

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.

Tracks

Tracks within the major include:

- Anthropology (p. 1)
- Environmental Studies (p. 1)
- Global Public Health (<https://wiztest/shanghai-social-science-krd/curriculumtext/>)
- International Relations (p. 1)
- Political Economy (p. 1)
- Political Science (p. 1)
- Psychology (p. 1)
- Sociology (p. 1)
- Urban Studies (<https://wiztest/shanghai-social-science-krd/curriculumtext/>)
- Self-Designed Track (Requires prior approval from Undergraduate Coordinator)

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

Overview

Beyond Core Requirements and elective credits, the Social Science (BA) degree is divided into five sections:

- Foundational Courses
- Methods Courses
- Major Core Courses
- Focus Courses
- Capstone

Focus courses are selected from one of the following tracks:

- Anthropology (p. 3)
- Environmental Studies (p. 3)
- Global Public Health (p. 3)
- International Relations (p. 3)
- Political Economy (p. 3)
- Political Science (p. 3)
- Psychology (p. 3)
- Sociology (p. 3)
- Urban Studies (p. 3)
- Self-Designed Concentration (Requires prior approval from Undergraduate Coordinator)

While MATH-SHU 131 Calculus is not a degree requirement, it is strongly encouraged to fulfill the Mathematics requirements. MATH-SHU 131 Calculus is a common prerequisite for focus courses. Additionally, students pursuing the Social Science (BA) should carefully review the policies for the major.

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)		
<i>Writing</i>		
WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
<i>Language</i>		
Language Courses		
<i>Mathematics</i>		
MATH-SHU 131	Calculus	4
<i>Algorithmic Thinking</i>		

Algorithmic Thinking Course <i>Science</i>	4	SOCS-SHU 247	Computational Urban Science
Experimental Discovery in the Natural World Course	4	SOCS-SHU 318	Ethnographic Methods
Science, Technology and Society Course	4	SOCS-SHU 350	Empirical Research Practice
Major Requirements			
<i>Foundational Courses</i>			
Select two of the following:	8	<i>Major Core Courses</i>	
ECON-SHU 1 Principles of Macroeconomics		SOCS-SHU 151	Adolescence, Human Development, and Contexts: A Multi-disciplinary Perspective
ECON-SHU 3 Microeconomics		SOCS-SHU 223	Discrimination and Societal Analysis
ECON-SHU 251 Economics of Global Business		SOCS-SHU 228	Merchants, Chiefs, and Spirits
PSYC-SHU 101 Introduction to Psychology		SOCS-SHU 229	Capitalism, Socialism, Communism: Theory and Practice
SOCS-SHU 110 Introduction to Sociology		SOCS-SHU 236	The Chinese Family
SOCS-SHU 130 Introduction to Political Theory		SOCS-SHU 245	Ethnographic Thinking
SOCS-SHU 133 Urbanization in China		SOCS-SHU 253	Nature in Social Thought
SOCS-SHU 135 Environment and Society		SOCS-SHU 270	Social Change in Contemporary China
SOCS-SHU 136 Human Society and Culture		SOCS-SHU 289	From Soil to Society: Exploring Earth Systems and Human Factors
SOCS-SHU 145 Foundations of Public Policy		SOCS-SHU 334	Legal Psychology
SOCS-SHU 150 Introduction to Comparative Politics		SOCS-SHU 352	Society on Trial - Significant Legal Trials in History
SOCS-SHU 160 Introduction to International Politics		SOCS-SHU 378	Feminist Social Theory
SOCS-SHU 170 Introduction to Global Health		<i>Focus Courses</i>	
SOCS-SHU 190 Introduction to the Computational Social Science Methods		Select three courses from one of the following tracks: (see track requirements below)	
<i>Methods Courses</i>			
Select two of the following:	8	12	
BUSF-SHU 101 Statistics for Business and Economics ⁴		Anthropology	
GCHN-SHU 133 Visualizing Global China		Environmental Studies	
MATH-SHU 235 Probability and Statistics ⁴		Global Public Health	
SOCS-SHU 141 Methods of Social Research		International Relations	
SOCS-SHU 175 Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences		Political Economy	
SOCS-SHU 205 Fundamentals of Spatial Analytics		Political Science	
SOCS-SHU 210 Statistics for the Behavioral & Social Sciences ⁴		Psychology	
SOCS-SHU 213 Applied Social Network Analysis		Sociology	
SOCS-SHU 215 Pixelizing Societies from Space: Remote Sensing Perspectives		Urban Studies	
SOCS-SHU 218 Data Management for Quantitative Social Science		Capstone	
SOCS-SHU 240 Survey Research Methods		SOCS-SHU 401	Social Science Senior Seminar (Capstone) 4
		SOCS-SHU 402	Social Science Capstone Seminar 4
Electives			
Other Elective Credits			32-40
Total Credits			128
Tracks			
<i>Note: These are sample courses. Some courses count for more than one track; consult an academic adviser for details.</i>			

