

# CCSU Department of Sociology



"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

— MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

*Did you know? In 1948, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Sociology.*

**Spring 2025 Newsletter**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**317 Bassett Hall**

<https://www.ccsu.edu/welcome-department-sociology/sociology-faculty>

# Areas of Focus in the CCSU Sociology Department

## POWER, POLITICS, AND INSTITUTIONS

SOC 233 Family  
SOC 305 Social Movements  
SOC 307 Schools, Education, and Society  
SOC 309 Immigration  
SOC 312 Class, Power, and Status  
SOC 409 Why Unions Matter  
SOC 424 Genocide and the Modern World  
SOC 426 Sociology of Revolution  
SOC 427 Poverty and Welfare  
SOC 428 Globalization and its Discontents  
SOC 444 Sport and Play  
SOC 452 Organizations, Occupations, and Work  
SOC 468 Sociology of Religion  
SOC 478 Ireland, South Africa, and Palestine



## IDENTITIES AND INEQUALITIES

SOC 208 LGBTQ Communities  
SOC 212 Race, Class, Gender  
SOC 240 Sociology of Gender  
SOC 250 Latina Identity and Empowerment  
SOC 306 Social Construction of Sexuality  
SOC 309 Immigration  
SOC 322 Race and Racisms  
SOC 455 Males, Manhood, and Masculinity

## HEALTH, AGING, AND THE LIFE COURSE

SOC 340 Aging and the Life Course  
SOC 440 Death and Dying  
SOC 441 Sociology of the Aging Body  
SOC 461 Intimacy and Aging  
SOC 466 Soc of Children and Childhood  
SOC 478 Sociology of Health and Illness  
SOC 478 Care work



## CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

SOC 209 Sociology of Culture  
SOC 302 Sociology of Music  
SOC 308 Animals and Society  
SOC 355 The Culture and Politics of Food  
SOC 464 Sociology of Emotions  
SOC 465 Art and Society  
SOC 485 Ads, Fads, and Consumer Culture  
SOC 468 Sociology of Religion  
SOC 478 Earth in Crisis, Climate Change and Society (formerly known as Environmental Sociology)

# CCSU Sociology Student Internships

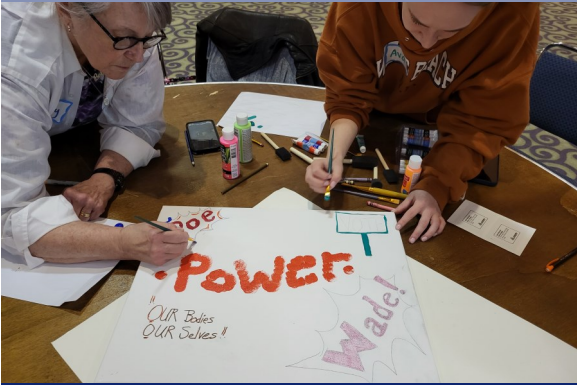
Over the past 2 years, 20 CCSU Sociology students have engaged in Experiential Learning opportunities through the Sociology Internship Program

Each Spring, Sociology majors and minors have the opportunity to enroll in **SOC 490 Internship in Sociology**, a 4-credit course that provides students with experiential learning opportunities in the community and outside the classroom. This experience provides the chance to network with professionals in various occupational fields which can lead to future job opportunities and mentorships, and also help prepare students for future careers in sociology.

In the past two years, students have interned at Hands on Hartford, Girls Inc in Meriden, the YWCA in New Britain, the Institute for Hispanic Families, Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF), Queen Ann Nzinga Center, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, plus others.

One recent sociology graduate, Yael Santiago, wrote about his experience interning for the Institute for Hispanic Families, which is connected to Catholic Charities in Hartford. He said after working at Catholic Charities, “this opportunity helped me understand the needs of the people, understand society and be able to find solutions to help those who are suffering financially and mentally.” Another sociology student, Melanie Cohen wrote about her experience interning at Hands on Hartford. She said, “I observed sociology in action in various ways during my internship. I noticed how people from different backgrounds and walks of life came together to volunteer and help those in need. I also observed the impact of social and economic factors on the clients who visited the food pantry. Many of them were struggling with poverty, unemployment, and homelessness, and it was evident that these issues were interconnected. This experience highlighted the importance of understanding the social context in which individuals and communities operate.”

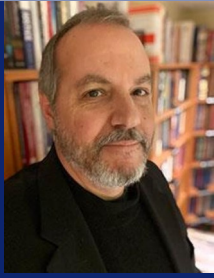
The Sociology Internship class (SOC 490) runs every year during the spring semester. Applications are due early November of each year. Contact sociology Prof. Heather Rodriguez for additional information at [hrodriguez@ccsu.edu](mailto:hrodriguez@ccsu.edu). See page 4 for more information on our interns.



