

SOCIAL SCIENCE (BA)

CIP: 45.0101

Program Description

Social scientists study human interactions among individuals, families, communities, nations, and the built and natural environments. Using a range of analytical, interpretive, and experimental tools from anthropology, economics, epidemiology, political science, psychology and sociology, social scientists seek to understand conflict and cooperation, epidemics of disease and poverty, social organization and social change, kinship and belonging, human development, systems of exchange, and other enduring questions at the center of our shared humanity.

Students who complete the Social Science major at NYU Shanghai will be prepared to pursue careers and advanced study in fields as diverse as anthropology, business, development, economics, education, environmental studies, journalism, law, psychology, political science, public health, public service, sociology, and social policy. The major offers students a unique opportunity to explore broad areas of social science research and thought, while also allowing a concentration in one of multiple tracks within the major. The Social Science major encourages interdisciplinary inquiry into the complex problems of our contemporary world and the cross-disciplinary exchange that is at the heart of many of the most interesting advances in social science research today.

Social Science majors at NYU Shanghai develop competence in a variety of research tools in two methods courses and complete two interdisciplinary core courses unique to the major. Social Science majors select two foundational courses in the social science disciplines, and three focus courses in one track to deepen their intellectual specialization (tracks include: anthropology, environmental studies, global public health, international relations, political economy, political science, psychology, sociology, or urban studies). China – its peoples and politics – is an important focus for teaching and learning in the major, but the Social Science Area is purposefully global in perspective and heterogeneous in the methodological and analytical scope of its course offerings. Social Science majors complete an independent research project as a senior year capstone.

NYU Shanghai students interested in a disciplinary focus in Economics are advised to pursue the Economics (BA) (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/programs/economics-ba/>) program instead of the Social Science major.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
<i>Social and Cultural Foundations</i>		
CCSF-SHU 101L	Global Perspectives on Society	4
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on China (Two Courses)		8
<i>Writing</i>		

WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
<i>Language</i> ¹		
Language Courses		8-16
<i>Mathematics</i>		
MATH-SHU 131	Calculus ²	4
<i>Algorithmic Thinking</i>		
Algorithmic Thinking Course		4
<i>Science</i>		
Experimental Discovery in the Natural World Course		4
Science, Technology and Society Course		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Foundational Courses</i> ³		8
Select two of the following:		
PSYC-SHU 101	Introduction to Psychology	
SOCS-SHU 110	Introduction to Sociology	
SOCS-SHU 130	Introduction to Political Theory	
SOCS-SHU 133	Urbanization in China	
SOCS-SHU 135	Environment and Society	
SOCS-SHU 136	Human Society and Culture	
SOCS-SHU 150	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
SOCS-SHU 160	Introduction to International Politics	
SOCS-SHU 170	Introduction to Global Health	
ECON-SHU 1	Principles of Macroeconomics	
ECON-SHU 3	Microeconomics	
ECON-SHU 251	Economics of Global Business	
<i>Methods Courses</i> ³		8
Select two of the following:		
SOCS-SHU 141	Methods of Social Research	
SOCS-SHU 175	Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences	
SOCS-SHU 205	Fundamentals of Spatial Analytics	
SOCS-SHU 210	Statistics for the Behavioral & Social Sciences ⁴	
SOCS-SHU 218	Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Research	
SOCS-SHU 240	Survey Research Methods	
SOCS-SHU 247	Computational Urban Science and Big Data	
SOCS-SHU 318	Ethnographic Methods	
SOCS-SHU 350	Empirical Research Practice	

