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Upcoming Events
→ Monday, 10/3/22, 6:30-8:30pm
Movie Night: Mean Girls
Tuffy Lawn

→ Tuesday, 10/4/22, 11:30am-1pm
Titan Table Talk: Empowering LGBTQ+ Communities

→ Wednesday, 10/5/22, 5-6:30p
RSVP for Internship Informational at Career Center in LH-208

→ Tuesday, 10/11/22, 4:15-5:15p
AKD Sociology Club “Halloween Boo-Tacular Mixer & Pumpkin Carving at Tuffy Lawn

→ Wednesday, 10/12/22, 11am-1pm
LGBT Queer Resource Center Resource Fair at the Becker Amphitheater

→ Thursday, 10/13/22, 7:00pm
CSUF Annual Drag Show via Housing & LGBT Queer Resource Center

→ Wednesday, 10/19/22, 3-4pm
RSVP for Grad School 101 with the CSUF Career Center in LH-208

Advising Information

The Department of Sociology has three advisors for Fall 2022: Dr. Mariam Ashtiani, Dr. María Malagón, and Dr. Anthony Alvarez.

The Department does not require in-person/Zoom graduation checks. We conduct them toward the end of the semester after registration has taken place & send an email to you.

Registration for Spring 2023 begins at the end of October. Be sure to make an advising appointment early to make a plan for which courses to take and to discuss post-graduation planning. Visit the department ADVISING LINK or copy and paste the following weblink into your browser:
(http://hss.fullerton.edu/sociology/advising_and_tutoring/index.aspx)

For students planning to take Winter 2023 Sociology classes, and to see upcoming Spring classes, visit: SOCIOLOGY COURSE SCHEDULE or copy and paste the following weblink into your browser:
(http://hss.fullerton.edu/sociology/calendar_and_class_schedule/)

Sociology Club News

Are you interested in becoming active in the department? Want to attend informative and fun events with other majors and minors?

Sociology Club provides a great opportunity to become involved at CSUF, while also meeting people, finding your place within the department, and learning about relevant and timely topics. Most recently, the club topic was, “Sociology Declassified: Survival Guide” where a professor, undergraduate sociology advisor, and former Sociology students offered tips and strategies for navigating CSUF and the journey toward graduation.

In addition, Sociology Club hosts regular events such as scavenger hunts, bowling nights, and more!

To learn more, click SOCIOLOGY CLUB LINK or cut and paste the following link into your browser:
http://hss.fullerton.edu/sociology/students/Soci_Club.aspx
Hi, I’m feeling overwhelmed and a bit stressed, do you know where I can go?

Sure! The Sociology Dept. Peer Mentors have a helpful resource to share:

CAPS Wellness Room
Titan Hall, Rm 1334

The Wellness Room is part of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at CSUF, whose goals are to attend to students’ emotional well-being while providing services and a safe space.

The Wellness Room’s services are inspired by the Nine Dimensions of Wellness: physical, emotional social, occupational, creative, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, and financial wellness. The Wellness Room is meant to be a space where students can take a break from homework and relax as a measure to maintain student’s work-life balance. In the Wellness Room, Titans can book an appointment through TitanNet Student/Navigate to use the napping pods and massage chairs. Titans can also relax in the lounge area, practice mindfulness techniques in their art area, go to yoga sessions, or participate in drop-in group sessions throughout the semester to learn stress management, and mood wellness.

Learn how to make an appointment with a service in the Wellness Room by visiting:

https://youtu.be/FGMu2082rss

If you’re on campus and haven’t made an appointment, not to worry. See drop-in options:

http://www.fullerton.edu/caps/pdfs/Fall%202022%20Drop%20In%20Group%20Flyer.pdf
Dr. Berna Torr was grading sociology exams long before she decided to teach; as a child, her sociology professor father would pay her a nickel for each exam she graded. Her parents emphasized the importance of education, but her path to Chair of the Department of Sociology at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) was not a direct route. Wanting to chart course different than her father’s, she entered college as a premed student, intending to become a medical doctor, and declared a back-up major in Rural Sociology. However, she soon found that she enjoyed her sociology classes but struggled to find her footing in premed. After seeking advice from her Department Chair, she took a demography class and discovered her vocation in sociology.

