

# SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Social Science Program (<http://www.csuchico.edu/sosc/>)  
 Butte Hall 611  
 530-898-5688  
 Email: [sosc@csuchico.edu](mailto:sosc@csuchico.edu)  
 Program Coordinator: Diana Flannery

## Insight

The BA in social science is designed for students who have a broad interest in the behavioral and social sciences. It is an interdisciplinary program with a curriculum from the disciplines and programs of the College of the Behavioral and Social Sciences and the Department of History.

The program has two options to best meet the needs of our students: multidisciplinary studies and specialization studies. Both options are available to distance education students who do not reside in Chico.

## Experience

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Option in Multidisciplinary Studies is a 45-unit major with representative courses from the disciplines within the social sciences and history. Its primary intent is to give students a solid liberal arts grounding in the social sciences. This option also provides a waiver for the single subject matter competency requirement and CSET exam in social science for those pursuing secondary teacher preparation programs.

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Option in Specialization Studies allows students to focus on two disciplines, or areas of concentration, offered by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the Department of History. Many of our students plan to apply these concentrations in specialized fields such as social and vocational services. There are 21 areas of concentration from which to choose: alternative dispute resolution, anthropology, Asia, California studies, career and life planning, child development, economics, environmental planning, environmental studies, family relations, geography, gerontology, health and human services, health science, history, international relations, multicultural and gender studies, political science, psychology, public administration, and sociology.

The Career and Life Planning Certificate Program offers a training developed by the National Career Development Association (NCDA). To earn the Career and Life Planning Certificate, the three required courses may be taken either online or on campus. Professionals who earn the NCDA's Career Development Facilitator certificate work in a variety of career development settings. They may serve as career group facilitators, job search trainers, career resource center coordinators, career coaches, career development case managers, intake interviewers, occupational and labor market information resource persons, human resource career development coordinators, employment/placement specialists, workforce development staff persons, or school career center technicians. This unique program may be of interest to students who major in social science, sociology, psychology, social welfare, education, and human resources.

## Outlook

Social science graduates are in demand for a variety of professions. Graduates are employed in public education, career centers, human

resource organizations, local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the public sector.

## Programs

### Undergraduate

#### Bachelor's

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

#### Minors

- California Studies Minor (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/college-behavioral-social-sciences/social-science/california-studies-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/>)

## 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.

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### 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:** Completion of GE Pathway Foundation Quantitative Reasoning.

**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 Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.

**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring

This course advances students' exposure to and appreciation of seminal works in the disciplines of the Social Sciences. 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. 3 hours seminar. (021168)

**General Education:** Upper-Division Social Sciences (UDD); 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. This course is required for Liberal Studies majors and History-Social Science single subject credential students. 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 Oral Communication (A1); GE Written Communication (A2); GE Critical Thinking (A3); GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) requirements, or consent of the instructor.

**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 Sciences (UDD); California Studies Pathway

**Grade Basis:** Graded

**Repeatability:** You may take this course for a maximum of 3 units

**Course Attributes:** Upper Division; U.S. Diversity

**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. This course is required for Liberal Studies majors. 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; 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 nonwestern 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. This course is required for Liberal Studies majors. 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; 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  
**Typically Offered:** Spring only  
 This capstone seminar integrates interdisciplinary approaches to family studies through the examination of topics such as cohabitation, marriage, alternative family forms, parenting, sexuality, child development, personality, gender, and aging. Family policy issues are also emphasized. 3 hours seminar. (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 Written Communication (A2) requirement; faculty permission; Senior Standing.  
**Typically Offered:** Fall and spring  
 This course provides an opportunity for students accepted for "Honors in the Major" to prepare and write an Honors 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
- SOSC 495W Capstone Seminar: Social Science (W)** 3 Units W, GW  
**Prerequisite:** GE Written Communication (A2) requirement, 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 will be 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
- 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

Development of techniques for comprehensive career counseling in a workshop centered classroom. Students are introduced to a variety of classic, contemporary, and emerging counseling theorists such as Rogers, Carkhuff, Egan, and Ivey. Emphasis is on development of techniques for comprehensive career counseling, including self-exploration, problem assessment, decision making, career exploration, career and life-role integration, and goal setting. Each student engages in a supervised helping relationship with an individual for at least six sessions. Upon completion of the course students are able to understand the theory and practice of different counseling strategies and be able to use them in a variety of professional settings with a diverse clientele. 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:** SOSC 509.**Typically Offered:** Spring only

This is a course in career assessment. Students will explore the foundational issues in psychometrics, including the nature and uses of paper and online tests, ethical considerations, and concerns in test administration. Students administer assessments such as the Myers Briggs, Strong Vocational Interest Inventory, Barriers to Employment Success, Offender Reintegration Inventory, Military to Career, The COP System, and various Holland assessments. Classes of vocational assessments and their exemplars will be presented. Assessment batteries for special needs clients will also be examined. Students will consider issues which are of specific concern when using formal assessment tools in decision making in career interventions. Interpretations of specific instruments and the relationship of formal assessments to other modes of information gathering will be discussed. 3 hours lecture. (009074)

**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****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. 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 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****1-6 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 6 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 Master of Arts Texas Christian Univ  
**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

**Steven J Stewart** 2001  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Arts Cal St Univ-Chico

**Kevin F Weherly** 1997  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Arts Cal St Univ-Chico

**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

**Ellie Clifford Ertle** 1998  
 Lecturer  
 Doctor of Education Univ Of Cal-Davis

**Diana Flannery** 1991  
 Program Coordinator  
 Doctor of Philosophy Pennsylvania St Univ Main Camp

**Cynthia R Garrett** 2020  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Arts CSU-Chico

**Matthew W Herman** 1995  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Arts CSU-Chico

**Ryan G Miller** 2015  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Urban Planning Univ Of Washington

**Ashley M Person** 2014  
 Lecturer  
 Bachelor of Arts CSU-Chico

**Mim. Roeder** 2001  
 Lecturer  
 Master of Arts CSU-Chico

**Bruce Smith-Peters** 2004  
 Lecturer