

SOCIOLOGY

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

Be an agent for change and solve complex social problems, now and into the future.

How does power work? How do people interact with each other? Why do we create the institutions around us? And what cultural beliefs and practices shape our lives?

Sociologists care about understanding how the world works, why inequality exists, and how to leave our communities and institutions better than we found them.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Graduates have gone on to jobs in policy analysis, law, media and journalism, gender and sexual violence prevention, union advocacy, central and local government, economic and social justice organisations, environmental activism, marketing, business and more.

“Interacting with people from other countries and cultures constantly stretches my knowledge and ability. Sociology develops a socio-political perspective that’s key in assessing risk and gauging reception.”

“Communication is key as a Policy Officer... An Arts degree, when properly exhausted, can put you in front of a cross-section of subjects and discourses.”



George Tereapii Greig
Foreign Policy Officer, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Sociology + Media, Film and Television / Bachelor of Laws



“Sociology helps us understand why we as individuals and groups behave in the ways that we do. We explore why some people are privileged while others are disadvantaged and, importantly, what we can do to bridge the gaps.”

Moeata Keil
Lecturer



WHAT CAN I STUDY?

The study of Sociology includes four broad themes: cultural sociology, applied sociology and social policy, power and resistance, and comparative sociology and the global society. Move between these groupings and find the courses that most interest you, whether that's the world of image and representation, understanding death in different cultures, social frameworks that regulate and influence human behaviour or government and community responses to health and wellbeing.

Get excited about your course options:



Stage 1 Course*

SOCIOL 105 - Cultural Studies and Society

A cultural studies approach to social life focuses on the way we experience the world, taking account of what we see, what we hear, what we consume and how we communicate. Sociological theory will be explored through investigating different cultural forms including film, advertising, art, social media, sport, and video games.

Stage 2 Course*

SOCIOL 207: Sociology of Gender and Families

Focuses on the interrelationship between gender, sexuality and families in New Zealand and other Western societies. Through an examination of important moments in family life – for example, partnering and parenting – it explores changes and continuities in the gendered norms, identities, practices and patterns that characterise contemporary family life.

Stage 3 Course*

SOCIOL 301: Critical Theory and Society

Critical theory seeks to understand the multiple contradictions of society and to offer roadmaps for progressive social change. This course explores foundational ideas in the tradition of critical theory and in contemporary critical thought. Critical theories are situated in the social and historical contexts from which they arise and are scrutinised for their relevance to contemporary struggles for social justice.

Courses you could study*

Issues and Themes in Sociology

Understanding Aotearoa New Zealand

Social Policy, Social Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand

Cultural Studies and Society

Complementary majors include:

Sociology



Communication

Criminology

Gender Studies

Politics and International Relations

Psychology



“Sociology allows me to broaden my view on society, as well as understand my position in society for myself and those who come after me.”

“I am interested in prison reform, particularly policies concerning wāhine Māori, as well as research around incarceration itself.”

Rihipeti-Paerau Forbes

Ngāti Paoa and Ngāti Maniapoto

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Sociology + Māori Studies

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

For enrolment information visit:

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