What is Sociology?

How does one analyze the dynamics of a hostile mob, track patterns in corporate downsizing, explore how people express emotions, or study the effects of cultural difference on problems of peace and war? Sociology is the scientific study of social life. It is the exploration of inequality and social change, and a lens into the complexity of the causes and consequences of human behavior.

Introductory Course 
recommended for first year students

**SOCL 155A Foundations in Social Theory**

T/TH 11:30 am - 1 pm  
T/TH 1 pm - 2:30 pm

The first part of a two-course sequence introducing students to sociology through an examination of selected major works in the discipline (e.g. Marx, Durkheim, and Weber). This course challenges students to sociologically, and to consider the connection between theoretical knowledge and social change. This is autonomous from Sociology 155B; either semester in sequence may be taken alone, and either semester may be taken first.

Additional Courses for First Year Students

**SOCL H104 Sociology of Crime and Deviance**  
MW 2:30-4 pm

This course provides a substantial introduction to criminology, with consideration of the social characteristics of offenders and victims, crime rates, and various justifications of punishment.

**SOCL H180 Sociology of Family**  
MW 11:30 am – 1 pm

This course will examine how various conditions have shaped family life as we currently experience it. We will look at the social construction of the family, the psychosocial interiors of families, and how governmental policy has consistently shaped our notions of family.

Why Sociology at Haverford?

Our graduates go on to a wide variety of careers. The analytic, statistical, and methodological skills acquired over the course of studies in sociology are an asset in sectors as different as government, service, education, and business. Our department has an excellent record of placing students in top graduate departments.

The Sociology Degree at a glance:

**The Major:** At least 11 courses including: 2 semesters of Foundations, Quantitative Methods and 2 semesters of senior thesis.  
**The Minor:** At least 6 courses including: 2 semesters of Foundations, Quantitative Methods and 3 upper-level courses.