

# SOCIAL SCIENCE

Social Science Program (<http://www.csuchico.edu/sosc/>)  
 BSS Building 329  
 530-898-5688  
 Email: [soscadvisor@csuchico.edu](mailto:soscadvisor@csuchico.edu)  
 Program Coordinator: Diana Dwyre

## Insight

The Social Science Program prepares students to be informed citizens who use multidisciplinary understandings of concepts, theories, and methods from the social sciences to respond to a range of human experiences, events, and real-world social problems. The program promotes an understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion, the value of research and service to the community, the importance of social and environmental responsibility, and active participation in civic life.

## Experience

**The Bachelor of Arts in Social Science** is designed for students who have a broad interest in the behavioral and social sciences and for those interested in pursuing a California secondary school teaching credential. The program has two options: multidisciplinary studies and specialization studies. Both options are available to students on campus and for distance education students who do not reside in Chico.

**The Master of Arts in Social Science** is a flexible interdisciplinary program that allows students to tailor a program to their specific academic or career goals, drawing on curricula from departments in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, as well as the School of Education and other programs. While possibilities are varied, some examples include focusing on higher education administration, college student development, cultural and gender studies, and career development counseling.

**The Social Science Blended BA + MA Program** is one of Chico State's first blended programs and allows students to double count nine units of coursework in our Career and Life Planning area of concentration toward both their bachelor's and master's degrees. Students who complete the Social Science blended program will receive both a bachelor's and master's degree.

The Social Science Program offers several minors that are easily combined with our two options or with other majors. The Career and Life Planning Minor, the Family Relations Minor, and the Gerontology Minor are available in person and fully online. The Minor in California: People, Places, and Cultures is only available to on-campus students.

Students can also take courses to complete the Certificate in Career and Life Planning (<https://rce.csuchico.edu/online/career-and-life-planning-certificate-program/>) or the Certificate in Gerontology. The Certificate in Career and Life Planning is for professionals who work in a variety of career development settings. The Certificate in Gerontology is for those interested in professions that work with older adults and their families.

## Outlook

Social Science BA and MA graduates are in high demand for a variety of professions. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that professional opportunities for those with a degree in social science will grow over the next decade. Graduates are employed in public and private education; career centers; human resource organizations; local,

state, and federal government agencies; nonprofit organizations; interest groups; and various realms of the private sector.

For more information, please contact us:

- **Social Science Program:** [sosc@csuchico.edu](mailto:sosc@csuchico.edu)
- **Social Science Advisor:** [soscadvisor@csuchico.edu](mailto:soscadvisor@csuchico.edu)

## Programs

### Undergraduate

#### Bachelor's

- Social Science BA (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/social-science-ba/>)
- Social Science BA Online (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/social-science-online-ba/>)

#### Minors

- California: People, Places, and Cultures Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/california-people-places-cultures-minor/>)
- Career and Life Planning Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/career-life-planning-minor/>)
- Family Relations Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/family-relations-minor/>)
- Gerontology Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/gerontology-minor/>)

#### Certificates

- Gerontology Certificate (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/gerontology-certificate/>)

#### Credential

- Social Science Single Subject Matter Preparation Program (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/social-science-single-subject-matter-preparation-program/>)

## Graduate

#### Master's

- Social Science MA (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/social-science-ma/>)

See Course Description Symbols and Terms (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/academic-standards-policies/course-description-symbols-terms/>) for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units.

**SOSC 198 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (009058)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Lower Division**SOSC 210 Data Interpretation and Communication for the Social Sciences****3 Units****Prerequisite:** GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2).**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course provides an introduction to research and analytic tools needed to meet the demands of social science practice. Students will manipulate, visualize, and interpret statistical and spatial data to strengthen their data analytic reasoning. This course also examines bias in the presentations of social science information by reviewing demographic, cultural, and spatial data sources. 3 hours seminar. (009054)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Lower Division**SOSC 290 BSS Sophomore Experience****1 Unit****Typically Offered:** Fall only

