



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

**STUDENT
HANDBOOK FOR
SOCIAL SCIENCE
MAJORS**

FALL 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Social Science major is interdisciplinary in nature, and includes courses from the disciplines of Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, History, and Economics. As Hunt and Colandar¹ state:

No field of study is more important to human beings than the social sciences. To understand society is to learn not only the conditions that limit our lives but also the opportunities open to us for improving the human condition. Increasing our knowledge of human society is as important as learning more about mathematics, physics, chemistry or engineering, for unless we can develop societies in which human beings can live happy, meaningful, and satisfying lives, we cannot reap the benefits from learning how to make better automobiles and skyscrapers, traveling in space, or constructing faster computers.

What can I do with a degree in Social Science?

Social scientists study humans, human culture, and the relationship between humans and their environment. In other words, the total human experience is the field of study for the social scientist. Some areas outside of Academics where social scientists might find employment are²:

Community Planning	Social Work
International Relations	Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Manpower Research & Analysis	Manpower Development
Civil Rights Analysis	Employee Relations
Public Health Program Specialist	Consumer Safety
Industrial Specialist	Community Development
Criminology/Penology	Industrial Sociology
Social Ecology	Social Problems Specialist
Urban Sociology	Demography
Social Pathologist	Social Welfare Research

¹ Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander 2008 *Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society* 13th Ed. Allyn & Bacon/Pearson pg 3

² Stephens, Richard Jr. 2004 *Careers in Sociology* 3rd Ed. Allyn & Bacon pp 6-7

The following is a very small sample of companies that have employed social scientists:

AT&T	Army Research Institute
American Bar Association	American Medical Association
American Express	Boys Town Center
Financial News Network	General Electric
General Motors Research Laboratories	General Foods
Illinois Criminal Justice Authority	Rockefeller Foundation
Internal Revenue Service	The Gallup Organization
The Public Health Foundation	US Bureau of Census
US Dept. of Health & Human Services	US Department of Energy
NASA	National Institutes of Health
NBC	CBS

The student who wishes to pursue a graduate degree in Sociology, Social Work, Psychology*, Political Science, or any of the subfields in these disciplines would be prepared with a degree in Social Science.

**It is recommended that students intending to enter graduate school in psychology take SOC 371, Statistics for the Social Sciences, which is usually a prerequisite for graduate work in psychology.*

What is the difference between the Social Science Major and the Sociology Major?

The Sociology Major at Alice Lloyd College is designed for students wishing to prepare for a graduate degree in Sociology. The degree relies heavily on courses in research, theory, and applied Sociology.

The Social Science Major is intended for students who may not plan to go to graduate school, but would like to work in the service sector where a strong background in sociology as well as advanced courses in economics, psychology, and political science would be an advantage. Many employers in these fields do not require the sociology degree, but some look for at least 30 credit hours in sociology which this Major provides. The graduate with a Social Science Major may still attend graduate school if academic standing permits.

Students may not double major in Sociology and Social Science, because there is not enough difference in the two majors to justify giving two degrees. The student must decide on one or the other no later than their senior year.

What are the Requirements for the Social Science Major?

Social Science majors should take SSci 101 or SOC 101 as the foundation course for the major.

Although there seems to be a large number of courses required for this major (63 credit hours total), several may be taken during your first two years of fulfilling your General Education Requirements, and will count toward fulfillment of both these requirements and the major requirements. Up to 24 credit hours could be accrued in this manner. Note that you only receive credit for completing the requirement when “double dipping”; you do not receive double credit hours. Some of these courses are:

SOC 101, 102, 211
 SSCI 101, 110
 Econ 210
 Pols 111, 112
 Psy 101

Bachelor of Arts Social Sciences Major Requirements

The major in social science prepares students to study sociology, psychology, political science, economics and history. The variety of courses offered allows students to enter fields including but not limited to health care support systems, library science, as well as governmental and nongovernmental (NGO) agencies.

Students must earn a “C” grade in each course in the major field in order to graduate; the overall GPA must be at least a 2.00.

General Education Requirements / 52 hours

Institutional:	16 hours: CIS 100, Comm 126, Eng 101, Eng 102, LE 101, PE 103.
Humanities:	12 hours
Social Science:	12 hours
Natural Science/Mathematics:	12 hours

Social Science Major Requirements / 63 hours

- A) Economics / 6 hours required:
Econ 210
Econ 330
- B) History / 6 hours required
Choose 6 hours from 300-400 level courses
- C) Political Science / 6 hours
Choose 3 hours from: Pols 111, 112 (required)
Choose 3 more hours from the Political Science curriculum, as long as the prerequisites are met.
- D) Psychology / 6 hours
Psy 101 (prerequisite for all other psychology courses)
Choose 3 more hours from the Psychology curriculum, as long as the prerequisites are met.
- E) Social Science /9 hours
Scsi 489 Senior Seminar (required) Junior or Senior year only
Choose 6 more hours from the Social Science curriculum
- F) Sociology / 30 hours
Required (9 hours): SOC 101, SOC 370, SOC 461
Choose 21 hours from the Sociology curriculum, as long as the prerequisites for each course are met.

General Electives / Sufficient to total 128 hours for graduation.

Students are encouraged to consider courses that can lead to a second major or a minor. An emphasis in History, including the history of nonwestern societies, is a strong choice for this major. English 304 (Technical writing) would enhance the student's preparation for writing grant proposals, which are often necessary in the social science professions. Literature courses and Philosophy courses broaden the mind and offer the student a wealth of understanding and/or tolerance for the human condition. When selecting an elective, however, the important first consideration is that the student seek out an academic experience that he or she will enjoy.

