

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

SOCIOLOGY

Are you planning to pursue a career that involves dealing with group dynamics, keeping up on social trends, or navigating cultural diversity, here or abroad?

Then you need to study sociology!

Sociologists are social scientists who use sophisticated research methods to gather and analyze data on groups, institutions, beliefs, and experiences to understand how societies work.

Students are often attracted to sociology because of a passion for social justice, a desire to understand different groups or cultures, and a need to understand organizations or institutions.

Why Study Sociology at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Working with their advisor, majors and minors in sociology craft an individualized program of study, which may include an internship and independent study courses, as well as a semester in Chicago or abroad.
- The program exposes students to research methods in the social sciences, which are useful for careers in social services, business, and advocacy.
- In Senior Research and Honors Projects, students design a research plan on a topic they choose, conduct their study, analyze their findings, write a formal paper, and give an oral presentation, developing useful and broadly applicable skills throughout the process.

Learn From Quality Faculty

- **Dr. Teodora Amoloza**, *Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—University of Nebraska — Lincoln
Teaches courses in statistics, research methods and communities. Her interest is on gender and globalization and her current work focuses on Asia, specifically on sending IWU students on fully-supported internships in East and Southeast Asia.
- **Dr. Meghan Burke**, *Associate Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—Loyola University — Chicago
Teaches courses in race and racism, community, and social theory. Her research interests focus on how national discourses around race are enacted in local settings.
- **Todd Fuist**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—Loyola University — Chicago
Teaches courses in social movements and politics, criminology, and media/popular culture. His research examines how social movements develop strategies for change.



A Sampling of Courses Offered by Sociology:

Action Research Seminar
Environmental Sociology
Communities and Urban Society
Criminology
Grant Writing
Media and Society
Marriage and Family
Youth Subcultures
The Profession of Social Work
Race and Racism
Sex and Gender in Society
Social Welfare and Human Services

Upcoming May Term Courses in Sociology:

Field Research Experience
Critical Hits: Gaming, Culture, and Society



“The most distinctive feature of the Illinois Wesleyan

University sociology program is its versatility. Many students are attracted to

- **Courtney Irby**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*
Ph.D.—Loyola University — Chicago

Teaches courses in marriage and family, sex and gender in society, social problems, and methods of social research. Her research focuses on how young adults form relationships and what this tells us about shifting patterns of gender and sexuality in society.

Putting Learning into Practice

- Sociology develops effective research, critical thinking, communication, and writing skills, qualities sought after by today's employers.
- IWU sociology students have recently developed independent senior research projects on a wide variety of topics, including: the effects of social media on reactions to violence, the ways that student athletes' eating habits are impacted by body image in sports, campus responses to sexual assault, the influence of social roles for individuals with disabilities, gender in religious communities, and more.
- About two-thirds of sociology graduates from IWU continue their education after college, usually after acquiring employment experience in their chosen profession. Many enter professional programs in social work, law, criminal justice, business, social policy, or public service, while others enter Ph.D. programs.
- To further build skills, sociology students are encouraged to take internships cultivating practical work experience and insights in business, social service, student affairs, and more. We even help students seek paid international internships in Asia during the summer!
- For semester-long study abroad opportunities, students are especially drawn to our partner sociology programs at DIS Scandinavia, with a program in public health and migration in Stockholm and a program in cultural diversity and integration in Copenhagen. However, our study abroad office has worked with students to find opportunities all over the world, including recently in South Africa, Argentina, and Spain. Best of all, financial aid and scholarships are available, so talk to your academic advisor and our Study Abroad Office to plan your semester abroad!
- To develop citizen leaders, IWU created the Action Research Center (ARC), which brings students and faculty together to facilitate research projects that serve our local community. 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 because 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

Emeritus Professor of Sociology

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