

(UNIT HISTORY)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Sociology at Oregon State University had its beginning in the year 1912, when one Hector McPherson taught the first "sociology" course within what was then the Department of Political Economy of Oregon State Agricultural College. This department was retitled Department of Economics in 1914 and retitled again, two years later, Department of Economics and Sociology. Several sociology courses were taught regularly (and students could earn a B.S. degree in Economics and Sociology) until the notorious 1932 allocation decision by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, which limited OSAC to the provision of lower division social science courses.

Economics and Sociology became separate departments in 1934, with E.H. Moore named as the first Head of the Department of Sociology. Moore resigned the next year and was replaced by Glenn A. Bakkum. He and Robert H. Dann constituted the entire department, and staff size remained at two until it doubled in the year 1947.

The first anthropology course was authorized for the Department of Sociology in 1951, and divisional baccalaureate degrees were authorized in 1959, to be granted by the newly established School of Humanities and Social Sciences. A first anthropologist was employed by the department in 1963, and the department became the Department of Sociology and Anthropology the following year.

A baccalaureate major in Sociology was authorized in 1967, ending

a "degree void" of 35 years, and Anthropology and Sociology became separate departments in 1968. The succeeding fourteen years have been marked by no further basic structural changes. Efforts have therefore been directed toward the construction of a sound and comprehensive curriculum and program and the acquisition of a high quality faculty.

Throughout its 70-year total history and its brief fifteen-year modern history, the department has operated primarily as an undergraduate teaching department. Today, in fact, it remains prohibited (as do all other departments within OSU's College of Liberal Arts) from providing disciplinary graduate degrees, a situation existing in no other state university in the United States and one hardly conducive to extensive research and publication activity on the part of faculty. Despite such limitations, the ten current Ph.D.-trained, full-time faculty of the department account for numerous professional articles and books and engage in regular research activity while teaching approximately ninety courses per year to approximately 4,600 registered students per year. Recent research and publication contributions have involved topics ranging from the social impact of land use practices within Siuslaw National Forest to adolescent shoplifting behavior to the effects of organizational and technological change within American Telephone and Telegraph Company to abortion attitudes among college students. Members of the department regularly provide consultation and guest speaker services wherever they are sought within

Corvallis and its regional environs, at coast-to-coast national sites, and, occasionally, to such far-flung international locations as Morocco.

Approximately 100 undergraduate students currently major in sociology at OSU. Recent graduates can be found attending graduate school in sociology or a related social science as they prepare for professional careers, attending law school or theological seminary, working as probation and parole officers, crime prevention coordinators, or in mental hospitals, senior citizen centers, prison facilities, or a variety of social service agencies and organizations, and establishing themselves in successful business careers.

The department strives to assist in better understanding the nature and operation of our everyday social surroundings, to transmit this understanding to its students and to appropriate public and professional audiences, and to produce graduates who then go on to become meaningful and effective contributors to their own communities and to society at large.

