

Sociology

Convener: Dr Kevin McDonald

Sociology at the University of Melbourne explores the social patterns characterising contemporary societies. The program also equips students with a range of research skills that allow them to design and carry out data collection and analysis, from in-depth interviewing techniques to computer-based data analysis. Many subjects involve a fieldwork emphasis that underpins the professionally oriented skills that students develop. Majoring students may undertake an internship in a public, corporate or community sector organisation. The program has a strong research identity, with international links to North America, Asia and Europe. Sociology graduates are able to choose a variety of career paths that draw on the substantive areas of their study as well as research skills. Students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree options at the University of Melbourne.

The discipline of sociology involves the study of social practices and relationships. The program at the University of Melbourne focuses on major areas of social change and professional employment. These include the social patterns and issues involved in emerging global cities, media and communications, work and organisations, family transformation, youth issues, health and illness, as well as contemporary forms of social movement and social problems from drug use to poverty. The program in sociology also includes subjects offered through 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 subjects taken at level two or level three (87.5 points), five of which **must** be chosen from the list of sociology **core** units (62.5 points).

Sociology subjects

First year

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

subjects	Sem.
166-003 Inequalities in Australian Society (p.2)	1
166-006 Media, Politics and Society (p.2)	2
166-080 Society and Self Identity (p.2)	1
166-104 Doing Sociology (p.2)	2

Second/third year and third/fourth year

Students must take **five** of the following subjects at second or third year level toward their sociology major. Subjects offered at third/fourth year must be taken at level three. Students planning to undertake fourth year honours should note the honours entry requirements.

Core subjects	Sem.
Sociology	
166-081 Quantitative Social Research (p.2)	1
166-082 Work, Management & Globalisation (p.2)	1
166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy (p.2)	2
166-084 Global Cities: Sociological Explorations (p.3)	2
166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements (p.4)	N/A
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (p.3)	2
166-089 Sociology Internship Research Project (p.3)	2
166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (p.3)	1
166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness (p.4)	N/A
166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (p.4)	1
Criminology	
191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance (p.3)	2
Geography	
121-017 Society and Environments (p.3)	2
Social theory	

Core subjects	Sem.
136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (p.2)	
Public policy and management	
166-213 Using Computers in Social Research (p.2)	2
Optional subjects	Sem.
Political science	
166-032 Sexual Politics (p.5)	1
Social theory	
136-073 Critical Theories (p.2)	2
Anthropology	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4)	N/A
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.4)	N/A
Criminology	
191-003 Crime and Public Policy (p.2)	2
191-415 Youth Crime and Society (p.3)	2
191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime (p.3)	2
191-422 Women, Gender and Crime (p.4)	2
Geography	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.3)	2
121-016 Landscapes of Power (p.3)	1

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.2) and 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (p.3).

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 by 31 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.4) or 166-528 Sociology Thesis (MYE) (p.4) (37.5 points) and;
- five honours subjects in sociology chosen from the list below (62.5 points).

Honours and postgraduate diploma students who did not complete 166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (p.4) at third year level must complete this subject as part of their fourth year studies.

Combined honours

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

- 166-500 Sociology Thesis (p.4) or 166-528 Sociology Thesis (MYE) (p.4) (37.5 points) and;
 - two honours subjects chosen from the list below and;
 - three honours subjects in the combined area of study (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 (25 points) and;
 - three honours subjects chosen from the list below (37.5 points).

Honours subjects

Sociology	Sem.
121-503 Research Methods and Design (p.7)	Summer
166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (p.4)	1
History and philosophy of science	
136-447 Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.2)	1
136-454 Theories of Modernity (p.3)	N/A
Politics	
166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (p.7)	1
166-412 Heterarchy, Networks & Self Organisation (p.11)	N/A
166-413 Globalization and its Discontents (p.7)	1
Criminology	
191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime (p.3)	2
191-422 Women, Gender and Crime (p.4)	2
191-434 Victims (p.4)	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 2.

166-006 Media, Politics and Society

See full subject details on page 2.

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.