Above: Students and community members engage in intergenerational art event on campus in March 2024. Sponsored by the Many Voices Initiative and Gerontology Programs at CCSU.

## Keep in Mind for Spring 2025

- Feb 14th-17th Holiday. No Classes
- February 26, 2025 : Call for Submissions deadline for ASA Annual Meeting “Reimagining the Future of Work”. Chicago, IL Aug 8-12, 2025.
- TBA: URCAP Undergraduate Research Awards
- March 6-9th, Boston, MA: Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Conference 2025: “Building Solidarity to Break Cycles of Repression.”
- March 17th-23rd: Spring Break
- March 24: Fall 2025 Academic Advising begins
- March 25: Elihu Burritt Library Research Award Due date
- TBA: University Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD)
- April 22, 2025: Earth Day
- May 17, 2025: Spring Commencement



### John Mitrano, PhD

Dr. Mitrano has published in the areas of sport in society, experiential education, and Italian Americana.

His current research focuses on the ethnic identity formation process among Italian-Americans, and the role that heritage and cultural tourism programs play in this process.



### Jessica Greenebaum, PhD

Dr. Greenebaum's research and teaching areas focus on the intersections of

gender, feminism, animals and society, and vegan studies. She regularly teaches Sociology of Gender, Animals & Society, and the Culture and Politics of Food, as well as Qualitative Methods.



### Ashley Green, PhD

In Dr. Green's Sexuality course, students use evidence-based research to create

digital projects (pod casts, webpage, tiktoks, etc.) that educate the public and bring awareness to topics related to sexuality. Students create podcasts by interviewing local community organizations on pressing social issues related to sexuality, identity, and society.



### Sociology Faculty Research and Teaching

CCSU Sociology faculty engage in research, teaching, and service as part of their multifaceted roles in academia. Research allows faculty to contribute to their fields by generating new knowledge, which can enhance their teaching and provide practical insights. Service encompasses various activities that support the institution and community, such as participating in committees, mentoring students, and contributing to public outreach. Together, these components foster a rich educational environment and advance institutional goals related to community engagement.



### Bruce Day, PhD

Dr. Day is the director of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the International Honors Society for Sociology Students. Each year he plays a role in identifying and inducting eligible sociology students into AKD. During the Spring of 2025, Dr. Day is working with

the New Britain YWCA to collect a series of oral histories meant to provide a record of two key aspects of this community organization. The first is to explore the history and development of the YWCA. The goal for this focus is archiving first-hand accounts of the organization's history and impact on the community. The second aspect focuses on the lived experiences of the interview subjects as longtime active participants in the organization and community of New Britain. This collaboration is meant to augment the role of CCSU as a repository of community history while also providing expertise and services to meet the needs of our community partners.

The CCSU Center for Community Engagement and Social Research brought together Tracey Madden-Hennessey (YWCA New Britain's CEO) and Dr. Bruce Day and is supporting their collaboration on this project. Dr. Day is collaborating with two students in the Sociology Department and the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program, Emma Farrow and Katy Sakash, to assist with interviews, transcription and archiving of the oral histories.

Picture (above, top right): Students from SOC/LTN 250 Latina Identity and Empowerment, taught by Sociology Professor Dr. Rodriguez, display and discuss their sociological art projects that address and counteract negative racial stereotypes about the Latinx population.

## Spring 2025 Sociology Interns



**Jolene Golino, Senior, May '25**  
Sociology major, Criminal Justice minor

Jolene is interning at the YWCA of New Britain. This semester, she will assist in planning and organizing STRIVE workshops and activities, ensuring they align with program goals and youth development objectives. She will assist with youth development, serving as a role model, creating engaging lessons and workshops for participants, and fostering skill development. After graduation, Jolene would like to be a school counselor and be a childhood therapist.



**Tricia Riley, Senior, May '25**  
Sociology major, Global Studies minor

Tricia is interning at Hands on Hartford, an organization that serves Hartford's most economically challenged residents in the areas of food, housing, and health. This semester, she will assist with organizing community events, data management, communications and graphic design, fundraising campaigns and initiatives. After graduation, Tricia plans to pursue her Masters in International Relations and increase her knowledge of global policies, international communication, unique challenges faced by immigrant populations, and human rights advocacy.



**Tiara Mitchell Senior, December '25**  
Sociology major, American Studies minor

Tiara is interning at the YWCA in New Britain. This semester, she will assist at an after-school program focused on implementing healthy lifestyles and choices for adolescents. Tiara will act as a mentor to young girls in the program, by empowering girls to achieve their personal goals while developing their confidence. After graduation, Tiara wants to apply her sociological knowledge of human behavior, social dynamics, and communication skills to improving the lives of others. Her strengths are in analyzing societal trends and understanding diverse perspectives.