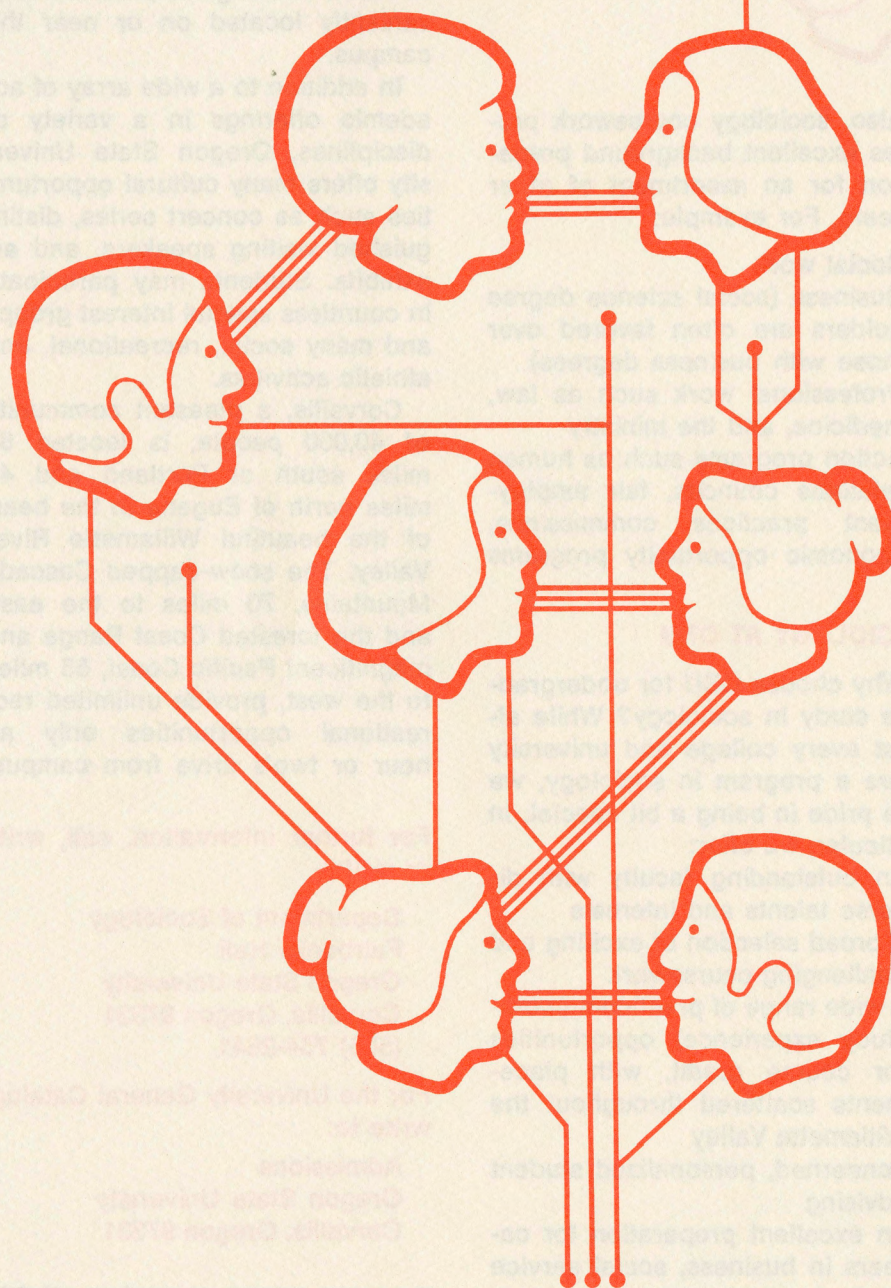
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February 18, 1982

department of **Sociology**

Oregon
State
University



WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

SOCIOLOGY is one of the “social sciences,” together with Anthropology, Psychology, Economics, and Political Science. Its broad concern with the systematic study of human social life can be seen in the many specific areas sociologists treat in their courses:

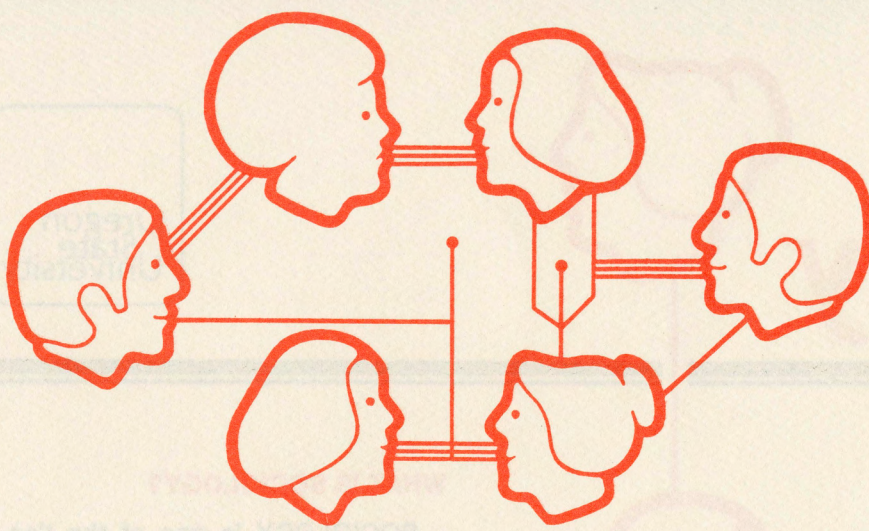
- Interaction among persons in small groups
- Social factors in personality development
- Social inequality
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Sex roles
- Organizations and bureaucracy
- Health and illness behavior
- Crowds, social movements, public opinion
- Revolution and warfare
- Deviance and social control, including Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency
- Population
- Power and political systems
- Technology and social change
- Social psychology
- Social institutions (for example, the family, religion, education)
- Cultures and subcultures
- Aging
- Rural and urban communities

