Ideas including role models, self-fulfilling prophecies, glass ceilings and the sentiment that “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know” are all concepts that originated in empirical sociological research and have since seeped into popular consciousness.

Sociology is one of the great fields of inquiry of the modern era. The idea of social relations or social forces, the idea that much of life is causally shaped by specific relations among large groups of people, belongs alongside the theory of gravity, evolution, the unconscious, and other seminal ideas that have transformed human life and consciousness in the last few centuries.

The Sociology Department of UVM carries on this field of inquiry. UVM’s Sociology faculty apply the sociological lens to everything from social class to sexuality, from crime to the mass media, from aging to leisure. Students are taught how to think sociologically and to apply that thought to real-world situations. Sociology students are exposed to a variety of subfields within the discipline.

MAJORS
SOCIOLOGY MAJOR
Sociology B.A.

MINORS
SOCIOLOGY MINORS
Gerontology
Law and Society
Sociology

Courses
SOC 001. SU: Introduction to Sociology. 3 Credits.
Fundamental principles and problems in the sociological analysis of the structure and dynamics of modern society.

SOC 011. Social Problems. 3 Credits.
Introduction to sociology through detailed examination of a selected number of major structural problems characteristic of contemporary societies. Problems treated may vary.

SOC 014. Deviance & Social Control. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the causes and consequences of social behavior that violates norms. Examines patterns of deviant socialization and social organization and forms of deviance control.

SOC 019. D1: Race Relations in the US. 3 Credits.
Analysis of racial prejudice, discrimination, and other dominant group practices directed toward Native, Asian-, and African-Americans and their social movements for integration, accommodation, and separatism.

SOC 020. Aging: Change & Adaptation. 3 Credits.
Individual and social meanings of aging and old age; physical, physiological, psychological, and sociological changes accompanying aging; individual, family, community, and societal adaptations to aging. Cross-listed with: HDFS 020.

SOC 022. Sociology of Sexualities. 3 Credits.
Examination of the social construction of sexuality with emphasis on theories, concepts, and cultural ramifications of a range of sexual practices and identities. Cross-listed with: GSWS 022.

SOC 029. Sociology of the Family. 3 Credits.
Description and analysis of contemporary patterns in American sexual, marital, and familial behavior; their historical development, variants, and the evolving alternatives to traditional normative forms.

SOC 032. Social Inequality. 3 Credits.
Introduction to structured class inequality in the United States, causes and consequences. Focus on wealth, prestige, and power. Inequalities of age, gender, and ethnicity also examined.

SOC 043. Survey of Mass Communication. 3 Credits.
The historical development of the socioeconomic, political, educational, and religious impacts of the press, film, radio, and television in American society.

SOC 049. Science Fiction & Society. 3 Credits.
Explores works in science fiction and sociology as an introduction to core sociological questions and critical thinking.

SOC 054. Health Care in America. 3 Credits.
Examination of the organization and financing of the U.S. health care system. Focus on health disparities, health care policy, and cross-national comparisons.

SOC 057. Drugs & Society. 3 Credits.
Patterns of illicit drug distribution, use, abuse, and control in contemporary society. Examines the interaction of cultural, social, psychological, and physiological factors in prohibited drug-taking.

SOC 085. Internship. 1-3 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

SOC 090. Intro to Soc Theory/Methods. 3 Credits.
This course, required for Sociology minors, introduces students to important theoretical perspectives and research methods in sociology that social scientists use to answer sociological questions.

SOC 095. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.

SOC 096. Introductory Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles.
SOC 100. Fund of Social Research. 4 Credits.
Introduction to research methods in social science. Includes examination of research design, measurement, data collection, data analysis, and the presentation and theoretical interpretation of research findings. Prerequisites: STAT 051 or higher; three hours of Sociology or Political Science; minimum Sophomore standing. Cross-listed with: POLS 181.

SOC 101. Developmental Sociological Theory. 3 Credits.
Classical sociological theory including Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Mead, as well as DuBois and early female theorists such as Martineau. Reading and writing intensive. Prerequisites: SOC 001; three additional hours of Sociology; minimum Sophomore standing.