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) students develop an understanding of the specific skills, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices required to be successful in the majors of the College of BSS at CSU, Chico and in life after college. Specific emphasis placed upon academic and career planning, as well as life skills to improve success in and outside of school. 1 hour lecture. (022084)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 1 unit**Course Attributes:** Lower Division**SOSC 300 Great Books and Ideas in the Social Sciences****3 Units GE**

**Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course advances students' exposure to and appreciation of seminal works in the disciplines of the Social Sciences including the application of social science theories. The specific content of the course varies by sections and instructor discipline. In this course, students deepen their understanding of the role of the social sciences as an academic discipline and further enhance their understanding of the world around them. Issues of equity, ethics, and social justice are emphasized. 3 hours lecture. (021168)

**General Education:** Upper-Division Social Behavioral Sciences (UD4); Equity, Ethics, and Policy Pathway; Innovation, Design, and the Arts Pathway

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 301 Spatial Concepts: Geographical Patterns and Processes** **3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course covers the five themes of geography (location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement, and region) for use in the K-12 classroom. The impact of these themes on physical geography, human culture, and economic development is also emphasized. Skills include mapping of data, using appropriate geographical software, creating charts and diagrams, and interpreting information contained in an atlas. 3 hours lecture. (009059)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Sustainable Course**SOSC 302 Temporal Concepts: California Ethnic History****3 Units GE, USD**

**Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A), GE Critical Thinking (1B), GE Oral Communication (1C), GE Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning (2); or faculty permission.

**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course focuses on the immigration and subsequent history of California's different ethnic groups. It explores their interactions and the effects on the social, political, and economic development of the state. 3 hours lecture. (009060)

**General Education:** Upper-Division Social Behavioral Sciences (UD4); California Studies Pathway

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; US Diversity Course**SOSC 303 Cultural Concepts: Human Social Evolution** **3 Units GC****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This is an exploration of the fundamental concepts of human biological, social, and cultural evolution. It is a comparative study of adaptation, social organization, religious and other ideological systems in contemporary non-Western societies. With a multidisciplinary approach, the course covers the biological basis of human social behavior, fossil evidence for human evolution, and relevant ethnographic and archaeological evidence of human social evolution. 3 hours lecture. (009062)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Global Cultures Course; Sustainable Course**SOSC 303W Cultural Concepts: Human Social Evolution****(W)** **3 Units GC, W****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This is an exploration of the fundamental concepts of human biological, social, and cultural evolution. It is a comparative study of adaptation, social organization, religious, and other ideological systems in contemporary non-Western societies. With a multidisciplinary approach, the course covers the biological basis of human social behavior, fossil evidence for human evolution, and relevant ethnographic and archaeological evidence of human social evolution. 3 hours lecture. (021965)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Global Cultures Course; Sustainable Course; Writing Course

**SOSC 333 Research and Inquiry in Social Science 4 Units****Prerequisite:** SOSC 210 or equivalent.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

An introduction to the language and methodology of social research. Particular attention given to: the nature of scientific method; sampling theory; a review of survey, field, experimental, and evaluation methods; the nature and character of scientific evidence; and an introduction to data analysis. The course is designed to help the student become an informed consumer and critic of the methods used by social science professions to collect and interpret information about human activity. 3 hours discussion, 1 hour lecture. (021896)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 4 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 389 Internship Social Science 1-15 Units****Prerequisite:** Junior standing, the approval of the Social Science Program Coordinator, faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an internship offered for 1.0-15.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. The internship experience is designed to supplement academic work in social science and to provide students with occupational experience. 3 hours supervision. (021013)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 398 Special Topics 1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 3 hours lecture. (009069)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 399 Special Problems 1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an independent study of special problems offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (009070)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 430 Family Relations Capstone Seminar 3 Units****Prerequisite:** Senior standing.**Typically Offered:** Spring only

