

# 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 229 - Environmental Sociology

Environmental sociology provides insight into the complex social processes that define, create and even threaten our natural environment. This course gives tools with which to think sociologically about environmental issues, such as understanding how environmental issues come to be seen as environmental problems, and how political, cultural, and economic factors have come to shape our interaction with the natural environment.

#### Stage 3 Course\*

##### SOCIOL 300 - Feminist, Anti-Colonial and Post-Capitalist Technofutures

Introduces students to theoretical approaches for understanding the social, material and power (political) dimensions of science and technology, as well as practical approaches for imagining and enacting more ethical, equitable, collaborative and anti-colonial technofutures. Topics studied include: science, technology and social theory; feminist, anti-colonial and post-capitalist approaches to science and technology; translating knowledge to engage public audiences.

## Courses you could study\*

Issues and Themes in Sociology

Understanding Aotearoa New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand Social Policy and Social Justice

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."*

### Rhipeti-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

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