SOCS-SHU 301	Complexity	2
MATH-SHU 235	Probability and Statistics ⁴	
BUSF-SHU 101	Statistics for Business and Economics ⁴	
Major Core Courses ³		8
Select two of the following:		
SOCS-SHU 151	Adolescence, Human Development, and Contexts: A Multi-disciplinary Perspective	
SOCS-SHU 229	Capitalism, Socialism, Communism: Theory and Practice	
SOCS-SHU 236	The Chinese Family	
SOCS-SHU 228	Merchants, Chiefs, and Spirits	
SOCS-SHU 245	Ethnographic Thinking	
SOCS-SHU 253	Nature in Social Thought	
SOCS-SHU 270	Social Change in Contemporary China	
SOCS-SHU 334	Legal Psychology	
SOCS-SHU 378	Feminist Social Theory	
Focus Courses		
Select three courses from one of the following tracks: (see track requirements below) ^{5,6}		12
Anthropology		
Environmental Studies		
Global Public Health		
International Relations		
Political Economy		
Political Science		
Psychology		
Sociology		
Urban Studies		
Capstone ⁷		
SOCS-SHU 401	Social Science Senior Seminar	4
SOCS-SHU 402	Social Science Capstone Seminar	4
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		32-40
Total Credits		128

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Students who did not attend a Chinese-medium high school fulfill the Core language requirement by demonstrating proficiency of the Chinese language through the Intermediate level. Chinese speakers who did not attend an English-medium high school fulfill the Core language requirement through completion of EAP-SHU 100 English for Academic Purposes I and EAP-SHU 101 English for Academic Purposes II. Additional information can be found on the NYU Shanghai Core Curriculum page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/core-curriculum/#text>).

While Calculus is not a requirement in the Social Science major, some methods course options and some focus courses do require Calculus as a prerequisite. Thus, students are encouraged to consider what courses and track they plan to take for the Social Science major and whether Calculus is a prerequisite.

3

Students who complete two Social Science Core Courses may use additional Core Courses to complete the Focus Courses requirement, if appropriate, for their approved choice of focus. The courses listed below serve as a sample of approved courses for these categories. Please discuss additional courses that may count toward these categories, including courses at other NYU sites, with an academic adviser.

4

Students may only fulfill 4 of the 8 required credits with SOCS-SHU 210 Statistics for the Behavioral & Social Sciences, MATH-SHU 235 Probability and Statistics, or BUSF-SHU 101 Statistics for Business and Economics. The remaining 4 credits must be from another course listed in the Methods Courses section.

5

Students must select one of the tracks listed in the table above in which to focus within the Social Science program. Students may also petition to self-design an interdisciplinary track with prior approval of the track and the focus courses for the track from the Undergraduate Coordinator; approval for interdisciplinary tracks will not be granted retroactively.

6

Students must select one of the following tracks in which to focus within the Social Science program: Anthropology, Environmental Studies, Global Public Health, International Relations, Political Economy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, or Urban Studies. Students may also petition to self-design an interdisciplinary track with prior approval of the track and the focus courses for the track from the Undergraduate Coordinator; approval for interdisciplinary tracks will not be granted retroactively.

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Students complete SOCS-SHU 401 Social Science Senior Seminar course in their senior Fall semester, and SOCS-SHU 402 Social Science Capstone Seminar course during the Spring semester of their senior year. As part of the capstone seminar students conduct an independent research project in their track using the methods, theories, and data with which they have become familiar over the course of completing the major. The two capstone seminar courses must be completed in Shanghai.

Tracks

Note: These are sample courses. Some courses count for more than one track; consult an academic adviser for details.

Anthropology

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 241	Cultures of Business and Work	4
SOCS-SHU 254	Ethnographies of Change in China	4
GCHN-SHU 226	Queer China	4
GCHN-SHU 246	Youth and Consumer Culture in China	4

Environmental Studies

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 204	Environmental System Science	4
GCHN-SHU 243	China and the Environment	4
SOCS-SHU 330	Urban Political Ecology	4
SOCS-SHU 333	Global Environmental Politics	4

Global Public Health

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 260	Contemporary Challenges in Global Health	4
SOCS-SHU 306	Pestilence: Critical Perspectives in Global Health	4
SOCS-SHU 332	Global Mental Health	4

