

THE SOCIOLOGIST

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

WELCOME

Welcome to “The Sociologist,” the Department of Sociology’s official undergraduate studies newsletter. This is the first issue of the 2009/2010 academic year. There are at least two issues each academic year providing timely news and information for sociology majors and minors. Don’t forget to check out www.uiowa.edu/~soc for more information!

ADVISING NOTES

Remember to be in touch with your departmental advisors! Communication with your advisor may help you arrive at graduation in a timely manner. The following are the names, office locations, and contact information of the sociology advisors for Fall’ 09. You can find out who your advisor is by looking on ISIS, contacting the department office (319) 335-2502, or checking the list outside the office (W140 SSH):

- ◆ Rob Baller — W114 SSH (335-2485); Office Hours: MWF 11:30am-1pm & by appt.; robert-baller@uiowa.edu
- ◆ Jae-On Kim -- W145 SSH (335-2488); Office Hours: MW 10:30am-Noon & by appt.; jae-on-kim@uiowa.edu
- ◆ Kevin Leicht — W110 SSH (353-2813); Office Hours: TR 10am-Noon & by appt.; kevin-leicht@uiowa.edu
- ◆ Michael Lovaglia — W137 SSH (335-2494); Office Hours: W 1pm-2:30pm; R 12:15pm-1:45pm & by appt.; michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu
- ◆ Mary Noonan — W121 SSH (335-2490); Office Hours: TR 11:30am-12:30pm & by appt.; mary-noonan-1@uiowa.edu

YOUR DEGREE AUDIT FORM

You can pull up your degree audit through ISIS. At the beginning of the form you can see how many semester hours you have earned. Your degree consists of three parts: General Education Requirement (GER), Sociology degree requirements, and general electives. All three parts add up to 120 semester hours. Your Sociology degree requirements will comprise a minimum of 33 hours of the 120 hours.

Next, check your G.P.A.! You need to have a 2.0 or higher, both overall and for the Sociology major.

Throughout the degree evaluation, you can see which course requirements you still need to fulfill. Any requirements that still need to be completed will have a red “NO” next to the sub-section and a red minus sign next to the particular requirement. An “OK” or plus sign shows that the requirement alongside it has been fulfilled.

It is a good idea to check your degree audit at least once a semester to keep track of what courses you still need to take, and to make sure that all of the information is correct.

If you have any questions about your degree evaluation or how to read it, please contact your advisor so that they can go over it with you.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

Alumni Survey p.3;

Sociology Club pp. 3-4

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Upcoming Significant Deadlines

OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 13:

Degree applications due for
December graduates by
4:30pm

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 10:

Last day for undergraduates
to drop regular courses or
withdraw entire registration

Saturday, Nov. 21:

Thanksgiving break begins

Monday, Nov. 30:

Classes resume

Monday, Nov. 16:

Winter & Spring Early Regis-
tration begins

DECEMBER

Friday, Dec. 11:

Last day of classes

Friday, Dec. 11:

Last day to file second-grade-
only option

Monday, Dec. 14–

Friday, Dec. 18:

Final examination week

Saturday, Dec. 19:

Commencement



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VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

COURSE SEQUENCING REMINDER

Keep the course sequencing for required sociology classes in mind when registering for classes. It takes at least four semesters to complete the sociology major! For a B.A. in sociology, students must take 34:001 (Introduction to Sociology) and fulfill the math prerequisite of 22M:009 or higher. Once those are completed, students should enroll in 34:009 (Theory) and 34:010 (Quantitative Data Analysis) ; and complete both with a C or better. Next, students must take 34:011 (Research Methods), completing it with a C or better. Following 34:011, students must complete 34:195 (Capstone Course). Students cannot take 34:010 and 34:011 at the same time or 34:011 and 34:195 at the same time.

As for electives, of the five elective courses in sociology required for the major, three may be taken in any session, and two (excluding 34:002, 34:029, 34:197, and 34:198) must be taken after 34:011. So make sure that you are taking 34:011 at least one semester in advance of your last semester so that you have time to take your last required class and electives.

Please see your advisor if you have questions about the sequence and your progress in it.

CAPSTONE COURSE REQUIREMENT

The Sociology Capstone Course assists students in making the transition from school to the workforce or to additional schooling. Students refine work that was completed in the department so that it can be presented as a portfolio to prospective employers and graduate schools in an effective and attractive manner. Special features of the course are: editing and writing research for general audiences; learning PowerPoint presentations; developing web page versions of individual portfolios; working with the Career Center and potential employers on refining job-search skills. This course follows 34:011 in the course sequence and is required for the completion of your major. Work with your advisor to make sure that you take the course as soon as you've completed 34:011. Please feel free to address any questions about this requirement to Rob Baller, the Director of Undergraduate Studies (robert-baller@uiowa.edu).

PREPARING FOR GRADUATION

Remember to hold onto your digital versions of papers from your Sociology classes! All majors are required to submit a portfolio in order to graduate. You will need polished digital copies of a paper from one of your first classes in sociology, a research paper that reports the findings of original research (e.g. your 34:011 research paper), and a statement summarizing an experience for which some application of sociological knowledge occurred. These papers will be required for graduation, so don't forget to keep them after you complete your classes! If these documents already exist on your Capstone web page, simply email the link to soc-majors@uiowa.edu by 4pm on the Thursday before graduation. Alternatively, just email the three files to the same address with the same deadline. You must also complete a Future Plans Survey and email it to the same address with the same deadline. That survey can be found through the sociology homepage: www.uiowa.edu/~soc.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

ALUMNI SURVEY

As part of its 2009 self study, the department of sociology surveyed its alumni and found them employed in the following occupations: human resources, management, probation, marketing, counseling, insurance, detention, policing, law school, graduate school, and market research.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB

The Undergraduate Sociological Association (U.S.A., or the sociology club) was officially recognized as a student organization in fall 2009. Many thanks go to Mark James, Cole Bowermaster, and Lisa Truitt for their work on that effort.

