

SOCIAL SCIENCE: B.A., B.S.

Students of Social Science will explore the interaction and history of social, political and economic structures, and how they affect human beings in complex society.

Students explore theories, methods and problems addressed by anthropologists, political scientists and sociologists in their examination of critical concerns for modern society, both to understand them in a historical context and to consider policies to address those issues. Students also will develop valuable research, analytical and communications skills as, together with a faculty mentor, create a program to meet specific needs and goals.

Degree programs in Social Science offer students the opportunity to develop individualized degree plans based on their intellectual, professional, and personal interests. General program guidelines can be found on the "Program Details" tab, and students will work with an academic mentor to choose courses that meet the guidelines and address each student's individual interests. Students can also work with their academic mentors to identify applicable transfer credit, prior college-level learning, and possible course equivalencies. Working with a mentor and using SUNY Empire's educational planning process, students can develop a specialized concentration in Social Science by following the general program guidelines as well as any applicable concentration guidelines. Students may also develop their own concentrations.

For more information about general undergraduate degree requirements, please visit Earning an Undergraduate Degree (<http://catalog.sunyempire.edu/undergraduate/earning-undergraduate-degree/>).

For sample degree programs and other degree planning resources, please visit the Department of Social Science and Public Affairs Degree Planning Resources web page. (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/social-science-public-affairs/degree-planning-resources/>)

Program Details

The Social Science area of study includes a variety of academic disciplines and approaches. Social science traditions explore a range of social, political and economic issues. Students who develop programs in Social Science examine theories, methods, problems and solutions in their chosen concentrations. Students who develop degrees in Social Science develop the capacity to think critically about the social world and act as informed citizens and community members.

Bachelor's Degree programs in Social Science must meet the six foundations listed below.

Degrees in Social Science include the following six foundations:

1. Broad Social Perspective
2. Historical and Comparative Perspectives
3. Perspectives on Power and Privilege
4. Theoretical Perspectives
5. Social Science Research Methods
6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

These foundations may be met through transcript credit; college-level knowledge demonstrated through individual prior learning assessment (iPLA), professional learning evaluations (PLE), or credit by examination; or individual courses, a series of courses, or components within individual courses with Empire State University. The student's Degree Program

Rationale Essay should clearly explain how the degree plan meets each of the foundations in the concentration, what will be learned, and how the student will build on these foundations to meet personal, academic, or career goals.

Foundation #1: Broad Social Science Perspective

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 1010	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
SOCI 1005	Exploring Society: An Introduction to Sociology	4
SOCI 2010	Introduction to Race Class & Gender	4
SOCI 3100	Sociology of Law	4
POLI 1005	Introduction to Political Science	4
POLI 2010	The U.S. Political System	4

Foundation #2: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3015	Environmental Anthropology	4
ANTH 3020	Families in Global Perspective	4
ANTH 3025	Health & Illness in Global Perspective	4
ANTH 3035	Latin American & Caribbean Societies	4
CRJS 2005	Introduction to Criminology: Theorizing Crime	4
GSST 1005	Introduction to Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies	4
POLI 3005	America's Founding Ideas	4
POLI 3020	Comparative Politics	4
POLI 3105	The American Presidency	4
POLI 3115	The United States Constitution	4
SOSC 2005	Schooling in America	4
SOCI 2020	Social Problems in US Society	4
SOCI 3020	Memory & Society	4
SOCI 3025	Contemporary Global Social Issues	4
SOCI 3055	Family & Society	4
SOCI 4035	Privacy Security & Freedom: Social Concerns for the 21st Century	4

Foundation #3: Perspectives on Power and Privilege

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3122	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4
CRJS 4030	Women Crime & Criminology	4
GSST 2005	Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies	4
GSST 3008	LGBTQ+ Youth & Education	4
GSST 3152	Queering American Culture	4
POLI 2013	Race in United States Politics	4
POLI 4015	Race Law & Politics	4
SOCI 3010	Ageing & Society	4
SOCI 4030	Power & Privilege	4

Foundation #4: Theoretical Perspectives

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
POLI 3080	Modern Political Theory	4
SOCI 3125	The Sociological Imagination	4
SOSC 3015	Great Conversations in Social Thought	4

Foundation #5: Social Science Research Methods

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
SOSC 2010	Statistics for the Social Sciences	4
SOSC 3020	Qualitative Social Science Research: Design & Methods	4
SOSC 3025	Social Science Research Methods	4

