

Professional Seminar
Sociology 995B: Spring 2017
Monday 11:30 - 12:20
Oldfather Hall, room 707

Professor: Bridget Goosby
Office: 741 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2, Friday 11-12, or by appointment
Email: bgoosby2@unl.edu

Course Description: This one-credit course is the second part of the professional development seminar series that focuses on socialization into the discipline of Sociology, learning department culture, and preparation for a successful graduate experience and academic career. Class meetings will primarily consist of discussion focused upon weekly topics and selected readings. The learning objectives for the course are:

- Review program requirements, procedures and timelines
- Assess career options with a graduate degree
- Identify potential career development challenges, discuss productive navigation strategies and ways to avoid potential pitfalls
- Review and discuss disciplinary insights and advice on graduate school success
- Develop strategies for reaching career goals

While a primary purpose of this course is to provide you with core information regarding the UNL Sociology graduate program, it is also designed to bring you a broader awareness of challenges and opportunities associated with success in graduate school. Success is defined broadly, not just obtaining a degree, but doing so in a manner that positions you to achieve your career goals. The career goals of graduate students are varied and, as such, optimal strategies for success will vary across students.

Course Requirements: This class will be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis. To earn a passing grade you must: a) come prepared to participate every class, b) complete any assignments, and c) attend all scheduled department colloquia. Coming prepared means completing any readings or assignments prior to the class. Participating in every class means asking questions, sharing your opinions, and generally be engaged in an open classroom discussion on the topic being covered that day.

Course Policies:

Required Readings: There are no texts for this course, but there will be weekly readings provided online in the course Blackboard Assignment site. These readings have been selected and developed with the intent of stimulating discussion. Some will advocate strategies for graduate study that you may not find relevant to your experience and goals. The readings are not intended to be a road map for each student, and are not presented to provide a one-size-fits-all approach. Rather, they have been selected as ‘discussion stimulators’ for our classroom conversations.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

***Tentative Class Schedule:**

Week 1. January 9—Introduction and Overview

a. Preparation

- i. Prior to first class meeting, read “Graduate School 101”.

Week 2. January 16—No class- MLK Holiday Observance

Week 3. January 23—Know the Rules- Ins and Outs of the Graduate program

a. Preparation

- ii. Read: UNL Sociology Department’s “*Guide to the Graduate Program, 2015-2017*”, and if you are interested in pursuing a minor (e.g., SRAM, Women’s Studies, or Ethnic Studies) then also check out those program requirements
- iii. Review: UNL Office of Graduate Studies “current student” section of the website (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current>), especially MOC and POS forms and peruse the Graduate Bulletin (<http://bulletin.unl.edu>)
- iv. Read: “Know the Rules” (Blackboard folder).

b. Assignment – Career Aspirations

- v. Write a brief summary of your current career aspirations. What kind of position do you currently hope to be able to obtain once you have completed your Ph.D.? A faculty position? If faculty, what type of position (e.g., teaching emphasis, research/teaching) and what level of institution (e.g., small liberal arts college, comprehensive university, research university). If government or private sector, identify the types of positions. Provide some examples, of the type of institutions/positions where you would be interested in being employed.

Week 4. January 30—Course Work and Exams

a. Preparation

- vi. Read: “Course Work & Exams”

b. Assignment – prepare MOC or POS (due February 3rd)

- vii. MA students fill out a Memorandum of Courses (MOC) and PhD students fill out Program of Study (POS) – for now just fill in courses you want to take (see graduate guide), it will change depending on what courses are offered each semester. Also, on the MOC students must select option 1 and will earn an MA.

Week 5. February 6---Department Resources and Culture

*a. Preparation**

- viii. Read: “Guidelines for the annual graduate student review”
- ix. Read: “Call for Graduate Student Awards”
- x. Review: “Travel guidelines and procedures”

- xi. Read: “Graduate School Friends & Networking”

Week 6. February 13—Choosing and Advisor

a. Preparation

- xii. Read: “Choosing an Advisor”
- xiii. Review: Sociology faculty profiles on the department webpage

b. Assignment – prepare advisor update

- xiv. If you have selected an advisor, report where you are in the progress. If you have not yet selected an advisor, indicate which faculty you are considering as potential advisors. Assignment due by class time.

Week 7. February 20---Assembling a committee

a. Preparation

- xv. Read: “Choosing a Committee”

b. Assignment – Starting on your annual review

- xvi. Draft a website blurb describing your research & teaching interests. Assignment due by class time.

Week 8. February 27---Publishing I

a. Preparation

- xvii. Read: “Publications Strategy and Plan”

b. Assignment – Your Publication Plan

- xviii. Draft a summary that outlines your current publication plan. Do you have a thesis or other project that you are currently writing on? What are your plans for creating new publication opportunities? Summarize any of your work that has been published, is under review for publication, or is work in progress. For any active projects, identify whom you are working with on the publication. Assignment due by class time.

Week 9. March 6—Publishing II

a. Preparation

- xix. Read: “Publishing in Graduate School”

Week 10. March 13—Conferences

a. Preparation

- xx. Read: “Making the Most Out of Conferences”

b. Assignment –Conference Participation Plan

- xxi. Draft a brief summary, outline form is OK, of your conference participation plan. Where do you plan to attend and/or actively present papers/posters? What is your long-range development plan for your engagement in regional and national conferences? Assignment due by class time.

Week 11. March 20—No class- Spring Break

Week 12. March 27—Thesis and Dissertation

- a. *Preparation*
 - xxii. Read: “Writing & Publishing Your Thesis and Dissertation Topics”
- b. *Assignment* –Current Thesis/Dissertation Plan
 - xxiii. Summarize where you are in the process of developing a plan for a Thesis or Dissertation.

Week 13. April 3—No Class- MSS

Week 14. April 10—Dissertation II

- a. *Preparation*
 - xxiv. Read: “Writing Your Dissertation”
- b. *Assignment* –Your Writing Plan
 - xxv. Draft a brief summary of how you structure your week to provide time for research and dissertation work. Assignment due by class time.

Week 15. April 17--- CV and Preparation for the job market

- a. *Preparation*
 - xxvi. Read: “The Sociology Job Market” and “Strategies for the Job Market”
- b. *Assignment* – Curriculum Vitae
 - i. Create a CV. Assignment due by class time.

Week 16. April 24.—Staying in Graduate School?

- a. *Preparation*
 - ii. Read: “Staying in Graduate School?”
- b. *Assignment* – Annual Review Document--Combining and updating sections created during the semester, complete a draft of your Annual Review Document. Assignment due by class time

**Material is subject to change.*