This capstone seminar integrates interdisciplinary approaches to macro family studies through the examination of social policies impacting children and families. Domains of social policy exploration include anti-poverty, child welfare, education, child mental health, physical/public health, youth with disabilities, adolescent substance abuse, immigration, juvenile justice, and firearm fatalities/injuries. A risk and resilience perspective and anti-oppression framework are emphasized. 3 hours discussion. (009078)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 489 Internship Social Science 1-15 Units****Prerequisite:** Junior standing, the approval of the Social Science Program Coordinator, faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is an internship offered for 1.0-15.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. The internship experience is designed to supplement academic work in social science and to provide students with occupational experience. 3 hours supervision. (009084)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 15 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 495HW Senior Honors Research Seminar (W) 3 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A); faculty permission; senior standing.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Students in the Honors in the Major program prepare a research paper on a topic germane to their interests. 3 hours seminar. (009091)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course**SOSC 495W Capstone Seminar: Social Science (W) 3 Units W, GW****Prerequisite:** GE English Composition (1A), 12 units in social sciences, senior standing.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Analysis of the basic philosophical foundations of the social sciences, focusing on the nature of humans, the nature of society, social science as a science, and the role of the social scientist. Various paradigms which deal with these issues are studied. Required for all Social Science majors. 3 hours seminar. (009090)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; Writing Course; Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Course**SOSC 498 Special Topics 1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 1 hour seminar. (009092)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 499 Independent Study 3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

3 hours lecture. (009093)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 499H Honors Research in the Social Sciences 3 Units****Prerequisite:** SOSC 495HW.**Typically Offered:** Spring only

Open only by invitation to students with 3.5 GPA or higher in the major. Requires the revision of a research paper into publishable form and a public presentation of the research. 3 hours seminar. (009094)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division

**SOSC 509 Principles and Techniques of Career Counseling and Guidance****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course focuses on the development of comprehensive career counseling techniques, emphasizing the importance of building effective client interactions and accurately assessing client needs. Students explore a range of classic, contemporary, and emerging counseling theories. The course also covers ethical decision-making strategies and effective approaches to serving diverse populations. In addition to theoretical knowledge, each student designs a career planning service and develops detailed plans for program implementation, ensuring practical application of learned concepts. Students who complete the three Career and Life Planning (CLP) courses (SOSC 509, 510, and 560) each with a C- or higher earn the National Career Development Association certified Career and Life Planning professional certificate. 3 hours lecture. (009077)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 510 Testing and Measurements for Career Assessment and Guidance****3 Units****Prerequisite:** Senior standing.**Typically Offered:** Spring only

In this course students explore the foundational issues in psychometrics, including the nature and uses of various assessments (such as the Myers Briggs and the Work Readiness Inventory), ethical considerations, and concerns in test administration. Assessment batteries for special needs clients are also examined. Students use formal assessment tools in career intervention decision making. This course also addresses college student development theory and current trends in the field of higher education. Students who complete the three Career and Life Planning courses (SOSC 509, 510, and 560) each with a C- or higher earn the National Career Development Association certified Career and Life Planning professional certificate. 3 hours lecture. (009074)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 541 Health in the Later Years****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall only

Exploration of changing health status and needs in later life. Discussion of body system changes, bio-psycho-social influences on elders' health, health enhancement strategies, common health problems, treatment, and prevention. Also addresses drug use and abuse, sexuality, chronic illness, use of health delivery systems, including long-term care. 3 hours lecture. (001569)

**Cross listing(s):** PHHA 541**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 543 Social Gerontology****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

Studies the changes people face as they age in modern society, as individual social beings and as members of a larger society; how social change (economic, political, technological) affects older people in their aging patterns; emphasis is on the social aspects of problems and prospects for America's elders. 3 hours lecture. (001571)

**Cross listing(s):** PHHA 543**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 560 Seminar on Theory and Practice of Career and Life Planning****3 Units****Prerequisite:** Senior standing.**Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course focuses on the integration and application of classic, current, and emerging career development theories from sociological, psychological, ecological, and anthropological perspectives. Theorists such as Holland, Krumboltz, Super, Hansen, Tinto, and Chickering are discussed. In addition, the course examines the application of career development theories, issues, and resources for diverse clientele in education, public, and private agencies. Topics include occupational databases, career investigation, decision-making, job search skills, program development, and ethical concerns. The course is useful for teachers, student development professionals, career counselors, and social service agency personnel. Students who complete the three Career and Life Planning courses (SOSC 509, 510, and 560) each with a C- or higher earn the National Career Development Association certified Career and Life Planning professional certificate. 3 hours seminar. (009081)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 598 Special Topics****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 0 hours seminar. (022278)

