

SOC 495: Capstone Internship

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours by appointment

“To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness... And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” –Howard Zinn

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

Sociology capstone courses reflect two key values the sociology faculty has for undergraduate education: experiential learning and the diversity of students' academic interests and career objectives. Thus, we have designed three *hands-on* courses from which to select your final core sociology course requirement. Each capstone course draws upon theories and concepts you have covered in previous sociology courses and, therefore provides you with the opportunity to integrate and deepen your understanding of social theory, social research, and the social world.

Soc 495 – the Capstone Internship is designed to prepare students for starting life as sociologists after college- this includes preparing for the work force and understanding how we can be public sociologists. The goal of the course is to provide you with an end-of-program “capstone experience” in which to apply your sociological knowledge and skills to the world of work and beyond. Additionally, this course will help you to recognize the opportunities and privileges that come with a college degree as well as its limits, challenging you to devise long-term strategies to pursue a meaningful and engaged life.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Apply the sociological imagination to one's own post-college plans (i.e., understand the link between personal biography and socio-historical forces).
2. Critically think about sociology's capacity to explain workplace social dynamics as well as the social dynamics of everyday life.
3. Apply sociological theory and concepts to everyday life.
4. Effectively communicate in writing the insights you've gained during your internship.
5. Identify ways that social context (your internship environment) influences how you think sociologically.
6. Identify work and life skills that distinguish effective and ineffective people.
7. