

# **Sociology & Anthropology**

**Time to Change Your World!**

## Why SOAN?



The Sociology/Anthropology (SOAN) department offers an undergraduate program which combines both sociological and anthropological viewpoints about culture, society and life. Our course offerings are diverse, and our program requirements offer considerable flexibility; in many ways, **our students can build their programs of study around their interests.** Our curriculum is designed to provide students with analytical, writing, research and presentation skills essential to many careers and graduate-level study.

**SOAN students are prepared to be informed, active, and responsible participants in the increasingly complex social life of the modern world.**

## Why at Mount Saint Vincent University?

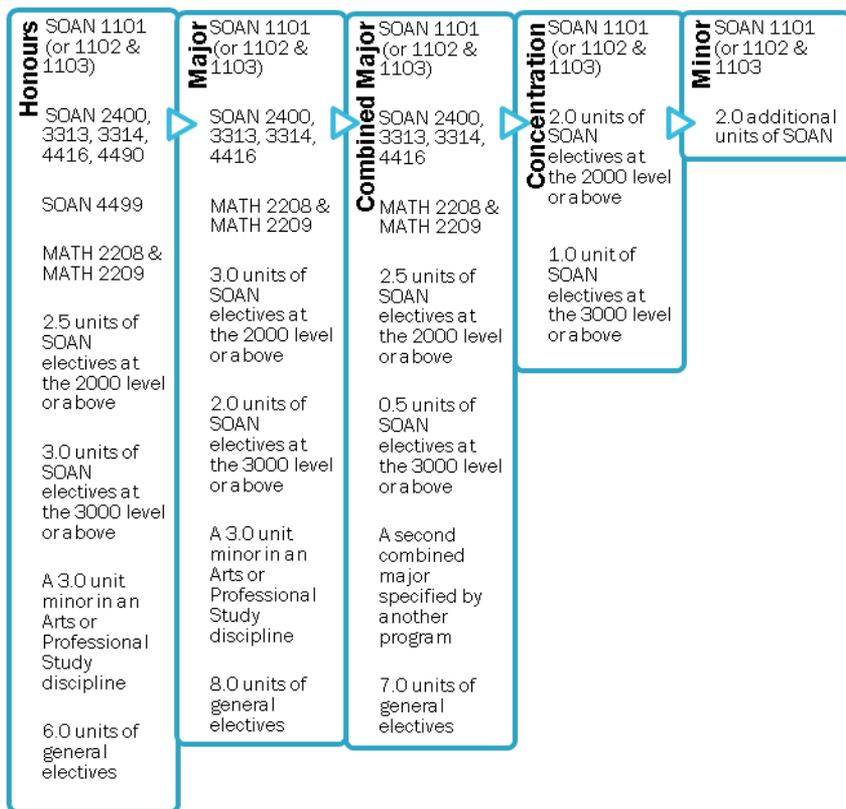
Sociology (and to a lesser extent anthropology) are common subjects in Canadian universities. From coast to coast to coast, students study these subjects to gain a better understanding of society—where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.

### **But why go to the Mount for SOAN?**

- Small class sizes
- Social justice-oriented faculty
- Opportunities to work closely with faculty on actual research
- Wide variety of courses, covering gender, inequality, public policy, aboriginal issues and more
- Flexibility of program and Arts degrees in general

# What does the program look like?

We offer a number of options for students, all with different requirements:



Our introductory level courses, **SOAN 1101—Introduction to Sociology & Anthropology**, **SOAN 1102—Introduction to Anthropology**, and **SOAN 1103—Introduction to Sociology** are required for most higher level study in our department. **We offer these courses every year, so you can start your studies now!**



**SOAN 1102 and SOAN 1103 are complementary courses. You can take them in either order.**

# What can I expect in my courses?

In any given year, we offer between twenty and thirty different courses, many of which draw students from all over the University. This interdisciplinary appeal means that **a wide variety of students - and a wide variety of viewpoints - are in our classes.**

**Students who want to complete higher level study in SOAN start at our introductory level course(s):**

**SOAN 1101      Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology      1.0 unit**

An introduction to the study of social and cultural life that includes an examination of the basic concepts and terminology of sociology and anthropology. Sociological and anthropological theory and methodology will also be introduced, as will social organization, socialization, social control, and social development in a cross-cultural framework.

**SOAN 1102      Introduction to Anthropology      0.5 unit**

An introduction to the cross-cultural study of peoples. Human diversity will be explored across geographical space and over time through socio-cultural, physical, archaeological, and linguistic perspectives. Topics include culture, biological evolution, language, the fossil record, identity, economic and political systems, social inequality and social justice, and power and resistance.