**Grade Basis:** Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course more than once**Course Attributes:** Upper Division**SOSC 601 Quantitative Approaches to Social Science Research****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Fall only

This course is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of quantitative methods from disciplines within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, including but not limited to techniques common in anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, public health, sociology, and political science. The course also helps students link research practices from these divergent disciplines to their own interest areas by providing methodological foundations useful for a variety of study topics. Finally, the course introduces software platforms including SPSS, R, and ArcGIS that are widely used by academic and professional communities that conduct social science inquiry. 3 hours seminar. (022292)

**Grade Basis:** Graduate Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division



**SOSC 602 Equity and Policy in Higher Education****3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course examines mechanisms of power and privilege as they apply to access and equity in higher education. Students examine the barriers to educational access and equity in the contexts of culture, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion/spirituality, ability, and gender. We think of the interaction of diversity and learning as not only involving the differences that students bring to enhance learning environments, but also the ways we as educators respond to those differences in the context of policies, systems, histories, structures, and legislation. In addition to the examination of systemic oppression, equity and inclusion, students explore aspects of diversity as assets in the design of rich and productive learning environments. Students apply their knowledge to the investigation and formation of solutions to contemporary educational problems. 3 hours seminar. (022413)

**Grade Basis:** Graduate Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 660 Social Sciences Practicum in Teaching****3 Units****Prerequisite:** Graduate standing in SOSC, department permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

Selection as a teaching assistant (TA) provides an opportunity to participate in the instruction of courses for undergraduate students under the supervision and mentorship of a faculty member. A TA is expected to assist in the development of assignments or exams as well as in-class instruction, hold office hours, proctor examinations and facilitate Web-based course management. TAs are required to attend the instructor's lecture regularly and complete 9 hours of work per week for 3 units. 9 hours supervision. (009097)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 689 Internship Social Science****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Graduate standing, approval of Social Science Graduate Coordinator, faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

The internship experience is designed to supplement academic work in social science and to provide students with occupational experience. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (009099)

**Grade Basis:** Credit/No Credit**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 697 Independent Study****1-3 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is a graduate-level independent study offered for 1.0-3.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (009101)

**Grade Basis:** Report in Progress: Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 698 Adv Topics in Social Science****1-3 Units****Typically Offered:** Inquire at department

This course is for special topics offered for 1.0-3.0 units. Typically the topic is offered on a one-time-only basis and may vary from term to term and be different for different sections. See the Class Schedule for the specific topic being offered. 0 hours seminar. (009100)

**Grade Basis:** Graduate Graded**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 699P Master's Project****1-6 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. A terminal project is equal in scope and quality to a thesis but differs in form or content to such an extent that the strict University standards for these would not be appropriate. 9 hours supervision. (009107)

**Grade Basis:** Report in Progress: CR/NC**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division**SOSC 699T Master's Thesis****1-6 Units****Prerequisite:** Faculty permission.**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course is offered for 1.0-6.0 units. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. 9 hours supervision. (009105)

**Grade Basis:** Report in Progress: CR/NC**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 6 units**Course Attributes:** Graduate Division

## Social Science Program

### The Faculty

**Diana F Dwyre** 1997

Program Coordinator

Doctor of Philosophy Syracuse Univ Main Campus

**Matthew W Herman** 1995

Lecturer

Master of Arts CSU-Chico

**Ryan G Miller** 2015

Lecturer

Master of Urban Planning Univ Of Washington

**Shawn W Ryan** 2019

Lecturer

Doctor of Education Arizona St Univ

**Hayley M Stone** 2016

Lecturer

Master of Public Admin CSU-Chico

**Ashlyn K Weaver** 2017

Lecturer

Master of Arts CSU-Chico

**Betina D Wildhaber** 2005

Lecturer

Master of Arts CSU-Chico