

## Sociology

### School of Liberal Arts Indianapolis

**Chairperson**

Associate Professor Robert Aponte\*

**Departmental E-mail**[sociolog@iupui.edu](mailto:sociolog@iupui.edu)**Departmental URL**<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/sociology/>

### Graduate Faculty

(An asterisk [\*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

**Professors**

David C. Bell, Neale Chumbler, David A. Ford\*, Carol B. Gardner\*, Linda L. Haas\*, Jay Howard, Lynn Pike, Robert W. White\*, Colin J. Williams\*, Patricia A. Wittberg\*

**Associate Professors**

Robert Aponte\*, Wan-Ning Bao, William P. Gronfein, Ain E. Haas\*, Najja Modibo, Peter Seybold

**Assistant Professors**

Carrie Foote, Tamara Leech, Marci Littlefield

**Adjunct Senior Scientist**

Betsy Fife (Nursing)

**Adjunct Professor**

Eric R. Wright\* (Public and Environmental Affairs)

**Adjunct Associate Professors**

Gail Hitchchurch\* (Communication Studies),

### Master of Arts Degree

**Admission Requirements**

Five undergraduate sociology courses (or approved equivalents, with no more than two of the latter) with a total grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0); two samples of writing (a 750-word essay [required by the Indiana University

Graduate Office  
Union Building 207  
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 274-1577  
Contact: [gradoff@iupui.edu](mailto:gradoff@iupui.edu)

Graduate School], and a sole-authored report or term paper [required by the sociology department]); official transcripts; and three letters of reference. Foreign applicants are required to take the TOEFL. The GRE general test is not required, but is strongly recommended for admission.

Students not meeting the above requirements may be admitted on probation, or they may be required to enroll in courses as a graduate non-degree student to complete the prerequisites.

**Course Requirements**

A total of 36 credit hours, distributed as follows: 12 credits of basic sociology courses (sociological theory [R556 or R557], quantitative methods [R551], qualitative methods [S659], and sociological statistics [R559]); 12 sociology credits in one area of concentration (medical sociology; family and gender studies; work and organizations); 6-9 credits of electives (any graduate courses approved by the University Graduate School); 3-6 in thesis or internship credits. (An undergraduate statistics course [R359 or the equivalent] is a prerequisite for R559.)

**Thesis or Internship**

A thesis or internship is required.

**Grades**

Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.0 (B) in all coursework.

### Ph.D. Minor

Students who are candidates for the Ph.D. degree in other departments may obtain a minor in sociology at IUPUI. The intent of the minor is to develop multidisciplinary skills, exposing students to theories and methods outside their major department. The Ph.D. minor in sociology has an unstructured curriculum that can provide students with a foundation in basic areas in sociology and the opportunity to study advanced sociological theory, qualitative and quantitative research methods, and statistics.

**Course Requirements**

- Four sociology courses at the 500 level or above, totaling 12 credits.
- An average grade of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or above in these courses.
- No more than one individual readings course.
- At least half of these courses must be taken at the IUPUI campus.

## Courses

In order to register for any graduate course you must be at graduate standing or obtain the consent of the instructor.

**R515 Sociology of Health and Illness (3 cr.)** Surveys important areas of medical sociology, focusing on social factors influencing the distribution of disease, help-seeking, and health care. Topics covered include social epidemiology, the health-care professions, socialization of providers, and issues of cost and cost containment.

**R517 Sociology of Work (3 cr.)** Must be at graduate standing. Course explores how work is being restructured in the “new economy.” Topics include the changing meaning of work, the quest for dignity in the workplace, the plight of the working poor, and prospects for the labor movement (among other items).

**R525 Gender and Work (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing and 6 credit hours of sociology, or consent of the instructor. This course critically analyzes contemporary theory and research on gender and work. It examines how women’s and men’s roles in paid and unpaid work are socially constructed, through socialization, social interaction, and the actions of social institutions. The interaction of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class will be explored.

**R530 Families and Social Policy (3 cr.)** P: R100, R220, graduate standing. This seminar will explore how the government and labor market affect family structure and the quality of family life. Students will study the implications of family research for social policy and learn to develop theoretical frameworks for evaluating social policies affecting families.

**R537 Gender and Society (3 cr.)** Examines some of the approaches to gender, emphasizing social interactionist and feminist theory/methods. In addition, we will relate these approaches to the study of contemporary gender approaches in selected social spheres, which may vary according to instructor’s specialization.

**R551 Quantitative Methods in Sociology (3 cr.)** Surveys the major quantitative techniques for investigating current sociological problems. It emphasizes the relationship between theory and practice in understanding and conducting research.

