



COLLEGE OF ARTS + SCIENCES

Sociology

with a concentration in Social Justice & Inequalities



From the outside, New Orleans looks pretty tough to categorize. Although it's called the Big Easy, the amount of diversity and character in our culture might seem difficult to place. But that's exactly what interests you about studying sociology, isn't it? You want to understand people—their beliefs, their problems, their behavior, their organizations—and you want to ensure they are represented fairly and treated with respect. You feel a commitment to social justice, and this concentration will allow you to make that an area of expertise. Whether you're interested in graduate school or going directly to work in social services or policy, here at Loyola we can equip you with the skills to make it happen.

This is the place.

There's no better place to study sociology than New Orleans. Saying our city celebrates diversity is an understatement—a New York Times study found that our metro area has the fourth-highest percentage of LGBTQ residents in the country, and more than half of our population is African American. This is the place to commit yourself to social justice—to representing the marginalized. You'll love the vibrant people who call our city home, and we need people like you who are committed to fixing issues of inequality.

Here at Loyola, we'll give you hands-on experiences and opportunities to use what you learn in real ways. Join LUSSO (Sociology Student Organization) and apply what you're learning toward improving social justice issues in New Orleans. Help QSSA (Queer-Straight Student Alliance) make the student body aware of LGBTQ issues. Study sociology for a summer abroad with Loyola faculty in India, or do a semester-long program in Japan, Korea, Ecuador, or Scotland, just to name a few. Take an internship; participate in our informal workshops and socials—at Loyola, we're all about learning by doing.

Courses

In addition to our foundational sociology core, theory, and research methodology, you will complete a sociology research project and internship and choose electives from the social justice and inequalities track for this concentration. Here's a sample of what you can expect to learn and do:

Race, Racism, and Privilege

This course provides an examination of the social construction of race, changing racial ideologies, and the manifestation of these as racism and privilege, both historically and currently. Particular attention is paid to the historical and sociological basis for racial/ethnic tensions in the United States and discrimination against racial/ethnic minorities. Additionally, there is an emphasis on self-reflection and an interrogation of the significance of the role race plays in all of our lives.

Social/Political Inequality

In this course we examine the social structures and practices that perpetuate inequality. The social categories of race, class, gender, and sexuality are the central foci of the class as these help to shape individuals' life chances. Additionally, we examine how our own position within the larger social structure shapes our lives.

The Sociology of Gender

This course focuses on the constraints that the social construction of gender imposes on both men and women. The emphasis of this course is on developing a critical, empirically based understanding of the structural and historical foundations affecting men and women in society.