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

For most of us, the best reason is so that we might better understand ourselves and others, for we are all social creatures. Even a course or two which exposes us to explanations of human behavior goes a long way toward developing a liberally educated person by expanding one's mind to understand, tolerate, and appreciate the plurality of differences that exist. For

so·ci·ol·o·gy
(sō'si·ol'a·ji)

N. [Fr. sociologie], the scientific study of human society and social behavior. From: so·ci·o-, a combining form meaning society, social; -lo·gy, science, doctrine, theory of.



some, sociology becomes the gateway to new areas of interest, service, or career. In any case, sociology can be an intellectual adventure in which the student can expand personal horizons in better understanding the surrounding social world and in learning some of the principles that explain its functioning. Sociology can and should be a liberating and humane enterprise. Cultivation of a sociological perspective provides illuminating insights into our daily lives and the social systems of which we are all a part.

WHAT DO SOCIOLOGISTS DO?

Sociologists find work careers as:

- Teachers—in colleges, universities, or high schools
- Researchers—conducting scientific research for the advancement of knowledge, evaluating programs for social betterment, providing information about social conditions for practical purposes
- Policy consultants
- Technicians in government departments, welfare agencies, hospitals, industry (aside from research, they may be engaged in planning and conducting community action programs, advising on public relations or employee-management relations, or working on human relations problems)
- Personnel and industrial counseling—dealing with recruiting, placement, training, and advancement of employees

Also, sociology coursework provides excellent background preparation for an assortment of other careers. For example:

- Social work
- Business (social science degree holders are often favored over those with business degrees)
- Professional work such as law, medicine, and the ministry
- Action programs such as human relations councils, fair employment practices commissions, economic opportunity programs

SOCIOLOGY AT OSU

Why choose OSU for undergraduate study in sociology? While almost every college and university offers a program in sociology, we take pride in being a bit special. In particular, we offer:

- an outstanding faculty with diverse talents and interests
- a broad selection of exciting and challenging coursework
- a wide range of practicum (work-study experience) opportunities for course credit, with placements scattered throughout the Willamette Valley
- concerned, personalized student advising
- an excellent preparation for careers in business, social service work, or secondary education or for graduate study in sociology or other social sciences
- an emphasis on quality undergraduate education, but within the setting of a major university and all the cultural, recreational, and social activities that it allows

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

The main campus of Oregon State University encompasses 400 acres and includes 50 major buildings surrounded by rolling green lawns, tall shade trees, and flowering shrubs. Fairbanks Hall, home of the Department of Sociology, is near the center of campus, adjacent to the Memorial Union.

Residence halls, cooperatives, fraternities, sororities, and other alternative housing facilities are conveniently located on or near the campus.

In addition to a wide array of academic offerings in a variety of disciplines, Oregon State University offers many cultural opportunities such as concert series, distinguished visiting speakers, and art exhibits. Students may participate in countless special interest groups and many social, recreational, and athletic activities.

Corvallis, a pleasant community of 40,000 people, is located 80 miles south of Portland and 40 miles north of Eugene in the heart of the beautiful Willamette River Valley. The snow-capped Cascade Mountains, 70 miles to the east, and the forested Coast Range and magnificent Pacific Coast, 55 miles to the west, provide unlimited recreational opportunities only an hour or two's drive from campus.

For further information, call, write or visit:

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(503) 754-2641**

For the University General Catalog, write to:

**Admissions
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331**

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