Last year, the club hosted guest speakers who spoke about their careers and it showed a video on comparative health care. The club plans to host similar activities this year, so keep an eye-out for emails.

GET HELP WITH WRITING YOUR PAPERS

Whether you need help with generating ideas, organizing your materials, or editing, the Writing Center can help you through all stages of the writing process. Students can receive help on written assignments and to improve their writing skills in general. The Writing Center has in-person tutoring, e-mail tutoring, and on-line chat tutoring. For further information about the Writing Center's enrollment and appointment hours, go to their web site at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/>.

NERVOUS ABOUT SPEAKING OR PRESENTING IN CLASS?

The Speaking Center at 12 EPB helps students with public speaking and general conversational skills. Students who sign up for it early in the semester can get personal one-on-one instruction for 30 minutes each week for an entire semester. For more information, call 335-0205 or visit their web site at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~speaking/>.

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Check out the American Sociological Association's website of resources for students. This site is packed with information for students on anything from choosing a sociology major to careers in sociology. You can find information about the ASA Honors Program and graduate programs in sociology, as well as employment and career resources for sociology students. You can explore the information catering to students of sociology at

http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/topnav/students/students_3column.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIPS

The Sociology Department offers **student internships** each semester in the areas of criminology, human services, research, and teaching. You can earn between 1-4 s.h. toward your sociology degree. Please note, however, that 34:197 and 34:198 *do not* take the place of one of the 5 required sociology electives.

Criminal Justice and Corrections (34:148): The Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections is regularly offered by the Sociology Department. Sociology majors who are interested in the course should get an application from <http://www.sociology.uiowa.edu/baller/crimcenter/>. Completed applications must be submitted to Professor Baller no later than July 15th for the Fall semester, December 15th for the Spring semester, and May 1st for the 8-week summer session. Students provide the host agency 40 hours of work for each credit hour, and up to 5 credits can be taken at a time. Students must behave in a professional manner so host agencies will have our students back in the future. The host supervisor completes an evaluation of the student's performance, and students write a log of their activities and a 5-page paper that interprets their experiences using a sociological perspective.

(Sociology Department Internships continued on page 4)

THE UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA

**SOCIOLOGY
CLUB:
OFFICERS**

**President: Mark
James**

Mark wrote the constitution for the Undergraduate Sociological Association (USA).

**Communications
Director: Tina
McCarty**

Tina helped to start the club last year by hosting Darrel Kirby who spoke about his experiences working for the Mid Eastern Council on Chemical Abuse (MECCA).

**Service Director:
Shane Edge**

Shane helped the club last year by hosting Professor Tom McAninch of Scott Community College who spoke about his work on gangs.

**Treasurer: Cole
Bowermaster**

Cole helped the club to be formally recognized by the Office of Student Life.

Thank you officers!

www.uiowa.edu/~soc

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIPS

Human Services (34:196):

Internships in Human Services give students the opportunity to work with children and families who need help. Undergraduate students can work in jobs that involve the foster care system, the youth shelter, child abuse investigation, Children in Need of Assistance (CHINA), day care, Head Start, the homeless shelter, Compeer, mentoring programs for at-risk children, alcohol and substance abuse programs, the Rape Crisis Center and other jobs in the Human Services field. You can earn up to 3 s.h. toward the sociology major. Students who are interested should contact Michael Lovaglia (michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu).

Teaching (34:197):

In this internship program, qualified junior and senior sociology majors gain valuable experience by working as a teaching assistant for a semester. The requirements of the internship include-but are not limited to-holding office hours, conducting review sessions, proctoring exams, and attending course lectures. You will receive 3 s.h. for this position toward your degree. Those sociology majors who are interested should contact Rob Baller (robert-baller@uiowa.edu).

Research (34:198)

Undergraduate students of junior or senior status (and who meet other minimum requirements) may qualify to work as an undergraduate research assistant. This internship offers you experience in our department's *Center for the Study of Group Processes* (in Seashore Hall), which is a rare and valuable resource. Research projects examine impression formation, decision making, bargaining and negotiation, communication, and group problem-solving. As an undergraduate research assistant, you will assist a professor or graduate student in his or her study, thereby gaining hands-on experience in directing human participants through experiments, collecting data, conducting post-experimental interviews, collecting data, conducting post-experimental interviews, coding data, data entry, and even statistical analysis of data. You can sign up for 1-3 s.h. per semester toward your degree. If you are interested in becoming an undergraduate research assistant, contact Michael Lovaglia (michael-lovaglia@uiowa.edu).

NEW COURSE OFFERING

Interested in how social networks function? Check out Professor Freda Lynn's new course on social networks (34:170). The course considers the roles played by social networks in labor markets, economic behavior, and health. Professor Lynn will also consider virtual networks that operate over the Web. There is a more detailed course description available on ISIS; contact Prof. Freda Lynn (freda-lynn@uiowa.edu) if you have questions.