**SOAN 1103      Introduction to Sociology      0.5 unit**

An examination of the basic concepts and subject matter of sociology focusing on social relationships, group behaviour, social roles across the life cycle, and introduction to the various subfields of sociology. Processes such as urbanization, social movements, deviance, and socialization will be studied.

**Students who want to complete a combined major, major, or honours in SOAN will also require:**

**SOAN 2400 Introduction to Social Theory 0.5 unit**

Prerequisite: SOAN 1101, or SOAN 1102 and 1103

An introduction to the key figures and major ideas in the allied disciplines of sociology and anthropology. Students will examine the historical development of theorizing in these disciplines and survey themes from their beginnings to the present.

**SOAN 3313 Research Methods I: Introduction to Social Research 0.5 unit**

Prerequisites: SOAN 1101, or SOAN 1102 and 1103, and MATH 2208 (MATH 2208 may be taken concurrently with SOAN 3313)

An overview of the methods of sociological and anthropological inquiry including the relationship of theory to research, ethics, research design and sampling. A range of methodologies will be examined. (Also listed under Public Policy Studies)

**SOAN 3314 Research Methods II: Quantitative Approaches 0.5 unit**

Prerequisite: SOAN 3313 and MATH 2209 (MATH 2209 may be taken concurrently with SOAN 3314)

An introduction to the processes involved in quantitative social survey research. Students will learn to apply basic statistical skills (using a computer-based statistical program like SPSS), and how to undertake and critically assess quantitative analyses. (Also listed under Public Policy Studies)

**SOAN 4416 Contemporary Social Theory 0.5 unit**

Prerequisites: SOAN 2400

A seminar course that examines some of the major contemporary theoretical perspectives in sociology and anthropology.



**Admission to the Honours Program is decided by the department.** Students with 10 or more units of study may apply by February 1 for September admission. See our administrative assistant in EVAR 454 for more information.

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### **Students who want to complete an honours degree in SOAN will also require:**

**SOAN 4490      Senior Seminar      0.5 unit**

Prerequisites: SOAN 3313/3314 and 4416 (SOAN 4416 may be taken concurrently with 4490)

A seminar for advanced students. Students will examine topics in theory and methodology focusing on the ways empirical research is informed by theory, and on the challenges facing empirical researchers in both academic and applied settings.

**SOAN 4499      Honours Thesis      1.0 unit**

Prerequisite: advanced standing in the honours program

Students will complete a research project under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The outcome of this work will normally be an oral presentation and a written thesis.

### **Are you looking to pursue in-depth study in SOAN?**

Many students looking towards graduate school will need to complete an honours degree. That said, even if you are not planning to apply to grad school, completing an honours thesis gives you the chance to research information on a topic that is of particular interest to you. **Our students have completed theses in a variety of areas:**

- Power and the world food system
- Socialization differences in families headed by same-sex couples
- Gender dynamics in education
- Religion and crime
- Employment barriers for individuals with physical disabilities
- Men's roles in child-rearing

...and many more!

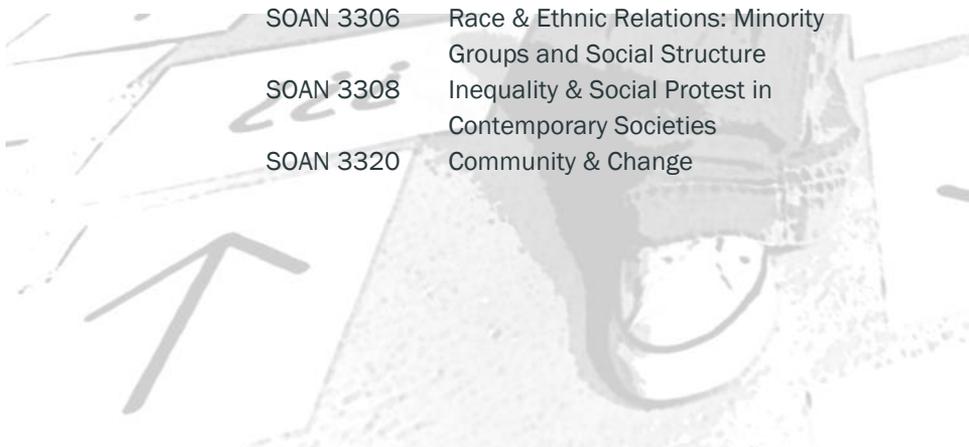
# What other classes are offered?