Foundation #6: Critical Thinking and Analysis

Courses that meet this guideline include (but are not limited to):

Code	Title	Credits
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in ANTH		
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in GSST		
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in LEST		
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in POLI		
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in SOCI		
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in SOSC		

Learning Outcomes

- Foundation 1: Broad Social Science Perspective, Students will be able to define Social Science vocabulary, questions and topics.
- Foundation 1: Broad Social Science Perspective, Students will be able to examine relationships among different elements of social life (e.g., institutions, systems of belief, cultural patterns, or political and economic structures of society).
- Foundation 2: Historical and Comparative Perspectives, Students will be able to describe how key elements of social life vary across time, place and culture.
- Foundation 3: Perspectives on Power and Privilege, Students will be able to examine the dynamics of power and privilege in relation to race, class, gender, age, sexuality, etc.
- Foundation 4: Theoretical Perspectives, Students will be able to define relevant concepts and theories.
- Foundation 4: Theoretical Perspectives, Students will be able to analyze the strengths, limitations and significance of relevant concepts and theories.
- Foundation 5: Social Science Research Methods, Students will be able to define tools and methods used in Social Science research.
- Foundation 5: Social Science Research Methods, Students will be able to analyze strengths and limitations of Social Science research methodologies.
- Foundation 5: Social Science Research Methods, Students will be able to analyze ethical issues embedded in Social Science research.
- Foundation 6: Critical Thinking and Analysis, Students will be able to evaluate key concepts, assumptions, theories and research from a social science perspective.

Concentration guidelines

Specific guidelines have been developed for concentrations in the following areas:

- Cultural Anthropology (p. 2)
- Sociology (p. 3)

If you are interested in an area not listed here, please contact your mentor about designing your own concentration.

Cultural Anthropology

Cultural anthropology is a discipline that is devoted to the study of how people organize and create cultural systems, and in turn are shaped by those beliefs, ideas, and physical environments. Students who develop programs in Social Science with a concentration in Cultural Anthropology are often curious about how and why people live the way they do, and they are interested in learning more about people in different parts of the world.

Bachelor's degree programs in Social Science with a concentration in Cultural Anthropology must meet the six foundations listed below. It is suggested that one course not be used to fulfill more than one Foundation (with the exception of foundation #6). Students will explain how they meet each relevant learning outcome in their rationale essay.

Knowledge of each outcome can be demonstrated through transcript credit; individual prior learning assessment (iPLA), prior learning evaluation (PLE), or credit by examination; or specific courses at Empire State University.

Foundation #1: Broad Social Science Perspective

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define Social Science vocabulary, questions and topics.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to examine relationships among different elements of social life (e.g., institutions, systems of belief, cultural patterns, or political and economic structures of society).

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required Course</i>		
ANTH 1010	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4

Foundation #2: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to describe how key elements of social life vary across time, place and culture.

Choose two courses that focus on geographic areas such as:

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose two courses that focus on geographic areas</i>		
ANTH 3035	Latin American & Caribbean Societies	4
HIST 1055	East Asia	4
HIST 2010	Mexico: History & Culture	4
HIST 2015	Native American Histories & Cultures: Introduction	4
HIST 3010	African History & Culture	4
HIST 3140	Caribbean: Cruises Carnival & Colonization	4
HIST 3330	Latin America in the Contemporary World	4
HIST 3340	Middle East	4

Foundation #3: Perspectives on Power and Privilege

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to examine the dynamics of power and privilege in relation to race, class, gender, age, sexuality, etc.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose at least one of the following courses</i>		
ANTH 3030	Immigration Today: Gender & Family	4
ANTH 3122	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4
SOCI 2010	Introduction to Race Class & Gender	4
SOCI 4030	Power & Privilege	4
Any GSST course		4

Foundation #4: Theoretical Perspectives

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define relevant concepts and theories.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze the strengths, limitations and significance of relevant concepts and theories.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required Course</i>		
SOSC 3015	Great Conversations in Social Thought	4
<i>Two additional courses that address topics in anthropological theory such as</i>		
ANTH 3015	Environmental Anthropology	4
ANTH 3020	Families in Global Perspective	4
ANTH 3025	Health & Illness in Global Perspective	4
ANTH 3030	Immigration Today: Gender & Family	4
ANTH 3045	Travel & Tourism: Critical Perspectives	4
ANTH 3122	Sex & Gender in Global Perspective	4