SOC 102. Population, Environment & Soc. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the causes and consequences of varying relationships among population size, distribution and composition, social organization, technology, and resource base. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 103. Environ Crises Modern Society. 3 Credits.
Examines global, national, and local ecological crises both empirically and theoretically. Emphasis on economic processes, political/legal aspects, and social activism. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 109. The Self & Social Interaction. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the roles of sociocultural and situational factors in individual behavior and experience and the social genesis, development, and functioning of human personality. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 112. D2: Global Deviance. 3 Credits.
Studies different theoretical approaches to deviance and social control, empirical patterns of deviant behaviors, and temporal, spatial, and cultural variations in these patterns, in a global context. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 114. Sociology of Punishment. 3 Credits.
Exploration of the concept of punishment from sociological perspective. Focus is on analysis of formal and informal punishment, and the ironies of punishment/social control. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 115. Crime. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the nature and types of behavior that violates law, the mechanisms for defining such behaviors as criminal, and their causes and consequences. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 117. D1: Multiracial People & Identity. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to examine race relations in the United States through the lens of romantic interracial relationships and mixed-race people. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 118. Race, Crime & Criminal Just. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive examination of race, gender, and class on racial minorities' participation in criminal activities and how individuals are treated by the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 119. D1: Race & Ethnicity. 3 Credits.
Description and analysis of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in the United States. Examination of social/cultural patterns in the larger society and in these groups themselves. Prerequisite: Three hours of Anthropology or Sociology. Cross-listed with: ANTH 187.

SOC 120. Aging in Modern Society. 3 Credits.
Analysis of contemporary needs and problems of the elderly, including discrimination, poverty, health care, and loneliness, and the evaluation of services and programs for the elderly. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 121. SU: Sociology of Disaster. 3 Credits.
Examination of disasters (natural, technological, intentional) using a sociological, critical lens. Analysis of research, theories, and current debates in the field of disaster sociology. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 122. D2: Women & Gender in Society. 3 Credits.
Examination of the construction of gender in women's lives with an emphasis on the relationship between gender, race, sexuality, and class in contemporary society. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology or GSWS 001. Cross-listed with: GSWS 150.

SOC 128. Sociology of Childhood. 3 Credits.
Examination of socio-historical changes in the construction of childhood and experiences of children; applications of interpretive approaches in contemporary sociology to analyze children's peer cultures. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 130. Sociology of Heterosexuality. 3 Credits.
Examination of heterosexuality as cultural production with attention to how heterosexuality works along side other forms of social power especially gender, race, and class. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 132. Affluence & Poverty in Mod Soc. 3 Credits.
Examination of structured social inequality in contemporary American society with special attention to the distribution of wealth and its relationship to power, prestige, and opportunity. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 145. Youth and Popular Culture. 3 Credits.
Examination of the historical and contemporary development of children's popular culture, its sociocultural significance, and children's perspectives on various cultural forms. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 148. Sociology of News. 3 Credits.
Explores sociological processes that shape the news, controversies about the news, and ways to interpret the news critically. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 150. Popular Culture. 3 Credits.
Analysis of social significance of a selected range of contemporary non-elite cultural forms in the United States, such as rock music, television programming, and popular literature. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.
SOC 151. Sociology of Religion & Ideology. 3 Credits.
Beliefs and value systems and their institutional arrangements, focusing on relationships between these systems and the larger social structure, in cross-cultural and historical perspective. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 154. Social Org of Death & Dying. 3 Credits.
Comparative examination of sociocultural adaptations to mortality with special attention to family, medical, legal, religious, and economic responses to fatal illness and death in contemporary society. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 155. D2: Culture, Health and Healing. 3 Credits.
Introduction to medical anthropology. Social and cultural perspectives on health and illness experiences, doctor-patient interactions, healing practices, and access to health and health care. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology or ANTH 021 or ANTH 028. Cross-listed with: ANTH 174.

SOC 160. Our Consuming Society. 3 Credits.
A critical look at the things we buy and our motivations for buying them, and a consideration of collective action solutions to overconsumption. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 161. Sociology of Leisure. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the sociocultural organization of nonwork activity, emphasizing the relationships of class, life style, education, and work to contemporary recreation and leisure use patterns. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 171. D2: Soc Chng & Dev Persp Gl South. 3 Credits.
Perspectives on development in the global south. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 185. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience combined with a structured academic learning plan directed by a faculty member or a faculty-staff team in which a faculty member is the instructor of record, for which academic credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology; Instructor permission.