**R556 Advanced Sociological Theory I (3 cr.)** In-depth study of classical sociological theorists, particularly Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Examines their roles in defining the discipline.

**R557 Advanced Sociological Theory II (3 cr.)** In-depth study of contemporary sociological theories (e.g., social conflict, structural functionalist, symbolic interactionist) as a continuation of the issues raised by the classical sociological theorists as well as a response to the epistemological and social changes of the late twentieth century.

**R559 Intermediate Sociological Statistics (3 cr.)** P: R359 or equivalent. Basic techniques for summarizing distributions, measuring interrelationships, controlling extraneous influences, and testing hypotheses are reviewed as students become familiar with the computer system. Complex analytical techniques commonly applied in professional literature are examined in detail, including analysis of variance, path diagrams, factor analysis, and log-linear models.

**R585 Social Aspects of Mental Health and Mental Illness (3 cr.)** This is a graduate-level course that focuses on the sociology of mental illness and mental health. Provides a thorough grounding in the research issues and traditions that have characterized scholarly inquiry into mental illness in the past. Students will become familiar with public policy as it has had an impact on the treatment of mental illness and on the mentally ill themselves.

**R593 Applied Fieldwork for Sociologists (3 cr.)** This course will provide students with both a theoretical and methodological background in the different types of qualitative analysis used in sociological fieldwork. Students will have the opportunity to study and to evaluate representative examples of qualitative studies and to complete by themselves a project done with qualitative methods.

**R594 Graduate Internship in Sociology (3-6 cr.)** P: 18 hours of graduate credit in sociology. This course involves master’s degree students working in organizations where they apply or gain practical insight into sociological concepts, theories, knowledge, and methodology. Students analyze their experiences through work logs, a lengthy written report, and regular meetings with a faculty committee. (Students on the thesis track may also take this course as an elective.)

**R610 Sociology of Health and Illness Behavior (3 cr.)** This seminar explores sociological and social scientific research on health and illness behavior. Special emphasis is placed on examining how social factors and conditions shape people’s responses to disease, illness, and disability.

**R697 Individual Readings in Sociology (1-6 cr.)** Investigation of a topic not covered in the regular curriculum that is of special interest to the student and that the student wishes to pursue in greater detail. Available only to sociology graduate students through arrangement with a faculty member.

**S500 Pro-Seminar in Sociology (1 cr.)** P: Graduate standing and/or consent of the instructor. Introduction to current sociological research interests and concerns through the work of departmental members.

**S526 The Sociology of Human Sexuality (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing and consent of the instructor. This is a one-semester graduate-level course in the sociology of human sexuality. This course will provide (a) a detailed examination of the development of sex research, (b) a sociological perspective on and critique of this corpus, and (c) an opportunity for students to develop research of their own.

**S530 Introduction to Social Psychology (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. Examines the broad range of work in social psychology. Emphasis is placed on the relation between the classic and contemporary literature in the field.

**S560 Graduate Topics (3 cr.)** Exploration of a topic in sociology not covered by the regular curriculum but of interest to faculty and students in a particular semester. Topics to be announced.

**S569 M.A. Thesis (3 cr.)** All students on the thesis track must register for 3 credit hours (up to 6 credit hours total) of the thesis credits as part of the requirements for the degree. Requires permission of the graduate director.

**S610 Urban Sociology (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. Historical and contemporary causes, trends, and patterns of urbanization throughout the world. Various approaches to studying the process of urbanization, including ecological, social organizational, and political perspectives. Current developments and problems in urban planning.

**S612 Political Sociology (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. An analysis of the nature and operation of power in a political system. Topics may include classical theories of power, political behavior and campaigns, the role of mass media in sustaining power, the state as a social institution, and political movements.

**S613 Complex Organizations (3 cr.)** Theory and research in formal organizations: industry, school, church, hospital, government, military, and university. Problems of bureaucracy and decision-making in large-scale organizations. For students in the social sciences and professional schools interested in the comparative approach to problems of organization and their management.

**S616 Sociology of Family Systems (3 cr.)** P: Graduate standing or consent of the instructor. Focus on the nature, structure, functions, and changes of family systems in modern and emerging societies, in comparative and historical perspective. Attention is given to relationships with other societal subsystems, and to interaction between role occupants within and between subsystems.

**S632 Socialization (3 cr.)** The processes of development of the individual as a social being and societal member, focusing on childhood or socialization into adult roles.

**S659 Qualitative Methods in Sociology (3 cr.)** Methods of obtaining, evaluating, and analyzing qualitative data in social research. Methods covered include field research procedures, participant observation, interviewing, and audiovideo recording of social behavior in natural settings.