Anthropology

Course	Title	Credits
ART-SHU 250	Visual Culture and Social Art Practice: Collaborations and Community Interactions	4
GCHN-SHU 216	Psychology and Modernity in China	4
GCHN-SHU 226	Queer China	4
GCHN-SHU 246	Youth and Consumer Culture in China	4
GCHN-SHU 277	Medicine in China	4
HUMN-SHU 212	Paper City: Examining Urban Bureaucracies Ethnographically	4
SOCS-SHU 241	Cultures of Business and Work	4
SOCS-SHU 244	Anthropology of Mental Illness	4
SOCS-SHU 254	Ethnographies of Change in China	4
SOCS-SHU 328	Sexuality in the Digital Age	4

Political Economy

Course	Title	Credits
ECON-SHU 335	Development Economics	4
SOCS-SHU 222	International Political Economy	4
SOCS-SHU 326	Poverty and Inequality Around the Globe	4
SOCS-SHU 391	International Investment in Developing Countries: China and Africa	4

Political Science

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 220	Law and Society in the U.S.	4
SOCS-SHU 272	The U.S. Constitution: Is It relevant to China?	4
SOCS-SHU 330	Urban Political Ecology	4
SOCS-SHU 331	Politics in China	4
SOCS-SHU 339	Comparative Revolutions	4
SOCS-SHU 340	Comparative Constitutions	4
SOCS-SHU 378	Feminist Social Theory	4
SOCS-SHU 380	International Relations of the Asia-Pacific	4
SOCS-SHU 391	International Investment in Developing Countries: China and Africa	4

Environmental Studies

Course	Title	Credits
GCHN-SHU 243	China and the Environment	4
SOCS-SHU 204	Environmental System Science	4
SOCS-SHU 208	Cities at Crossroads: Environmental Challenges and Opportunities in Cities	4
SOCS-SHU 224	Climate Change and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 289	From Soil to Society: Exploring Earth Systems and Human Factors	4
SOCS-SHU 330	Urban Political Ecology	4
SOCS-SHU 333	Global Environmental Politics	4

Psychology

Course	Title	Credits
HIST-SHU 310	The Birth of Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 201	Social Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 210	Psychotherapy Theories & Research	4
PSYC-SHU 220	Cognitive Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 234	Developmental Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 238	Abnormal Psychology	4
PSYC-SHU 329	Parenting and Culture	4
PSYC-SHU 352	Psychology of Human Sexuality	4
PSYC-SHU 365	Emotional Development	4
PSYC-SHU 382	Psychotherapy Skills Practice	4
SOCS-SHU 383	Children and the Legal System	4

Sociology

Course	Title	Credits
SOCS-SHU 213	Applied Social Network Analysis	4
SOCS-SHU 219	Family and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 227	Inequality and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 265	Population and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 345	Organizations and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 360	The City and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 361	Education and Society	4
SOCS-SHU 388	Chinese Social Stratification in Comparative Perspective	4

International Relations

Course	Title	Credits
HIST-SHU 188	Empires in World History	4
SOCS-SHU 232	International Law and Institutions	4
SOCS-SHU 252	Ethics and Global Governance	4
SOCS-SHU 275	US-China Relations	4
SOCS-SHU 333	Global Environmental Politics	4
SOCS-SHU 370	China's Foreign Policy	4
SOCS-SHU 380	International Relations of the Asia-Pacific	4
SOCS-SHU 391	International Investment in Developing Countries: China and Africa	4

Urban Studies

Course	Title	Credits
HUMN-SHU 184	Urban Geography	4
HUMN-SHU 212	Paper City: Examining Urban Bureaucracies Ethnographically	4
SOCS-SHU 199	Global Transportation	4
SOCS-SHU 201	Planning Global Cities	4

SOCS-SHU 203	Global Urbanism	4	General Elective	4
SOCS-SHU 207	Urban and Architectural Design in China	4	Credits	16
SOCS-SHU 208	Cities at Crossroads: Environmental Challenges and Opportunities in Cities	4	Total Credits	128
SOCS-SHU 247	Computational Urban Science	4		
SOCS-SHU 303	Aviation and Society	4		
SOCS-SHU 394	Slums, Suburbs, and Supertalls: Housing in the 21st Century	4		

Sample Plan of Study

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

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).

Policies

Program Policies

Tracks

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.

Students must complete 3 courses in one track, at least 2 of which must be at the advanced level (300 or 400 level). Your academic advisor can help you determine which courses count for each track, and at which level, if it is not clear from the course code. Tracks are noted on student transcripts; for students who self-design a track, "Self-Designed" will appear as the track of record on their transcripts. Additional 200 level focus courses are widely available at the study away sites, NYU New York, and NYU Abu Dhabi; some 300 and 400 level focus courses are available at other sites, but students should plan on taking them at NYU Shanghai or consult with their Academic Advisors to determine where 300 and 400 level focus courses in their track are offered.

Prerequisite Courses for Declaring a Major

Final grade of C/ current semester midterm grade of B or higher in Social Science foundational course.

Social Science (BA) Policies

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.

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.

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 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 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/>).

NYU Shanghai Policies

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