

Sociology

Sociology examines human behavior in different social and cultural contexts. Combining social relevance with the rigor of a scientific discipline, sociology's subject matter is human association and all that it produces, including culture, technology, and society itself. Are you curious about why people act the way they do? Do you want to be a leader in your community? Do your career goals include an understanding of group processes, social trends and cultural diversity here and abroad? Then you need to study sociology!

Why Sociology at Illinois Wesleyan?

- The fundamental principles of human association are scrutinized throughout the curriculum. Coursework in statistics, research methods and applied courses complement the University's liberal arts education.
- Working with their advisor, majors and minors in sociology craft an individualized program of study, which may include an internship and independent study courses.
- The program utilizes the Social Science Research Lab, which exposes students to databases, statistical packages, software for data collection, a phone bank, and lab assistants to answer questions. The lab allows students to test their ideas against real data.
- In Senior Seminar and Honors Projects, students choose individual topics, design the research plan, conduct the research, analyze their findings, write a formal paper and give an oral presentation.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

- **Dr. Teodora Amoloza**, *Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—University of Nebraska
Teaches courses in statistics, research methods and international studies. Her research focuses on gender and globalization.
- **Dr. Meghan Burke**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—Loyola University — Chicago
Teaches courses in the history of social thought, race and ethnic relations, and communities and urban society. Her research interests focus on how national discourses around race are enacted in local settings.
- **Dr. Rebecca Gearhart**, *Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D. — University of Florida
Teaches courses in cross-cultural performance, visual anthropology, world music and the peoples and cultures of East Africa from an environmental



A Sampling of Courses Offered by Sociology:

Action Research Seminar
Class, Status, and Power
Communities and Urban Society
Criminology
Grant Writing
Juvenile Delinquency
Marriage and Family
Medical Sociology
The Profession of Social Work
Race and Ethnic Relations
Sex and Gender in Society
Social Welfare and Human Services

Recent May Term Courses in Sociology:

Hawaii: Studies in Multiculturalism (travel)
Hidden Communities
Ordinary People with Extraordinary Lives: Visualizing Rural Ireland (travel)
Peoples and Cultures of SE Asia
Social Work in Action

—continues



“The most distinctive feature of the Illinois Wesleyan University sociology program is its versatility. Many students are attracted to sociology because

studies perspective. She is a cultural anthropologist with research interests that specialize in the expressive arts of the Swahili of coastal Kenya.

- **Dr. Georganne Rundblad**, *Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaches courses in gender, family, class, status and power, medical sociology and visual sociology. Her research interests include women and men in nontraditional gender occupations.

- **Dr. James Sikora**, *Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaches courses in juvenile delinquency, criminology, introductory sociology, and marriage and family. Supervises internships partnering majors with professionals in the community. Faculty advisor for IWU’s Action Research Center (iwu.edu/action).

Putting Learning into Practice

- Students interested in urban life or just seeking to broaden their horizons can enroll in the Chicago Urban Semester during their junior year. The semester involves a core course, a seminar, an independent research project and an internship. Students live in group apartments with fellow students from a dozen liberal arts colleges in the Midwest.
- To develop citizen leaders, the faculty at IWU created the Action Research Center (ARC), which brings students and faculty together to facilitate research projects in partnerships that serve our community and promote our quality of life. ARC has numerous community partners that cooperate with university students, faculty and staff to provide the University with a valuable link to the wider Bloomington-Normal area.
- Sociology majors Lexia Swope ’15 and Julie Lewis ’16 were named 2014 Weir Fellows by the University’s Action Research Center, providing funding for their community service projects. Swope created her program, “Track Your Life,” for the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal aimed at promoting and teaching youth to exercise and live healthy lifestyles. Lewis will use the fellowship for “Mini Masters,” a student-run program which invites Illinois Wesleyan students to give one-on-one music lessons to young residents of Bloomington-Normal.
- About two-thirds of sociology graduates from Illinois Wesleyan continue their education after college, usually after acquiring employment experience in their chosen profession. Most enter professional programs in social work, law, criminal justice, business, social policy and public service while others enter Ph.D. programs.

they feel they want to help people, but are not sure how to do so. Others are undecided about their career plans and would like a major that will enable them to take any of a number of different paths. We aid these students by putting together individualized programs in areas such as social services, criminology, urban and community development, and business that reflect their interests and the current job market.”

Dr. James Sikora
Professor of Sociology



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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