358. Students who have completed 166-258/358 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Tim Marjoribanks

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Contact: A 1.5 hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject introduces students to qualitative research strategies and methods. The subject examines how qualitative researchers gather, focus and analyse data, using observation, interviews and documentary analysis. Theoretical approaches considered include grounded theory, naturalistic inquiry, ethnography and action research. This subject is based on students obtaining hands-on experience, through developing a field-based project exploring qualitative methods. On completion of this subject students should understand the logic of conducting qualitative research; have hands-on experience in using qualitative research methods; and be familiar with theoretical approaches used in designing qualitative social research.

Assessment: A research proposal of 1000 words, a research project of 2000 words and a 1000 word take-home examination.

Prescribed texts: J Lofland & L H Lofland, *Analysing Social Settings, A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*, (3rd ed) Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1995.

166-089 Sociology Internship Research Project

Note: Formerly available as 166-265/365. Students who have completed 166-265/365 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Entry to this subject is by quota, with a maximum of 15 students enrolled at any one time. Students are advised to complete the Professional Skills Program offered by the Careers and Liaison Unit prior to undertaking this subject.

Credit points: 25

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: J-S Chang, T Marjoribanks, K McDonald

Prerequisites: Students wishing to enrol in this subject must have completed two first year sociology subjects, 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (*p.331*) and 166-081 Quantitative Social Research (*p.330*).

Contact: Weekly seminar and work with organisation (*Semester 2*).

Description: In this subject a student, under academic supervision from the sociology program, undertakes a sociological research project in an organisation outside the University, such as a trade union, social movement, women's organisation, welfare service provider, Government or non-government organisation and business organisation. The project will be determined jointly by the student and the organisation concerned.

Assessment: A research report of 8000 words.

Prescribed texts: Y Wadsworth, *Do it Yourself Social Research*, (2nd ed) Allen & Unwin, 1997. • C Hakim, *Research Design: Strategies and Choices in the Design of Social Research*, Allen & Unwin, 1987. • T Sullivan, *Applied Sociology: Research and Critical Thinking*, Macmillan, 1992. • J Gubrium & D Silverman (eds), *The Politics of Field Research: Sociology Beyond Enlightenment*, Sage, 1989.

166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness

Note: Formerly available as 166-267/367. Students who have completed 166-267/367 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Tim Marjoribanks

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines how medical knowledge, practice, and technology, as well as individual and group experiences of health and illness, are socially shaped and organised. The subject begins with analyses of the medical profession, of medical education, and of medical-state relations. The subject then considers the social experience of health and illness in terms of relations including gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and class, with specific reference to HIV/AIDS. Attention will then be turned to technological and scientific developments in medicine, and their role in the social construction of medicine and of medical practice. Of particular interest here will be developments in organ transplantation and cloning, in the global biomedical and biotechnology industries, and the significance of those developments for local research and medical practice. Students should complete the subject with a sociological understanding of the social construction of medicine, health and illness and have gained experience in sociological research methods.

Assessment: Two research papers of 2000 words each.

Prescribed texts: C Grbich (ed), *Health in Australia*, (2nd ed) Longmann, 1999.

121-017 Society and Environments

See full subject details on page 181.

136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements

See full subject details on page 324.

191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance

See full subject details on page 128.

Optional second/third year subjects

121-015 Development and the Third World

See full subject details on page 180.

121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World

See full subject details on page 56.

121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality

See full subject details on page 56.

136-073 Critical Theories

See full subject details on page 324.

166-032 Sexual Politics

See full subject details on page 303.

191-003 Crime and Public Policy

See full subject details on page 128.

191-014 Youth Crime and Society

See full subject details on page 129.

191-015 Corporate and White Collar Crime

See full subject details on page 129.

191-020 Women, Gender and Crime

See full subject details on page 130.

Fourth year subjects

166-500 Sociology Thesis

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: J-S Chang, T Marjoribanks, K McDonald

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year Honours in Sociology.

Contact: As determined with thesis supervisor, as well as participation in thesis writing seminars (*Year long*).

Description: This subject constitutes a thesis of 12 000 words on an approved topic and supervised through the sociology program.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words.

Prescribed texts: C Ragin, *Constructing Social Research*, Pine Forge Press, 1994.

166-528 Sociology Thesis (MYE)

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: J-S Chang, T Majoribanks, K McDonald

Prerequisites: Mid-year admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year Honours in Sociology.

Contact: As determined with thesis supervisor, as well as participation in the thesis writing seminars (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: This subject constitutes a thesis of 12 000 words on an approved topic and supervised through the sociology program.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words.