International Relations

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 232	International Law and Institutions	4
SOCS-SHU 275	US-China Relations	4
SOCS-SHU 370	China's Foreign Policy	4

Political Economy

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 326	Poverty and Inequality Around the Globe	4
SOCS-SHU 391	International Investment in Developing Countries: China and Africa	4
ECON-SHU 260	International Trade	4

Political Science

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 220	Law and Society in the U.S.	4
SOCS-SHU 331	Politics in China	4
SOCS-SHU 339	Comparative Revolutions	4
SOCS-SHU 340	Comparative Constitutions	4

Psychology

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC-SHU 201	Social Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 238	Abnormal Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 329	Parenting and Culture	4
PSYC-SHU 352	Psychology of Human Sexuality	4

Sociology

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 227	Inequality and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 265	Population and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 360	The City and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 361	Education and Society	4

Urban Studies

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 201	Planning Global Cities	4
SOCS-SHU 207	Urban and Architectural Design in China	4
SOCS-SHU 303	Aviation and Society	4

SOCS-SHU 394	Slums, Suburbs, and Supertalls: Housing in the 21st Century	4
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Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
CCSF-SHU 101L	Global Perspectives on Society	4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
Chinese or EAP		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
Social Science Foundational Course		4
Core Course		4
Chinese or EAP		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
Social Science Foundational Course		4
Social Science Core Course		4
Chinese or Core Course		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Core Course		4
Social Science Core Course		4
Social Science Methods Course		4
Chinese or Core Course ¹		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Core Course		4
Social Science Focus Course		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Social Science Focus Course		4
Core Course		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Social Science Senior Seminar		4
Social Science Methods Course		4
Social Science Focus Course		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Social Science Capstone Seminar		4
Core Course		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Identify individual, cultural, social, economic, and political forces that shape our world, in both historical and contemporary perspective,

with a demonstrated appreciation of China and its relation to the region and the world.

2. Demonstrate a familiarity with social science approaches to the study of behavior, sociality, exchange, and governance.
3. Use modes of inquiry found in professional literature as a means of evaluating social science problems.
4. Compare concepts and methods to analyze substantive domains of social science study, including conflict, trade, family, environment, healthcare, and human rights.
5. Engage in the collection and presentation of data from primary and secondary sources.
6. Interpret data through various forms of evidence by employing qualitative and quantitative methods by means of appropriate research design, rigorous investigation, and critical analysis of a wide range of social phenomena.
7. Utilize skills developed through PLOs 1-6 to formulate a research question, identify primary and secondary sources relevant to the question, construct a research strategy to address the question in light of these sources, and carry out the research leading to a research-based product (e.g., written paper, oral presentation).

NYU Shanghai Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the NYU Shanghai Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/academic-policies/>).

Policies

Social Science and Data Science Double Major Guidelines

For students pursuing double majors, there can be no more than two courses double-counted between the primary and secondary majors. Students who are interested in pursuing a Social Science major (with Political Science, or Psychology Track) along with a Data Science major (with concentration in Political Science or Psychology) have the option to double-count more than two courses between the majors. Students would need to complete course requirements for both majors. The following courses are allowed to double counted toward both majors:

Social Science (Political Science Track) and Data Science (Concentration in Political Science)

- SOCS-SHU 150 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- SOCS-SHU 160 Introduction to International Politics
- BUSF-SHU 101 Statistics for Business and Economics **or** MATH-SHU 235 Probability and Statistics

Social Science (Psychology Track) and Data Science (Concentration in Psychology)

- PSYC-SHU 101 Introduction to Psychology
- BUSF-SHU 101 Statistics for Business and Economics **or** MATH-SHU 235 Probability and Statistics
- SOCS-SHU 350 Empirical Research Practice
- Choose One:
 - SOCS-SHU 334 Legal Psychology **or**
 - PSYC-SHU 234 Developmental Psychology **or**
 - PSYC-SHU 352 Psychology of Human Sexuality

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).