



Proseminar in Sociology (SYA5625r, 0-3 credits)

T 12-1, BEL 519; Spring 2014

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The “pro” in proseminar stands for *professional*, and this course is designed to help you become a professional sociologist. My goals are: (1) to introduce you to the faculty and their teaching and research, (2) to call your attention to specific issues that are critical to your success, and (3) to challenge you to develop a personal plan to get the most out of your graduate education, graduate on time, and find a job you like. At the end of the course: (a) you will be fully integrated in the department with personal knowledge of what individual faculty are doing and how they can be helpful to your professional development, and (b) you will have begun developing an empirically-grounded (“realistic?”) career goal *and* a plan for what you need to do in graduate school to maximize your likelihood of attaining it. The course is intended to last the full academic year; you should register for it both semesters.

This is not a traditional academic course. It is structured in discussion format around weekly speakers. Requirements are: (1) selected readings on professional themes (typically available through Blackboard), (2) reviewing speakers’ websites/ reading their selected research articles before they attend, (3) attending most departmental colloquia (including CDPH, Pepper and other research presentations plus departmental PIE events), (4) seeking out and participating in selected (by you) University-level PFF professional development workshops. Mostly you will be expected to use these experiences to reflect on what you are doing in graduate school, what you want to do when you finish, and what you need to do to get from here to there. My premise is that social relations will have an impact on your graduate school experience. Another way of saying this is that “learning to be” is important for professional success, just as is “learning to do.” The course is intended to help shape your initial experiences within the department in order to maximize the probability you will have a positive outcome. I am always available to discuss personal questions/ issues with you privately.

Grading is S/U and based solely on attendance, which is required. It is perfectly acceptable to register for “0” credit hours to meet Sociology’s graduation requirement. You will also need to register for another three hour course to maintain your 12 hour load.

Missing class without a valid excuse is a problem. A “valid” excuse is one that conforms to the University Attendance Policy:

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Other standard university policies apply, including policies on academic integrity, Americans with Disabilities Act, tutoring at FSU, and changing the syllabus: <http://facsenate.fsu.edu/Curriculum-Forms/Syllabus-Language>.

Course Materials – Optional

- F Rojas (2011) *Grad Skool Rulz: Everything You Need to Know about Academia from Admissions to Tenure*. E-book (\$3.00) -- <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/93455>
- GC Semenza (2010) *Graduate Study for the 21st Century*. Second edition. Palgrave. Although written for the humanities, many of the principles apply to sociology.
- F Furstenberg (2013) *Behind the Academic Curtain*. Chicago.

FALL 2013

- 8/27 Welcome
- 9/3 Panel of 2nd year students: What I wish I had known/ asked last year!
Brittany Rawlinson, Quentin Kilpatrick, Keith Richard, Amanda Nix
- 9/10 On becoming a successful graduate student – IE
- 9/17 PhD major areas: Health & Aging – Miles Taylor
- 9/24 PhD major areas: Demography – Woody Carlson
- 10/1 PhD major areas: Stratification/ Social Justice – Jill Quadagno
- 10/8 Time Management – Deana Rohlinger *Individual meetings with IE this week*
- 10/15 Stress management – Jori Collette, University Counseling Center
- 10/22 PhD Timeline/ Expectations – Anne Barrett
- 10/29 Finding an Advisor/ Working with a Mentor – Kathi Tillman
- 11/5 What makes a good professional/ research topic? – John Taylor
- 11/12 Faculty job talks
- 11/19 Getting the most from Professional Conferences – Amy Burdette
- 11/26 Open (Thanksgiving week)
- 12/3 Open

SPRING 2014

- 1/7 MS papers (panel) – Jesse Klein, Kirby Thomas, Katy Glasgow & Katie Graves
- 1/14 Prelim exams (panel) – Janet Weeks, Teresa Roach, Rebecca Redmond & Shannon Sabo
- 1/21 Faculty job talk
- 1/28 Peer review process & publishing as a graduate student – John Reynolds
- 2/4 Feminist research in sociology – Irene Padavic
- 2/11 Ethics in Sociology/ Institutional Review Board – Koji Ueno
- 2/18 Ethnographic research in social inequality – Doug Schrock
- 2/25 Collaborative research in sociology – Dan Tope
- 3/4 Careers 1: Research I – Hernan Ramirez; Education policy – Carolyn Sloane Mata (Georgia Independent College Association)
- 3/18 Careers 2: Specialized teaching faculty – Gloria Lessan, Annette Schwabe
- 3/25 Careers 3: Postdocs – Pina Valle (UT-Austin); MS program – Brandon Jackson (U Arkansas)
- 4/1 Careers 4: Liberal Arts/ BA programs – JoEllen Pederson (Longwood University), Summer McWilliams (Armstrong Atlantic University)
- 4/8 Careers 5: Professional – Ashley Daily (DeLoitte Consulting); Ursula Weiss (Mt. Sinai Hospital)
- 4/15 Careers 6: Professional – Melissa Barnett (Harvard), Keshia Reid (Florida Department of Health)
- 4/22 Ending comments