Prescribed texts: C Ragin, *Constructing Social Research*, Pine Forge Press, 1994.

136-079 Reading Texts in Social Theory

See full subject details on page 324.

166-055 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry

See full subject details on page 306.

166-062 Heterarchy, Networks & Self-Organisation

See full subject details on page 306.

166-066 Globalisation and its Discontents

See full subject details on page 307.

166-067 Australia's Welfare State: Comparisons

See full subject details on page 307.

166-092 Advanced Sociological Theory

Note: Formerly available as 166-484. Students who have completed 166-484 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. This is a compulsory subject for Sociology Honours.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: J-S Chang, T Marjoribanks, K McDonald

Prerequisites: Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year Honours in Sociology.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines major theoretical orientations defining contemporary sociology, with particular emphasis on the problems around which they converge, and the competing research directions that they give rise to. The subject focuses on the current shift from classical sociology, organised around the nation state, to contemporary sociological analyses of globalisation and the contemporary theoretical movement of the return of the actor. Students should complete the subject with an advanced knowledge of key debates and problems within contemporary sociological theory and of tensions and debates within theories of social action and structure. Students should also be able to use sociological theory to construct research questions and be able to critically assess one of the main traditions in contemporary sociological theory.

Assessment: A book review and essay totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: S. Seidman, *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory in the Postmodern Era*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1998.

191-029 Victims

See full subject details on page 130.

Core subjects not offered in 2001

Core second/third year subjects not offered in 2001

166-082 Work, Management & Globalisation

Note: Formerly available as 166-246/346. Students who have completed 166-246/346 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Prerequisites: Usually two first year sociology subjects.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The subject provides a critical overview of the structure and organisation of work and of managerial practice in an era of globalisation, focusing on major contemporary issues such as the social organisation of work and of the workplace; managerial practices in the firm; and transformations in work related organisations. Students will investigate specific topics including the division of labour within the workplace; workplace restructuring; the emergence of new management techniques and employment practices; and the influence of globalisation and technology. The subject should equip students with the ability to assess critically the work of key theorists of work and management. Students will have the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in empirically-based research papers, which may include a case study of a specific workplace or firm.

166-084 Global Cities: Sociological Explorations

Note: Formerly available as 166-255/355. Students who have completed 166-255/355 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject introduces the sociological study of the urban experience, in particular what it means to live in global cities. It is grounded in the sociological tradition, from Weber through the Chicago School to contemporary urban sociology, and grapples with defining dimensions of living in the global city: changing meanings of place and neighbourhood; and the changing meanings of the suburban experience and urban culture. The subject focuses on ways of exploring forms of urban practice, from gangs and graffiti or the development of community areas, such as gay and ethnic areas, to women's and young people's experience of place. Students should complete the course with a strong sense of the sociology of the urban, and having carried out a field project exploring a particular dimension of urban experience.

166-087 Sociological Theory

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject provides students with the opportunity to explore both classical and contemporary sociological theory, and to critically analyse how those theories attempt to explain social relations. It examines the development of sociological theories which seek to explain questions of contemporary social organisation. As the subject proceeds, students will examine how researchers construct, evaluate, and modify theory to respond to empirical evidence. In this way, it should become evident that sociological theory is a constantly evolving phenomenon which responds to transformations in social relations and experience. Students have the opportunity to explore one or more theoretical approaches in depth through research papers in which they engage with theory in the context of contemporary sociological issues of their choice.

166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality

Note: Formerly available as 166-266. Students who have completed 166-266 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Credit points: 12.5 **HECS-band:** 1

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Prerequisites: 25 points of first year sociology or first year women's studies, see *Prerequisites (p.351)*.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Not Offered*).

Description: This subject focuses on the impact of socio-cultural change on, and cultural representations of love, family and sexuality in a variety of cultural contexts and social systems. The subject also explores a range of non-normative arrangements regarding family and sexuality. Three projects enable students to analyse degrees of variation regarding the systems and the meanings of love, family and sexuality that occur between norms, representations and actual daily living. Specific socio-cultural comparisons should enable students to develop sociological insights and arguments using a grounded theoretical approach.

Assessment: A class test of 1000 words and workshop assignments totalling 3000 words.

Prescribed texts:

A subject reader will be available.

Optional subjects not offered in 2001

Optional second/third year subjects not offered in 2001

121-016 Landscapes of Power

See full subject details on page 185.

166-015 Transforming Australian Culture

See full subject details on page 308.

Optional fourth year subjects not offered in 2001

136-080 Theories of Modernity

See full subject details on page 325.