SOAN can fit into your academic plans in a number of ways. Pick from our courses to meet a SOAN degree requirement, cover one or both of the Social Science (Group B) requirements for non-professional majors, or to complement your studies in other areas!

## Find a SOAN class that speaks to your interests!

<b>Aboriginal Issues</b>	SOAN 3311	Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Traditional Cultures
	SOAN 3312	Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Contemporary Issues
<b>Aging</b>	SOAN2218/ FSGN 2208	Cross Cultural Study of Aging
	SOAN 2219/ FSGN 2219	Sociology of Aging
	SOAN 3341	Socialization in Adulthood
<b>Canada</b>	SOAN 2218	Canadian Social Policy
	SOAN 2230	Canadian Society
	SOAN 2231	Society & Culture in Atlantic Canada
	SOAN 3303	Race & Ethnic Relations: Basic Concepts
	SOAN 3306	Race & Ethnic Relations: Minority Groups and Social Structure
	SOAN 3311	Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Traditional Cultures
	SOAN 3312	Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Contemporary Issues
	SOAN 3333	Criminal Justice in Canada
<b>Childhood</b>	SOAN 2221	Family in Comparative Perspective
	SOAN 2222	Family Life Cycle
	SOAN 3340	Socialization in Early Life
	SOAN 3350/ EDUC 5425	School and Society
	SOAN 3351/ EDUC 5426	School as a Social System

<b>Community</b>	SOAN 3320	Community & Change
	SOAN 3360	Organizations in Society
<b>Crime</b>	SOAN 3332	Sociology of Crime
	SOAN 3333	Criminal Justice in Canada
<b>Diversity</b>	SOAN 2265	Sociology of Women
	SOAN 2300	Deviance
	SOAN 3303	Race & Ethnic Relations: Basic Concepts
	SOAN 3306	Race & Ethnic Relations: Minority Groups and Social Structure
	SOAN 3350/ EDUC 5425	School and Society
<b>Family</b>	SOAN 2219/ FSGN 2219	Sociology of Aging
	SOAN 2221	Family in Comparative Perspective
	SOAN 2222	Family Life Cycle
	SOAN 3340	Socialization in Early Life
	SOAN 3341	Socialization in Adulthood
	<b>Globalization</b>	SOAN 2202
SOAN 2203		Global Human Issues
SOAN 2266		Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women
SOAN 3302		Global Transformations
SOAN 3303		Race & Ethnic Relations: Basic Concepts
SOAN 3306		Race & Ethnic Relations: Minority Groups and Social Structure
SOAN 3308		Inequality & Social Protest in Contemporary Societies
SOAN 3320		Community & Change



**Governance &  
Public Policy**

SOAN 2203 Global Human Issues  
SOAN 2218 Canadian Social Policy  
SOAN 2219/  
FSGN 2219 Sociology of Aging  
SOAN 3302 Global Transformations  
SOAN 3307/  
POLS 3307 Politics & Society  
SOAN 3312 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada:  
Contemporary Issues  
SOAN 3360 Organizations in Society

**History:**

SOAN 2101 Human Evolution  
SOAN 2102 Prehistoric Societies  
SOAN 3303 Race & Ethnic Relations: Basic  
Concepts  
SOAN 3311 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada:  
Traditional Cultures

**Power & Inequality**

SOAN 2203 Global Human Issues  
SOAN 2230 Canadian Society  
SOAN 2231 Society & Culture in Atlantic Canada  
SOAN 2265 Sociology of Women  
SOAN 3302 Global Transformations  
SOAN 3307/  
POLS 3307 Politics & Society  
SOAN 3308 Inequality & Social Protest in  
Contemporary Societies  
SOAN 3370 Anthropology of War and Aggression  
SOAN 3371/  
WOMS 3371 Women, Resistance & Empowerment

**Social Research**

SOAN 3313 Research Methods I: Introduction to  
Social Research  
SOAN 3314 Research Methods II: Quantitative  
Approaches

<b>Social Theory</b>	SOAN 2400	Introduction to Social Theory
	SOAN 4416	Contemporary Social Theory
<b>Women</b>	SOAN 2265	Sociology of Women
	SOAN 2266	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women
	SOAN 3371/ WOMS 3371	Women, Resistance & Empowerment
<b>Work</b>	SOAN 2202	Work in Society & Culture
	SOAN 2266	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women
	SOAN 3341	Socialization in Adulthood
	SOAN 3360	Organizations in Society

Details on all of these courses may be found in the academic calendar.

