Professional Seminar  
Sociology 995B: Spring 2015  
Wednesday 11:30 - 12:20  
Oldfather Hall, room 707

Professor: Dr. Christina Falci  
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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 to 2:30 and Thursday 12:30 to 1:30  
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Course Description: This one-credit course is the second part of the professional development seminar series that focuses on socialization into the discipline, learning department culture, and preparation for a successful graduate experience and academic career. Class meetings will primarily consist of discussion with some lecture components. The learning objectives for the course are as follows:

- learn about current faculty research to identify potential advisors and committee members
- understand program requirements, procedures and timelines to remain in good standing
- recognize informal cultures in the department and the discipline
- provide a safe space to ask ANY questions you have

Course Requirements: This class will be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis. To earn a passing grade you must: a) come prepared to every class, b) participate in every class, c) complete all assignments, and d) attend all scheduled department colloquia. Coming prepared to class means completing all of the preparations listed below before class. Participating in every class means asking questions about and/or sharing your knowledge of the topic being covered that day.

Course Policies: 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.

Required Readings: The book can be purchased at the University Bookstore. The reports and journal articles can be downloaded from blackboard under course documents. Bring a printed or electronic (download to device prior to coming to class in case of internet access issues) copy of each reading to class for the week the article is assigned.


Class Schedule:
1. January 14th Introductions
   a. Preparation
      i. Read: Chapter 1 “Basic Concepts”
   b. Assignment – prepare MOC or POS (due January 21st)
      i. 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.

2. **January 21**

   **Program Requirements and Degree Timelines**

   *a. Preparation*
   
   i. Read: UNL Sociology Department’s “*Guide to the Graduate Program, 2014-2015*”, and if you are interested in pursuing a degree minor (e.g., SRAM, Women’s Studies, or Ethnic Studies) then also check out those program requirements
   
   ii. Review: UNL Office of Graduate Studies “current student” section of the website ([http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current)), especially MOC and POS forms and peruse the Graduate Bulletin ([http://bulletin.unl.edu](http://bulletin.unl.edu))

3. **January 28**

   **Jobs and Salaries**

   *a. Preparation*
   
   i. Read: Chapter 9 “Your Financial Life as an Academic”
   
   ii. Read: ASA reports
   1. Faculty Position Opportunities in Sociology Appear to Hold Steady: Position Postings from the 2013 ASA Job Bank
   2. Sociology Faculty Salaries Appear to Be Better Off: 2013 - 2014 Faculty Salary Brief for Sociology and Other Social Science Disciplines
   4. Postdoctorates: Another Stage in the Sociology Pipeline?
   
   iii. Read: AAUP Report

4. **February 4**

   **Faculty (Research, Teaching and Service) and Administrative Roles**

   *a. Preparation*
   
   i. Chapter 5 “Teaching” and Chapter 6 “Research”
   
   ii. UNL Sociology Documents
   1. Skim/review: UNL Sociology Department’s “*Faculty Merit Review Outline*”
   2. Read: UNL Sociology Department’s “*Bylaws*”

5. **Feb. 11**

   **Annual Reviews**

   *a. Preparation*
   
   i. Chapter 2 “The PhD”
   
   ii. Read: the department’s call and guidelines for the annual graduate student review
   
   iii. ask a more advanced student for a copy of their review materials from last year, read over these materials before coming to class

   *b. Assignment* – prepare an annual review file (due Feb 18)
   
   i. this includes: writing a website blurb, producing a *nicely formatted* vita (look over vitas on-line for sociology faculty at UNL or another university, pick a style that you like and match it), a written summary of program progress, and a submission of relevant teaching materials – the guidelines provide all details. All documents for this assignment should be submitted to me in hardcopy.

   *c. Faculty Review* (review department website info, vita, and skim article)


6. **February 18th Online Resources and Discussion Forum**

   a. **Assignment**
      i. p.126-133 within Chapter 10 “Your Digital Life”
      ii. read the ASA Sociology of Education section blog called “The Hidden Curriculum” ([http://soehiddencurriculum.wordpress.com](http://soehiddencurriculum.wordpress.com)), and conduct a basic web search on “being successful in graduate school”
      iii. On the day of class in Blackboard, upload one web resource that you found helpful pertaining to how to be successful in graduate school, and post one question you have about professional development that you would like the class to discuss.

7. **February 25th External Funding Sources**

   a. **Preparation**
      i. Read: get on-line and read the call for the following funding announcements
         - Student ASA Travel Award: [http://www.asanet.org/funding/sfta.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/funding/sfta.cfm)

   b. **Faculty Review** (review department website info, vita, and skim article)

8. **March 4th MA Theses and Doctoral Dissertations**

   a. **Preparation**
      i. Read: Chapter 3 “The Dissertation” and Appendix A “Mechanics of D”

   b. **Faculty Review** (review department website info, vita and skim article)
9. March 11th  Preparing Future Faculty Programs
   a. Preparation
      i. Read: Preparing Future Faculty Programs
   b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)
      i. Cheadle, Jacob E. and Philip Schwadel. 2012. “The ‘Friendship Dynamics of
         Religion,’ or the ‘Religious Dynamics of Friendship’? A Social Network Analysis
         of Adolescents Who Attend Small Schools.” Social Science Research 41(5): 1198-
         1212.
          by Socioeconomic Status and Gender.” Social Science Research 40: 586-601.

10. March 18th  Department Graduate Student Awards
    a. Preparation
       i. Read: the department’s call and guidelines for graduate student award applications
    b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)
          Their Preferred Survey Mode Actually Increase Survey Participation Rates? An
          Experimental Examination.” Public Opinion Quarterly 76(4): 611-635.
           Spaces and Providing Extra Verbal Instructions Improve Response Quality?” Public
           Opinion Quarterly 73:325-337.

Spring Break - March 25th
Midwest Meetings – March 26th to 29th

11. April 1st  How to attend a conference and build your network
    a. Preparation
       i. Read: Network in Progress: A Conference Primer for Graduate Students
       ii. p.139-143 within Chapter 10 “Travel and Conferences”
    b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)
           and Race/Ethnic Differences in Early Adulthood Health.” Health and Place 18:
           296-304.

12. April 8th  Work-Life Integration
    a. Preparation
       i. Appendix E “Your Health” and “Dealing with Myths” p.145 in Chapter 10
       ii. Read: Mothers in Pursuit of Ideal Academic Careers
    b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)
       i. Kazyak, Emily. 2012. "Midwest or Lesbian? Gender, Rurality, and
          Sexuality". Gender & Society 26(6): 825-848.

13. April 15th Giving Conference Presentations

   a. Preparation
      i. Read/Review: Tips for PowerPoint Presentations and Ten Secrets to Giving a Good Scientific Talk

   b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)

14. April 22nd Publishing and the Peer-Review Process

   a. Preparation
      i. Chapter 12 “On Writing”, Chapter 13 “On Publishing” and Appendix D “Writing Hints”
      ii. Read: Tips on Writing Articles for Publication and Starting to Publish Academic Research as a Doctoral Student

   b. Faculty Review (review department website info, vita, and skim article)

15. April 29th Job Interviews

   a. Preparation
      i. Read Chapter 4 “Job Hunting”
      ii. Review Job Candidate Schedule