

SOCIAL SCIENCE

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 major instead of the Social Science major.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Social Science Major Requirements: 44 Credits

Foundational Courses (100-200 Level) - Two Courses (8 Credits)

These courses provide an introduction to the foundational knowledge and building blocks of analytic methods in a range of Social Science disciplines and areas of focus. Typical coursework: A mix of lectures, discussions, assignments, shorter essays, quizzes, and/or exams.

Sample Courses:

- 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

Methods Courses (100-300 Level) - Two Courses (8 Credits)

These courses equip students with tools to both critically consume and create advanced social scientific research. Methods courses include introductory courses and more advanced courses which may have one or more prerequisites. Additional methods courses are available at the study away sites, NYU New York, and NYU Abu Dhabi.

Sample Courses:

- 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
- 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
- ECON-SHU 301 Econometrics

Note: If students have already fulfilled one methods requirement by completing one of the following courses:

- SOCS-SHU 210 Statistics for the Behavioral & Social Sciences
- MATH-SHU 235 Probability and Statistics
- BUSF-SHU 101 Statistics for Business and Economics

They are not allowed to use a second course from the aforementioned list to fulfill the second methods requirement.

Core Courses (200-300 Level) - Two Courses (8 Credits)

The Social Science core courses are interdisciplinary courses that create unexpected connections between the Social Science disciplines. Some core courses (formerly designated as “Classic Problems”) introduce the history and philosophy of the social scientific approach. Other core courses (formerly designated as “New Challenges”) introduce new approaches to current challenges in Social Science research. Students must take two core courses in total from either of the two categories. Social Science core courses are not widely available at the study away sites, NYU New York, or NYU Abu Dhabi; students should plan to take them in Shanghai.

Sample Courses:

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|----------------|---|
| • 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 |

Note: Students who complete two Social Science core courses may use additional core courses to complete the focus requirement if appropriate for their approved choice of focus.

Focus Courses (200-400 Level, Two must be 300 or 400 Level) - Three Courses (12 Credits)

Students must select a track in which to focus within the social science major:

- Anthropology
- Environmental Studies
- Global Public Health
- International Relations
- Political Economy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- 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.

Sample Courses (Note: some courses count for more than one track; consult your Academic Advisor for details):

Anthropology

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| • SOCS-SHU 241 | Cultures of Business and Work |
| • SOCS-SHU 254 | Ethnographies of Change in China |
| • GCHN-SHU 226 | Queer China |
| • GCHN-SHU 246 | Youth and Consumer Culture in China |

Environmental Studies

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| • SOCS-SHU 204 | Environmental System Science |
| • GCHN-SHU 243 | China and the Environment |
| • SOCS-SHU 330 | Urban Political Ecology |
| • SOCS-SHU 333 | Global Environmental Politics |

Global Public Health

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| • SOCS-SHU 260 | Contemporary Challenges in Global Health |
| • SOCS-SHU 306 | Pestilence: Critical Perspectives in Global Health |
| • SOCS-SHU 332 | Global Mental Health |

International Relations

- SOCS-SHU 232 International Law and Institutions
- SOCS-SHU 275 U.S. China Relations
- SOCS-SHU 370 China's Foreign Policy

Political Economy

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

Political Science (*see also courses listed under the Political Economy and International Relations tracks, many of which also count for the Political Science track*)

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

Psychology

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

Sociology

- SOCS-SHU 227 Inequality and Society
- SOCS-SHU 265 Population and Society
- SOCS-SHU 360 The City and Society
- SOCS-SHU 361 Education and Society

Urban Studies

- SOCS-SHU 201 Planning Global Cities
- SOCS-SHU 207 Urban and Architectural Design in China
- SOCS-SHU 303 Aviation and Society
- SOCS-SHU 394 Slums, Suburbs, and Supertalls: Housing and Urbanization

Capstone Courses - Two Courses (8 Credits)

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.

General Electives

General Elective courses to meet 128 credit requirements.

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

Please see the double major sample course plan on the Social Science website: <https://shanghai.nyu.edu/academics/majors/social-science>.

Footnotes:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Not every course listed is taught every semester, and in any given semester other courses may be offered that fulfill these requirements. Requirements may be met through equivalent courses in NYU's global network with prior approval.
- 3) Requirement to declare the major: Currently enrolled in or have a final grade of C or above in a Social Science foundational course
- 4) The program is formed by four components: (1) core requirements, (2) required major courses, (3) major electives, and (4) general electives.
- 5) For core requirements see "Core Curriculum" section.

Social Science Minor (For details see "Requirements for Minors" section)**Social Science Program Learning Outcomes**

- PLO 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.
- PLO 2: Demonstrate a familiarity with social science approaches to the study of behavior, sociality, exchange, and governance.
- PLO 3: Use modes of inquiry found in professional literature as a means of evaluating social science problems.
- PLO 4: Compare concepts and methods to analyze substantive domains of social science study, including conflict, trade, family, environment, healthcare, and human rights.
- PLO 5: Engage in the collection and presentation of data from primary and secondary sources.
- PLO 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.
- PLO 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).

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SAMPLE SCHEDULE 1

This is just one example of how a student could organize their courses if pursuing a Social Science major. It assumes a student begins taking Social Science major courses in the first year. Sample Schedule 2 offers an alternate plan that begins in the second year. Students may propose alternative schedules to their advisors as well.

1st Semester, Fall	Credits
Global Perspectives on Society	4
Core Course	4
Core Course	4
Chinese or EAP	4
Credits	16

2nd Semester, Spring	Credits
Writing as Inquiry	4
Social Science Foundational Course	4
Core Course	4
Chinese or EAP	4
Credits	16

3rd Semester, Fall	Credits
Perspectives on the Humanities	4
Social Science Foundational Course	4
Social Science Core Course	4
Core Course or Chinese	4
Credits	16

4th Semester, Spring	Credits
Core Course or Chinese	4
Core Course	4
Social Science Core Course	4
Social Science Methods Course	4
Credits	16

5th Semester, Fall	Credits
Core Course	4
Social Science Focus Course	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16

6th Semester, Spring	Credits
Social Science Focus Course	4
Core Course or General Elective	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16

7th Semester, Fall	Credits
Social Science Senior Seminar	4
Social Science Focus Course	4
Social Science Methods Course	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16

8th Semester, Spring	Credits
Social Science Capstone Seminar	4
Core Course	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16

Total Credits: 128

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SAMPLE SCHEDULE 2

1st Semester, Fall	Credits
Global Perspectives on Society	4
Core Course	4
Core Course	4
Chinese or EAP	4
Credits	16
2nd Semester, Spring	Credits
Writing as Inquiry	4
Core Course	4
Core Course	4
Chinese or EAP	4
Credits	16
3rd Semester, Fall	Credits
Perspectives on the Humanities	4
Social Science Foundational Course	4
Social Science Core Course	4
Core Course or Chinese	4
Credits	16
4th Semester, Spring	Credits
Core Course or Chinese	4
Core Course	4
Social Science Core Course	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
5th Semester, Fall	Credits
Social Science Foundational Course	4
Social Science Focus Course	4
Core Course or General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
6th Semester, Spring	Credits
Social Science Methods Course	4
Social Science Focus Course	4
Core Course or General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
7th Semester, Fall	Credits
Social Science Senior Seminar	4
Social Science Methods Course	4
Social Science Focus Course	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
8th Semester, Spring	Credits
Social Science Capstone Seminar	4
Core Course	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16

Total Credits: 128