Foundation #5: Social Science Research Methods

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define tools and methods used in social-science research.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze strengths and limitations of social-science research methodologies.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze ethical issues embedded in social-science research.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required Course</i>		
SOSC 3020	Qualitative Social Science Research: Design & Methods	4
<i>Additional elective courses</i>		
SOSC 3025	Social Science Research Methods	4
SOSC 2010	Statistics for the Social Sciences	4

Foundation #6: Critical Thinking and Analysis

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to evaluate key concepts, assumptions, theories and research from a Social Science perspective.

Code	Title	Credits
Any 3000 or 4000 level course in ANTH		

Sociology Concentration

Sociology is the study of social life and social change, as well as the social structures and institutions that shape our lives. Sociologists use

different empirical methods to analyze social problems. Students who develop degrees in social science with a concentration in sociology are curious about how societies function and change, why social injustice and inequalities occur, and explore the forces that unite and divide us.

Bachelor's degree programs in Social Science with a concentration in Sociology must meet the six foundations listed below. Students will explain how they meet each relevant learning outcome in their rationale essay. Knowledge of each outcome can be demonstrated through transcript credit; individualized prior learning assessment (iPLA), professional learning evaluation (PLE); credit by examination; or specific courses at Empire State University.

Foundation #1: Broad Social Science Perspective

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define Social Science vocabulary, questions, and topics.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to examine relationships among different elements of social life (e.g., institutions, systems of belief, cultural patterns, or political and economic structures of society).

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required Course</i>		
SOCI 1005	Exploring Society: An Introduction to Sociology	4

Foundation #2: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to describe how key elements of social life vary across time, place, and culture.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose at least 2 courses with at least one at the 3000/4000 level</i>		
ANTH 1010	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
CRJS 4010	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	4
GSST 1005	Introduction to Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies	4
SOCI 2020	Social Problems in US Society	4
SOCI 3020	Memory & Society	4
SOCI 3025	Contemporary Global Social Issues	4
SOCI 3045	Disaster & Society	4
SOCI 3055	Family & Society	4
SOCI 3065	Perspectives on Terrorism	4
SOCI 3095	Sociology of Education	4
SOCI 4035	Privacy Security & Freedom: Social Concerns for the 21st Century	4
SOSC 2005	Schooling in America	4
CRJS 2005	Introduction to Criminology: Theorizing Crime	4

Foundation #3: Perspectives on Power and Privilege

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to examine the dynamics of power and privilege in relation to race, class, gender, age, sexuality, etc.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose one course</i>		
SOCI 2010	Introduction to Race Class & Gender	4
or SOCI 4030	Power & Privilege	

Additional optional courses

GSST 2005	Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies	4
GSST/EDST 3008	LGBTQ+ Youth & Education	4

POLI 2013	Race in United States Politics	4
POLI 4015	Race Law & Politics	4
SOCI 3010	Aging & Society	4

Foundation #4: Theoretical Perspectives

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define relevant concepts and theories.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze the strengths, limitations and significance of relevant concepts and theories.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose one course</i>		
SOSC 3015 or SOCI 3125	Great Conversations in Social Thought The Sociological Imagination	4

Foundation #5: Social Science Research Methods

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to define tools and methods used in social-science research.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze strengths and limitations of Social Science research methodologies.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to analyze ethical issues embedded in Social Science research.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required Course</i>		
SOSC 2010	Statistics for the Social Sciences	4
<i>Choose one additional required course</i>		
SOSC 3020 or SOSC 3025	Qualitative Social Science Research: Design & Methods Social Science Research Methods	4

Foundation #6: Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to evaluate key concepts, assumptions, theories, and research from a Social Science perspective.

Code	Title	Credits
Any 3000/4000 level course in ANTH		
Any 3000/4000 level course in CRJS		
Any 3000/4000 level course in LEST		
Any 3000/4000 level course in PAFF		
Any 3000/4000 level course in POLI		
Any 3000/4000 level course in SOCI		
Any 3000/4000 level course in SOSC		

See sample degree programs at Department of Social Science and Public Affairs website under Degree Planning Resources (<https://www.sunyempire.edu/social-science-public-affairs/degree-planning-resources/>).