

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.
166-111 Inequalities in Australian Society (p.2)	2
166-107 Media, Politics and Society (p.2)	2
166-104 Trans-Cultural Exploration of Daily Life (p.2)	2
166-130 Globalisation, the Social & Identity (p.2)	1

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)	N/A
166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy (p.2)	2
166-084 Global Cities: Sociological Explorations (p.3)	N/A
166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements (p.3)	N/A
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (p.3)	2
166-089 Sociology Internship (p.3)	2
166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (p.3)	1
166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness (p.3)	1
166-213 Using Computers in Social Research (p.4)	2
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

Core subjects Sem.

Social theory

136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (p.2)

Optional subjects

 Sem.

Political science

166-210 Political Communication (p.7) 2

Social theory

136-073 Critical Theories (p.2) 2

Anthropology

121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.2) 2

121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.2) 2

Criminology

191-003 Crime and Public Policy (p.2) 1

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) 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.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

 Sem.

Sociology

121-503 Research Methods and Design (p.8) Summer

166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (p.4) 1

History and philosophy of science

136-532 Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.3) 2

136-533 Theories of Modernity (p.3) N/A

Politics

166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (p.9) 1

166-413 Globalization and its Discontents (p.9) 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.5) 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

166-111 Inequalities in Australian Society

See full subject details on page 2.

166-107 Media, Politics and Society

See full subject details on page 2.

166-130 Globalisation, the Social & Identity

Note: Formerly available as 166-080. Students who have completed 166-080 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, using self-identity as a lens to examine emerging social patterns linked to globalisation. The subject explores new forms of consumption; network as social structure; the transformation of technology from a tool to an environment; sport, religion and the symbolic; subcultures; the intimate family; the nature of contemporary social problems such as drug use; emerging forms of conflict associated with globalisation. The subject is organised around key concepts of risk, identity, uncertainty, individualisation, network society, and power. The subject is 'decentred', exploring globalisation and social life in both Western and 'non-Western' societies, in particular Asia.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: K McDonald, *Pressing Questions: Explorations in Sociology*, Issue 3, Pearson 2002.

166-104 Trans-Cultural Exploration of Daily Life

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: Students will explore various aspects of society and everyday life using a trans-cultural sociological approach. Globalisation is as much a personal matter as it is a social transformation. This subject uses classical and contemporary sociological perspectives to examine - in Australia and beyond - such issues as race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, life course, education, popular culture, religion and belief. In order to make the course concrete and relevant, students will participate in a sociological research project, to be conducted through the whole semester, wherein they will *apply* this trans-cultural sociological approach to study their own everyday lives. They will also get a sense of what and how sociologists can do professionally.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

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: Written work totalling 4000 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

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 and experience 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 topics of interest in empirically-based research papers, which may include a case study of a specific workplace or firm.

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: Usually two first-year sociology subjects.

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 different groups of young people experience and interact with the state through examining youth policy. The subject locates youth experience in changing forms of socialisation, with reference to school, work, family, gender and sexual identities. It examines ways youth is constructed as a category of policy, discussing contemporary issues such as youth homeless-

ness, 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: P Dwyer & J Wyn, *Education and Risk: Facing the Future*, Routledge/Falmer, 2001. • J Wyn & R White, *Rethinking Youth*, Allen & Unwin, 1997. • J McLeod & K Malone (eds), *Researching Youth*, Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, 2000.

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

Prerequisites: Usually two first-year sociology subjects.

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 to 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.

166-085 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: Usually two first-year sociology subjects.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject explores forms of identity and action associated with contemporary social movements, the conflicts these movements are engaged in, their modes of organising and mobilising, the ways they produce meaning and transform culture. The subject explores forms of action and identity associated with emerging conflicts around globalisation, both in countries of 'North' as well as the 'South'. Sociological approaches are introduced and critically examined in relation to a series of case studies: Direct Action and globalisation conflicts; the ecology movement; animal rights; the Zapatista movement in Chiapas; the Chinese student movement; Islamic youth and women's movements. The rise and decomposition of social movements is explored, as well as their relationship to other forms of action, from subcultures to terrorism.

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: Usually two first-year sociology subjects.

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: Written work totalling 4000 words.

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

166-089 Sociology Internship

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: Tim Marjoribanks & Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: Students wishing to enrol in this subject must have completed two first year sociology subjects in addition to 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 or 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 edn, 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: 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 focuses on the impact of sociocultural 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 sociocultural comparisons should enable students to develop sociological insights and arguments using a grounded theory approach.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

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

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: 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 and other case studies. 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, and the strategies of the global biomedical and biotechnology industries. Students should complete the subject with a sociological understanding of the social, political and cultural dimensions of medicine, health and illness and have gained experience in sociological research methods.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available

C Grbich, *Health in Australia*, 2nd edn, Longman, 1999.

166-213 Using Computers in Social Research**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** To be advised**Prerequisites:** Usually 25 points of first-year sociology or political science or admission to the BPPM.**Contact:** Three hours of lab sessions per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This course introduces students to the use of computers at all stages of the research process, and does not presume previous experience using computers. It covers the use of various computer packages for locating, acquiring and managing references, literature and various forms of data, including the internet; data analysis (both textual and numerical); working with large, complex, linked and multi-authored projects; tools for data and report presentation. Programs include a selection from the following: Advanced uses of *Endnote*, *Word* and *Excel*, *SPSS*, *N-Vivo* or *N6*, and *Powerpoint*. Students learn these skills through applying them to each stage of an individual class research project. Students are encouraged to use projects they are engaged in for other courses for this purpose.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words.**Prescribed texts:** Materials prepared by the centre.

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 2.

121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality

See full subject details on page 2.

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.

136-532 Reading Texts in Social Theory

See full subject details on page 3.

136-533 Theories of Modernity

See full subject details on page 3.

166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry

See full subject details on page 9.

166-412 Heterarchy, Networks & Self Organisation

See full subject details on page 9.

166-413 Globalization and its Discontents

See full subject details on page 9.

191-434 Victims

See full subject details on page 5.