Suggested Course Sequence Social Science Major

First Semester

Freshman Year

Eng 101	3
CIS 110	3
Math 110, 112, 113, 125	4
Soc 101	3
PE 103	<u>3</u>
	16

Sophomore Year

Comm 126	3
Soc elective	3
Soc elective	3
Soc elective	3
Pols Elect	3
Hum Elect	<u>3</u>
	18

Junior Year

Psy 320	3
Soc 461	3
Soc elective	3
Hum elective	3
Hist elective	3
SSci elective	<u>3</u>
	18

Senior Year

Soc 370	3
Hum elective	3
Soc elective	3
Gen Elect	3
Gen Elect	<u>3</u>
	15

Second Semester

Eng 102	3
LE 101	3
Biol 101	4
Hist gen elective	3
SSci elective	<u>3</u>
	16

A Physical Science	4
Psy 101	3
Hum elective	3
Econ 210	3
Hlth 210	<u>3</u>
	16

Econ 330	3
Soc Elect	3
Pols Elect	3
Soc elective	3
Soc elective	3
Gen Elective	<u>3</u>
	18

SSci 489	3
Gen Elect	3
Gen Elect	3
Gen Elect	<u>3</u>
	12

Social Science (SSci) Courses

101 Introduction to Social Science 3 credit hours

This course provides students with a broad introduction to the interdisciplinary Social Sciences major, while laying the foundation for critical analysis of social science issues within larger historical and global contexts. The student will study the roles of the different social science disciplines in understanding social reality, addressing social issues, and enhancing human welfare. (Fall)

110 Geography and Human Organization 3 credit hours

The global ecology from the standpoint of the relationship of human history and social organization to the geographic environment. Climates, landscapes, and the interaction of nature and patterns of human processes examined. (Spring)

310 World Cultures 3 credit hours

Introduction to the scientific study of human culture with examination of the historical and evolutionary foundations of culture. Attention will be given to the Comparative study of cultures, with the generalizations concerning social organization, language, arts, and religion. Prereq: Soc 101 or SSci 101. (As needed)

301 Survey of Human Development Theory 3 credit hours

The course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the major theories and stages of human growth and development from prenatal through geriatric stages. The major factors that influence human development will be examined, such as: family, community, education, socioeconomic status, culture and ethnicity. Other topics include: Cognitive, physical, psychological and spiritual milestones in development; as well as theories about human intelligence and its assessment. Prereq: Psy 101; Soc 101 or SSci 101; Soc 203. (As needed)

410 Contemporary Social Theory 3 credit hours

This course is a comprehensive study of the life and work of contemporary social science theorists. The theorists may be from any of the social sciences, i.e. Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, Economics, or Geography. Different theorists/disciplines may be selected each semester the course is offered. The course will be held seminar style, with student presentations and discussions of primary and secondary resources. Prereq: Soc 101 or SSci 101. Junior or Senior status. (As needed)

460-469 Special Topics in Social Science 3 credit hours

Selected Topics in Social Science. Prereq: Junior status or permission of instructor. (As needed)

489 Senior Seminar 3 credit hours

This course deals with social science methodology, theory, research and writing. This capstone course for the Social Science major requires a lengthy research paper, and an oral presentation based on the paper. Prereq: Junior or Senior status, SOC 370, SOC 461 (Spring)

Sociology (Soc) Required Curriculum

101 Introduction to Sociology 3 credit hours

A study of basic concepts, including culture, subcultures, society, countercultures, social roles, stratification, socialization process, social institutions and social changes. Also an analysis of group behavior, deviancy, and social control. (Fall and Spring)

370 Introduction to Social Research 3 credit hours

The course will introduce core concepts of social research. The requirements for both qualitative and quantitative research as well as mixed methodologies will be taught. Students will also be introduced to elementary statistical analysis. Prereq: Soc 101; Soc 461 OR Soc 460; Junior or Senior status, or permission of instructor. (Fall)

461 Classical Social Theory 3 credit hours

An intensive study of the lives and works of selected classical sociologists. Readings include a historical analysis of late 19th and early 20th century social theory and primary text selections from the work of major theorists of the period. The course will be held seminar style, with student presentations and discussions of primary resources. Prereq: Junior or Senior status, English, Sociology or Social Science major. (Fall)

See your ALC catalog for descriptions of other courses required or offered for this major.

Social Science Minor

This minor is open to all students regardless of their designated major. A minimum of a "C" grade in each course is required. Students should be sure that they have met the prerequisites for each course prior to signing up for the course. Courses carrying designations for multiple disciplines cannot be counted for more than one major or minor.

Social Science 21 hours

Choose 9 hours from SSci 101, 110, Econ 209, 210, Pols 111, 112, Psy 101, Soc 101, Soc 102;

Choose 3 hours from Pols 301, 460-469;

Required: Econ 330;

Choose 3 hours from Psy 330, 320;

Choose 3 hours from SSci 301, 310, 410-469.

Recommended Books for the Social Science Major's Library

The student of social science should begin to accumulate their own library of reference works, including those classics of sociology, political science and economics that come up again and again in course work as well as research. It is very helpful to have a few general reference works of one's own such as:

The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology [Paperback] Bryan S. Turner (Editor)

Classical Sociological Theory (Blackwell Readers in Sociology) [Paperback] Craig Calhoun (Editor), Joseph Gerteis (Editor), James Moody (Editor), Steven Pfaff (Editor), Indermohan Virk (Editor)

Sociology Laminate Reference Chart: The Basic Principles of Sociology for Introductory Courses (Quickstudy: Academic) [Loose Leaf] Wayne Mayhall (Editor)

National Geographic's *Book of Peoples of the World: A Guide to Cultures* Wade Davis, K. David Harrison and Catherine Herbert Howell, editors.

A World Atlas.

All of the above may be purchased through Amazon.com, either new or used.