### **What if I am interested in a topic other than these?**

Do you have a specific area of interest that is not covered in our usual classes? Like any other department, **we are not able to offer courses in all areas of sociology/anthropology, but this shouldn't limit you!**

Students with some SOAN background can work with a member of the department on a readings course (SOAN 4405) or directed study (SOAN 4411). In these courses, **you will work one-on-one with one of our faculty members to explore a specific area or issue in depth.**

Students normally are expected to write a research paper as a main part of their course grade in these classes. Talk to any member of our department for more details.

**We also occasionally offer SOAN 3380: Selected Topics in SOAN to explore an issue closely related to a faculty member's research.** Past topics have included sexualities, the sociology of health and illness, ethnohistory, visual anthropology and cooperatives. Contact the department for more information.

social ties of older persons  
identity organizational democracy communities  
theory socio-economic organisation fisheries  
inequality and disadvantage socio-political struggle

Mixed methodology radical imagination  
Civil rights resistance systems of domination radical political  
social accounting subjective experience social power  
Japanese Canadian experiences social movements

# SOAN RESEARCH

Qualitative research  
critical theory co-operatives  
community development  
grassroots alternative-building  
information society families  
gender  
Alzheimer's disease  
anti-capitalism health  
technology culture

socio-legal dimensions of risk sexuality  
youth aging social inequalities  
race dynamics globalization  
anarchism  
class

# Research is alive in SOAN!

Our department members pride themselves on being productive and engaged social researchers, many of whom have externally-funded research programs. **If you are looking for someone to supervise a directed study or honours thesis, or are simply have questions about a certain topic, take a look at what we are researching!**

## **Dr. Alan Brown**

**alan.brown@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: quantitative and mixed methodology research; criminology; the socio-legal dimensions of risk; social inequalities of race, class, gender and sexuality

## **Dr. Leslie Brown**

**leslie.brown@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: organizational democracy; co-operatives; community development; social accounting and reporting

## **Dr. Anthony Davis**

**anthony.davis@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: socio-economic organization and dynamics of North Atlantic rim fisheries, and fishing communities families; Native and non-native small boat fish harvesters' local ecological knowledge; culture, social power and systems of domination

## **Dr. Alex Khasnabish**

**alex.khasnabish@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: culture, power, and resistance; globalization; critical and radical political theory; the radical imagination, socio-political struggle and transformation, and social movements; anti-capitalism, anarchism, and grassroots alternative-building

**Dr. Hazel MacRae****hazel.macrae@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: sociology of aging; the social ties of older persons; identity; the subjective experience of Alzheimer's disease; and older women and health

**Dr. Norman Okihiro****norman.okihiro@msvu.ca**

Areas of Research: inequality and disadvantage; differential access to higher education, patterns of burglary, illegalized economic crime in the outports and seniors 'drug use in Nova Scotia; new barriers to new qualitative research; civil rights

We also have a number of part-time faculty members who also have productive research programs. Some of their research interests include:

- Cultural tourism and the Mi'kmaw
- Class consciousness
- Cultural identity and generational change
- Hate propaganda
- Media impact on adolescents' relationships
- Native leadership

**Are you interested in helping with research?**

On occasion, our members are in need of research assistance, particularly from students familiar with social research processes. Ask your faculty about any upcoming employment needs with their research projects!

# Connect with us!

## Have a Question?

### Have a question about... Contact

Declaring a major in SOAN	Dr. Alex Khasnabish Department Chair	EVAR 443 902-457-6565 alex.khasnabish@msvu.ca
Arranging for academic advising appointments & general inquiries	Marisa Grant Administrative Assistant	EVAR 454 902-457-6347 marisa.grant@msvu.ca
General Arts requirements and declaring a General Studies BA with a SOAN minor or concentration	Heather Graham Academic Advisor	Seton 302 902-457-6324 advising@msvu.ca

## Contacting the Department

Dr. Alan Brown EVAR 440 902-457-6239 alan.brown@msvu.ca	Dr. Leslie Brown EVAR 461 902-457-6240 leslie.brown@msvu.ca	Dr. Anthony Davis EVAR 462 902-457-6296 anthony.davis@msvu.ca
Dr. Alex Khasnabish EVAR 443 902-457-6565 alex.khasnabish@msvu.ca	Dr. Hazel MacRae EVAR 441 902-457-6537 hazel.macrae@msvu.ca	Dr. Norman Okihiro EVAR 452 902-457-6236 norman.okihiro@msvu.ca
Marisa Grant EVAR 454 902-457-6347 marisa.grant@msvu.ca	Part-time Faculty Contact Marisa Grant for details.	

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[www.msvu.ca/SOAN](http://www.msvu.ca/SOAN)