After completing her undergrad, Dr. Torr worked as an applied demographer, first as a research analyst at a magazine, and then as a product manager for demographics and segmentation at a marketing information company. She entered her Ph.D. program because she wanted to get promoted at her company, but after working as a TA as part of her graduate program, she fell in love with working with students. After graduation, she returned to research, this time with a focus on policy, but ultimately decided to return to academia and combine her love of research and teaching. Dr. Torr especially enjoys applied teaching, where she can show students how to take all the theories and concepts and apply them to everyday life. When teaching Sociology of Career Success (SOCI 307), she encourages Sociology majors to understand that sociology is not just a degree you choose to get a particular job; it’s a way of living and thinking about life and the world around us. During Spring 2023, she will be teaching Immigrant Orange County, a cross-listed and co-taught course for sociology and geography with Dr. Zia Salim (SOCl 456/GEOG 456).

The recent establishment of Transfer Student Learning Communities (TSLC) within our Sociology department results from research that Dr. Torr is conducting with Dr. Thacker Thomas, Dr. Eileen Walsh, Dr. Anthony Alvarez, and Dr. Maria Malagón. To address challenges faced by transfer students, Dr. Torr and her colleagues developed a new pedagogical model that includes enhanced support for transfer students using a cohort system, improved advising, an emphasis on faculty collaboration, peer mentoring programs, and other supportive services.

As the Department Chair, Dr. Torr is responsible for scheduling and staffing all sociology classes, managing enrollment, and many other tasks. When students have a problem within the department or with university administration, Dr. Torr may be involved in helping to find solutions. She often acts as a mediator when students have a complaint about a professor and advises students to come to her with documentation of the problem so that she can clearly understand the situation. To book an appointment with Dr. Torr, follow this link: https://f2022torroh.youcanbook.me/

Tips from Peer Mentors

Campus Opportunities

Searching for a sense of belonging? Need help finding a community? CSUF has plenty to try:

> ASI has Commissions Positions open (including academic stipends)

> Student Recreation Center hosts awesome outdoor events like the Newport Back Bay Stand-Up Paddle

> TSU Food Court has a GrubHub service for convenient bites!

> TitanLink displays all 300+ clubs and organizations to join, like AKD Sociology Club!

Visit the Pollak Library for sources, class materials, or to study! 24/7 Chat with librarians to find sources or books that aren’t currently on the shelves. Take advantage of study floors and private rooms. Study Pods are also available on the third floor! On your way to one of the library’s resources, stop by Starbucks on the first floor for some coffee or tea!

Explore the 2023 Spring catalog to join classes that are tailored to your interests (Surfing 101, Ceramics, etc.)! Sociology has plenty of branches in topics that may influence your perspective on academia, society, and even yourself. Book an appointment with a sociology advisor!

Department Kudos

Dr. Taylor Cruz received tenure & promotion to Associate Professor within the department. She also recently received the Ida B. Wells-Troy Duster Award through the American Sociology Association’s (ASA) section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology, for her paper entitled, “Racing the Machine: How Data Analytics Obscures the Social Nature of Racialized Health Inequality.”

Dr. Christopher Gibson has two recent publications to highlight. Most recently, he had a chapter “Cities and the Green New Deal: Addressing the Financialization of Urban Production” published in the Routledge Handbook on the Green New Deal, edited by K. Tienhaara and J. Robinson. And, earlier this year, his article, “How will this affect our credit rating?” Municipal Debt and Governing the Environment” was published in Environmental Sociology.

Dr. Patricia Literte received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the outstanding McNair Scholars program on our campus. The McNair program is one of seven federal TRIO programs, targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post baccalaureate programs. [Press Release]

Professor Jessica Moss received the American Association of University Women (AAUW) fellowship. She is completing her dissertation on interfaith communities and women and non-binary contributions. This fellowship supports outstanding women scholars in completing their dissertations in pursuit of the PhD.

Dr. Devon Thacker Thomas had her proposal to lead a Winter 2024 study abroad experience to Vancouver, BC teaching SOCI 385: Family Violence accepted. She also received a Spring 2023 Faculty Enhancement and Instructional Design (FEID) grant to assess and revise the new SOCI 496, Peer Mentorship: Applying Sociology for Student Success, class.

Dr. Berna Torr, in collaboration with Dr. Zia Salim from Geography, received a Spring 2023 Faculty Enhancement Instructional Development (FEID) Grant for their co-taught course, SOCI 456: Immigrant Orange County. They will be adding new field trip activities, GIS workshops, and high impact practices to enhance the experiential learning components of the course.

The Department wishes to congratulate Yelitza Vazquez on her promotion to Administrative Support Coordinator I. We’re thrilled to have you in our department!

Dr. Eileen Walsh was elected Chair of Academic Senate at CSUF. The Academic Senate develops, formulates, and reviews educations and professional policy that becomes university policy if approved by the president.