Availability: 1st year

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 fieldwork 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

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial or workshop 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 organises 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 an in-class test, a research report and small assignments and oral presentation in workshops.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

Second/third year subjects

Core 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.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

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.

166-082 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.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Tim Marjoribanks

Prerequisites: Usually two first year sociology subjects.

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

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. We will investigate specific topics including the division of labour and social relations 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 central transformations in the areas 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.

Assessment: Two research papers of 2000 words each.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

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.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Johanna Wyn

Prerequisites: Twenty-five 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.

166-084 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.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: Twenty-five points of first year sociology.

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

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.

Assessment: A fieldwork project totalling 2000 words and an essay of 2000 words.

Prescribed texts: J Eade (ed), *Living the Global City*, Routledge, 1997. • P Bourgois, *In search of respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, Cambridge University Press, 1995. • M Auge, *Non-Places*, Verso, 1995. • D Karp, *Being Urban: A Sociology of City Life*, 2nd ed, Praeger New York, 1991.

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.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Tim Marjoribanks

Prerequisites: Twenty-five points of first year sociology.

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

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. Research strategies considered include case studies, grounded theory, 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 1500 words and a research project of 2500 words.

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.

Availability: 3rd year

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.3*) and 166-081 Quantitative Social Research (*p.2*).

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.

166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality

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

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Prerequisites: Twenty-five points of first year sociology, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or prior permission from the subject coordinator,

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

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. 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 theory approach.

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

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-213 Using Computers in Social Research

See full subject details on page 2.

121-017 Society and Environments

See full subject details on page 3.

136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements

See full subject details on page 2.

191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance

See full subject details on page 3.

Optional subjects

121-015 Development and the Third World

See full subject details on page 3.

121-016 Landscapes of Power

See full subject details on page 3.

121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World

See full subject details on page 4.

121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality

See full subject details on page 4.

136-073 Critical Theories

See full subject details on page 2.

166-032 Sexual Politics

See full subject details on page 5.

191-003 Crime and Public Policy

See full subject details on page 2.

191-415 Youth Crime and Society

See full subject details on page 3.

191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime

See full subject details on page 3.

191-422 Women, Gender and Crime

See full subject details on page 4.

Third/fourth year subjects**166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory****Availability:** 3rd and 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Kevin McDonald**Prerequisites:** Completion of 37.5 points of second/third year sociology subjects for third year. Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours for fourth year.**Contact:** A 1-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject examines major orientations and debates within contemporary sociological theory, and the different research directions that they give rise to. The subject focuses on the current shift from classical sociology, focused on national societies, roles, classes and institutions, to contemporary sociological approaches to globalisation, risk, network society and individualisation. Students should complete this subject with knowledge of approaches and debates shaping contemporary sociological theory, and an ability to use sociological theory to construct research questions.**Assessment:** An essay of 1500 words and an essay of 2500 for 3rd year, an essay of 1500 words and an essay of 3500 words for 4th year.**Prescribed texts:** S Seidman, *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory in the Postmodern Era*, Blackwell Oxford, 1998.**Fourth year subjects****166-500 Sociology Thesis****Availability:** 4th year**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 the 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)****Availability:** 4th year**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.**136-447 Reading Texts in Social Theory**

See full subject details on page 2.

136-454 Theories of Modernity

See full subject details on page 3.

166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry

See full subject details on page 7.

166-412 Heterarchy, Networks & Self Organisation

See full subject details on page 11.

166-413 Globalization and its Discontents

See full subject details on page 7.

166-483 Australia's Welfare State: Comparisons

See full subject details on page 12.

191-434 Victims

See full subject details on page 4.

Core subjects not offered in 2002**Core second/third year subjects not offered in 2002****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.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Twenty-five points of first year sociology.**Semester:** Not Offered**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 organisation 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 globalisation conflicts, 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.**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.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Twenty-five points of first year sociology.**Semester:** Not Offered**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 there will be developments in organ transplantation and cloning, and the strategies of the global biomedical and biotechnology industries. Students should complete the subject with a sociological understanding of the social, political and economic dimensions of medicine, health and illness and have gained experience in sociological research methods.