**Emily Ross, Senior, May '25**  
Psych major, Sociology minor

Emily is interning at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain. This semester, she is assisting patients with care and leading swim classes for children with special needs. After graduation, Emily plans to develop her own non-profit, and serve on boards of well established non-profits, that are centered around providing swim education to underprivileged communities. She plans to pursue graduate school and gain more knowledge in non-profit management and in business models that align with her values of helping populations in need.

Select Sociology Course Offerings. For a full list of course offerings, see:  
<https://www.ccsu.edu/sociology>

SOC 110 Introductory Sociology  
SOC 111 Social Problems  
SOC 208 Sociology of LGBTQ+ Communities  
SOC 209 Sociology of Culture  
SOC 212 Race, Class, and Gender  
SOC 233 The Family  
SOC 234 The Social Construction of Self and Society  
SOC 240 The Sociology of Gender  
SOC 340 Aging and Life Course  
SOC 310 Research Methods  
SOC 410 Quantitative Analysis  
SOC 412 Qualitative Analysis  
SOC 426 Sociology of Revolution  
SOC 428 Globalization and Its Discontents  
SOC 441 Sociology of the Aging Body

SOC 307 Schools, Education & Society  
SOC 306 Social Construction of Sexuality  
SOC 305 Social Movements  
SOC 302 Sociology of Music  
SOC 300 Sociological Theory  
SOC 250 Latina Identity and Empowerment  
SOC 308 Animals and Society  
SOC 312 Class, Power, and Status  
SOC 355 The Culture and Politics of Food  
SOC 409 Why Unions Matter  
SOC 411 Oral History for the Social Sciences  
SOC 424 Genocide and the Modern World  
SOC 427 American Poverty and Social Welfare  
SOC 440 Death and Dying  
SOC 444 Sport and Play in America

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A SOCIOLOGY DEGREE?

Given the breadth, adaptability and utility of sociology, employment opportunities abound for sociology graduates. The following list of possibilities is only illustrative-- many other paths may be open to you. Employment sectors include:

**Social services**--in rehabilitation, case management, group work with youth or the elderly, recreation, or administration

**Community work**--in fund-raising for social service organizations, nonprofits, child-care or community development agencies, or environmental groups

**Corrections**--in probation, parole, or other criminal justice work

**Business**--in advertising, marketing and consumer research, insurance, real estate, personnel work, training, or sales

**College settings**--in admissions, alumni relations, or placement offices

**Health services**--in family planning, substance abuse, rehabilitation counseling, health planning, hospital admissions, and insurance companies

**Publishing, journalism, social media, and public relations**--in writing, research, and editing

**Government services**--in federal, state, and local government jobs in such areas as transportation, housing, and labor

**Counseling**--family, children, marriage, etc. in conjunction with appropriate degree and certification.



*(Above) CCSU Student Sociology Club members help students register to vote ahead of the Nov 2024 election.*

Sociology Majors gain the following skills. The following is only illustrative:

**Research and Data Analysis:** Sociology students gain a foundation in research and data analysis that equips them to collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data, to make evidence-based decisions, and then to communicate their results to broad audiences.

**Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Sociology graduates can analyze complex issues, identify root causes, and develop evidence-based solutions. This skill set is invaluable in addressing societal challenges.

**Cultural Competence:** Sociology students explore diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences, which enables them to engage effectively with individuals and communities from many different backgrounds. In every workplace, it is critical to have workers who have cultural competence, particularly in our diverse and global society.

**Understanding of Social Institutions:** Sociology is the social science discipline that incorporates an analysis of all social institutions, including workplaces, politics, health, law, education, family, media. Sociology gives students a deeper understanding of how society works, which informs their ability to progress and lead in many different fields.

**Effective Communication:** Sociology majors can articulate complex ideas clearly and persuasively, whether in writing or verbally. This proficiency is indispensable in conveying ideas, advocating for change, and fostering understanding in diverse settings. Sociology students develop skills that allow them to contribute their insights to discussions on pressing societal issues.

These skills are valuable in all employment sectors—nonprofit, private, and public. Sociology graduates hold all kinds of jobs, including policy analyst, market researcher, nonprofit advocate, writer, social services professional, project manager, teacher, and many, many others. And they are an excellent fit for jobs in education, medicine, law, philanthropy, politics, business, and countless other arenas. Sociology provides students with a scientific understanding of the complex issues confronting society today.

**Stop by the CCSU Sociology Department today to learn more about internships, employment, research opportunities, the major/minor, and courses! We are located on the third floor of Bassett Hall.**

Source: <https://www.asanet.org/public-engagement/the-value-of-sociology-initiative/>

Retrieved from American Sociological Association website October 2023 <http://www.asanet.org/student/career/homepage.html>