



Jones Hall

Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology is the systematic study of social life and behavior, especially in relation to social systems and institutions. While sociology focuses primarily on the patterns and regularities in social life, it also examines unusual behavior.

Contemporary emphases in applied sociology and gerontology have expanded career opportunities at the bachelor's-degree level that can lead to employment in government, private industry, community organizations, businesses and commerce, social services, education, urban planning, health, and criminal justice. A major in sociology can also lead to professional study in law and religion. Sociologists with advanced degrees are primarily employed in teaching and research at the university level.

Gerontology is the interdisciplinary study of aging and is a rapidly growing field. There are now over 30 million individuals who are over the age of 65 and make up about 13 percent of the American population. This growing population translates into the need for more professionals trained in the field of gerontology. Virtually every professional will be in contact with a maturing population. According to Jan Shirreffs, who is the Director of Gerontology at Arizona State University, specialties in gerontology coupled with undergraduate or graduate majors will give students an edge in a very competitive job market.

Anthropology is the holistic study of human and non-human primates. It looks at the origins, behavior, and activities of human and primate groups from biological, social, and cultural viewpoints, studying both living and long-dead populations.

Because it is a broad-based cross-cultural discipline, anthropology can serve as a strong educational foundation for careers in business, law, international relations, politics, medicine, and teaching at the baccalaureate level. An editorial from *USA Today* called anthropology the "new hot degree for aspiring executives." Graduate studies in anthropology can lead to rewarding careers in the university setting or in the field.

Forensics is a fast developing field in which it is anticipated anthropology will play a major part. Law enforcement agencies all over the world are employing anthropology graduates in all capacities of criminal investigation.

Employment Opportunities

Specific careers supported with a sociology background might include health agencies, environmental advocacy groups, regional or national government, correctional institutions, companies compiling market research data, foundations, hospitals, education systems, the media, child care agencies, etc. Salaries likely would start at around \$25,000-\$30,000 per year depending on qualifications and job.

Specific careers supported with an anthropology degree would include museums, environmental agencies, conservation groups, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, historic preservation offices, highway and parks departments, consulting firms, travel agencies, intelligence agencies, etc. Salaries could start in the high \$20,000 to low \$30,000 range.

Obtaining a Gerontology Certificate does not guarantee a job opportunity in the aging field. However, you will have the foundation for one of the fastest growing fields and much needed expertise as society follows the trend of its dramatically aging numbers. The aging field is very diverse with multidisciplinary opportunities such as health professional, educator, researcher and service provider. Settings include community, human service and religious organizations, health and long term care institutions, government agencies, retirement communities, academic and research settings, business, industry, and professional organizations. (Please refer to www.aghe.org or *Careers in Aging: Consider the Possibilities* published by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education for more information.)

If you choose to specialize in archaeology, you can find work at the bachelor's level in the field of cultural resource management and public archaeology. In these fields, you

would work for an engineering or environmental firm in site location, excavation, and assessment. Many archaeologists find immediate work with such agencies, which generally pay around \$13.50 per hour, plus per diem and lodging. There is room for advancement.

Prospects for mobility and advancement would depend on the employer and the individual's own ambitions and drive.

Degree Options

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Youngstown State University offers a Bachelor of Arts in both anthropology and sociology and a certificate in applied gerontology. Students can also minor in these areas, as well as in gerontology and forensics. Students who plan to teach sociology in the secondary schools work toward the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in sociology and a minor in education.

Students are introduced to a wide range of studies and given intensive training in their area of specialization. This training provides a basis for competence in a career and the ability to function in many other areas as well.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers designated minors in general sociology, social institutions, gerontology, social stratification, applied sociology, general anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology and forensic anthropology. For further information on requirements, please consult the department.

Faculty

The faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology are specialists whose expertise spans a wide range of areas. Sociology faculty members bring to the classroom a varied background in research and in working with communities, groups, and families. Anthropology faculty members have conducted extensive field investigations of other cultures, living and extinct. Archaeology projects have been held in the Bahamas, Costa Rica, and in Israel, while ethnographic fieldwork has been ongoing in Ireland and Greece.

Youngstown State University maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:19, among the best of state-affiliated universities in Ohio.

Facilities

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is housed on the fourth floor of the modern DeBartolo Hall. Located here are archaeology and physical-anthropology labo-

ratories with up-to-date research facilities, including an extensive collection of modern and fossil human skeletal remains. Photographic and computer facilities are also available for student use.

The department encourages and facilitates computer application by providing a computer room housing PCs with mainframe access and a printer. This equipment is continuously updated to ensure experience with current computers and software. Also located in the department is a laboratory research room. An archaeological repository and curation area houses the artifacts and specimens recovered from digs undertaken by YSU archaeologists over the years.

Outside the Classroom

Sociology students learn while observing at nursing homes, mental health centers, homes for the aged, political offices, and other agencies. Their research projects are often coordinated with these agencies. The department is justifiably proud of its fine internship program, which allows students to earn credit while working in the community.

YSU anthropology faculty and students conduct "digs" at a variety of archaeological sites, many within the region. They have recovered artifacts of ancient Indian cultures as well as pioneer industries and societies. Active student groups such as the Anthropology Colloquium and the Sociology Guild help keep the discipline alive outside the classroom by participating in museum trips, site visits, digs, and national and regional conferences.

Honors and Awards

Election to Phi Kappa Phi national student honorary organization is available to academically superior students in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Certain social science awards are available to superior students in the department. The Kassees Scholarship is awarded annually to a student majoring in sociology, anthropology, or social work. Majors are also eligible for the annual *Vindicator* award.

Curriculum Overview

For the major in sociology:

Required courses

- Introduction to Sociology
- Social Theory
- Social Statistics
- Research Methods
- Social Research

(see following page)



To obtain the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Application and/or a copy of the current Undergraduate Bulletin, please contact the Office of Admissions at:

Telephone: (877) 468-6978 330-941-2000 TDD: 330-941-1564 Fax: 330-941-3674 E-mail: enroll@ysu.edu

The Office of Admissions is open Monday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Office is also open every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, except on holiday weekends and during term breaks

Sample electives

Minority Groups
 Aging and Society
 Urban Sociology
 Juvenile Delinquency
 Social Movements
 Theories of Gerontology
 Technology and Society

For the major in anthropology:

Required courses

Introduction to Anthropology
 Cultural Anthropology
 Archaeology
 Biological Anthropology
 Social Statistics
 Research Methods
 Anthropological Thought
 Social Research

Sample electives

Cultures of the Old World
 Food and Culture
 Old World Prehistory

Archeological Techniques
 Anthropological Thought
 Forensic Anthropology I, II

For the certificate in applied gerontology:

Required core courses

Aging and Society
 Later Life Issues
 Adult Development
 Biopsychological Aspects of Health and Aging
 Sociology Internship or Fieldwork in Psychology

Sample electives

Aging and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
 Sociology of Aging
 Aging and Ethnicity
 Aging and Social Policy
 Death and Dying
 Nutrition, Health, and Aging
 Social Services and the Aged

For more information about this program, go to

<http://www.as.ysu.edu/~sociol/>



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