SOC 188. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.
Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology; Instructor permission.

SOC 195. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 196. Intermediate Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Prerequisite: Three hours of Sociology.

SOC 197. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/lab setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology; Instructor permission.

SOC 198. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: Three hours of Sociology; Instructor permission.

SOC 202. Population Dynamics. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the factors affecting human population growth and distribution, migration patterns, and the relationship between economic activity and population trends. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 203. Adv Environmental Sociology. 3 Credits.
Examination of theoretical interpretations of environmental problems, sources, and solutions, focusing on the social conditions under which problems arise. Emphasis on writing and individual research projects. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 205. Rural Communities in Mod Soc. 3 Credits.
The changing structure and dynamics of rural social organization in context of modernization and urbanization. Emphasis on rural communities in the U.S. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Cross-listed with: CDAE 205.

SOC 206. Urban Communities in Mod Soc. 3 Credits.
The changing structure and dynamics of urban social organization in context of modernization and urbanization. Emphasis on cities and metropolitan areas in the United States. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 207. Community Org & Development. 3 Credits.
Communities as changing sociocultural organizational complexes within modern society. Special attention given to problems of formulation and implementation of alternative change strategies. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 211. Soc Movements & Collective Behav. 3 Credits.
Examination of origins, development, structure, and consequences of crowds, riots, crazes, rumors, panics, and political and religious movements and their relationships to cultural and social change. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 212. D2: Int'l Migration & U.S. Soc. 3 Credits.
A comparative approach to the migration of people from the rest of the world to the United States with an emphasis on Mexican immigration. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.
SOC 213. Women in Dev in Global South. 3 Credits.
An examination of the meaning and measurement of development, sociodemographic characteristics, sex stratification, and effects of Colonialism and Westernization on women's issues in the global south. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 214. Delinquency. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the nature and type of juvenile behavior that violates law, the mechanisms for defining such behaviors as delinquent, and their causes and consequences. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Declared Law & Society minors may substitute SOC 014 for other prerequisite coursework in Sociology.

SOC 216. Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
Analysis of social structures and processes in criminal justice arenas, the labeling of criminal offenders, and other issues related to crime, punishment, and justice. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Declared Law & Society minors may substitute SOC 014 for other prerequisite coursework in Sociology.

SOC 217. Corrections. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the social structures and processes involved with individuals designated as offenders of criminal law: probation, prison, parole, and programs of prevention and rehabilitation. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Declared Law & Society minors may substitute SOC 014 for other prerequisite coursework in Sociology.

SOC 218. D2: Disability as Deviance. 3 Credits.
Analyzes constructions of disability as deviance in current and historical contexts such as American eugenics, Nazi sterilization and "Euthanasia" crimes, and present national policies. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 219. D1: Race Relations. 3 Credits.
Examination of American racial subordination in social and historical perspective. Analysis of interracial contacts, racial subcultures and social structures, and responses to racial prejudice and discrimination. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 220. Internship in Gerontology. 3 Credits.
Supervised service or research internship integrating theoretical and practical gerontological issues. Prerequisite: Minimum Junior standing; Instructor permission.

SOC 221. Disaster & Vulnerability. 3 Credits.
In-depth exploration of disaster events, paying particular attention to how differential vulnerability affects impacts and recovery. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 222. Aging & Ethical Issues. 3 Credits.
Analysis of selected ethical issues posed by an aging society and faced by older persons, their families, health care and service providers, and researchers. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 223. Sociology of Reproduction. 3 Credits.
Examines reproduction of cultural values in relation to social conduct of reproduction of human life (childbearing) under advanced capitalism. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Cross-listed with: GSWS 250.

SOC 224. Health Care and Aging. 3 Credits.
Health and health care issues in aging and old age with emphases on chronic illness and health care institutions, occupations, financing, and long-term care. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 225. Organizations in Mod Society. 3 Credits.
Examination of basic classical and contemporary theory and research on the human relations, internal structures, environments, types, and general properties of complex organizations and bureaucracies. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 229. Family as Social Institution. 3 Credits.
Examination of the institution of the American family in cross-cultural and historical perspective. Theories and research on family continuity, change, and institutional relationships explored. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 232. Social Class & Mobility. 3 Credits.
Comparative and historical analysis of causes, forms, and consequences of structured social inequality in societies. Examination of selected problems in contemporary stratification theory and research. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 240. Political Sociology. 3 Credits.
Examination of the social organizations of power and authority in modern societies and the dynamics and institutional relationships of political institutions, interest groups, parties, and the public. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 243. Mass Media in Modern Society. 3 Credits.
Intensive examination of selected topics in the structure of media organizations and their relationships to and impacts upon the major institutions and publics of contemporary issues. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 250. Sociology of Culture. 3 Credits.
The relations of cultural forms and subjective experience to social structure and power; in-depth applications of interpretive approaches in contemporary sociology. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.
SOC 251. Sociology of Ideology & Religion. 3 Credits.
Beliefs and value systems and their institutional arrangements, focusing on relationships between these systems and the larger social structure, in cross-cultural and historical perspective. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 254. Sociology of Health & Medicine. 3 Credits.
The social organization and institutional relationships of medicine in society and the role of sociocultural factors in the etiology, definition, identification, and treatment of illness. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 255. Sociology of Mental Health. 3 Credits.
Analysis of the social structures and processes involved in the identification, definition, and treatment of mental illness and its sociocultural etiology and consequences. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 256. Sociology of End of Life Care. 3 Credits.
Explores in depth the evolution of care for dying individuals from the perspectives of the traditional medical model, hospice movement, and emergent palliative care paradigm. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 258. Sociology of Law. 3 Credits.
Analysis of sociocultural structure of the legal institution and its relationships to other institutions: the social organization of the legal profession, lawmaking, and the courts. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing. Declared Law & Society minors may substitute SOC 014 for other prerequisite coursework in Sociology.

SOC 260. Sociology of Education. 3 Credits.
Examines stratification in the school system, exploring the ways in which class, race, and gender affect the organization of schools and student performance. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 262. Race, Gender, and Work. 3 Credits.
Focus on the intersections between race and ethnic relations, the politics of gender, and employment opportunity in the twenty-first-century workplace. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 272. D2: Sociology of African Societies. 3 Credits.
Current social, cultural, political, and economic changes occurring in African societies, including issues of development, the state and civil society, social class, ethnonationalism, and democratization. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 274. Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Credits.
Principles of qualitative research design and ethics and data collection, analysis, and presentation. Students will complete a research project over the course of the semester. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 275. Methods of Data Analysis in Social Research. 3 Credits.
Quantitative analysis of sociological data; includes table, regression, and path analysis, scaling and factor analysis, and the analysis of variance emphasizing multivariate techniques. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 279. Contemporary Sociological Theory. 3 Credits.
Critical examination of contemporary functional, conflict, exchange, interactionist, and structural theoretical approaches. A number of other theoretical approaches selected by seminar participants also examined. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 281. Seminar. 3 Credits.
Presentation and discussion of advanced problems in sociological analysis. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 285. Internship. 1-18 Credits.
On-site supervised work experience with structured academic learning plan directed by faculty/faculty-staff team with faculty as instructor of record, for credit. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing; Instructor permission. Declared Law & Society minors may substitute SOC 014 for other prerequisite Sociology coursework.

SOC 288. Teaching Assistantship. 1-3 Credits.
Undergraduate student service as a teaching assistant, usually in an introductory level course in the discipline, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing; Instructor permission.

SOC 295. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 296. Advanced Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.
See Schedule of Courses for specific titles. Prerequisites: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing.

SOC 297. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.
A course which is tailored to fit the interests of a specific student, which occurs outside the traditional classroom/laboratory setting under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing; Instructor permission.

SOC 298. Undergraduate Research. 1-18 Credits.
Undergraduate student work on individual or small team research projects under the supervision of a faculty member, for which credit is awarded. Offered at department discretion. Prerequisite: SOC 001; SOC 090 or SOC 100 or SOC 101; minimum Junior standing; Instructor permission.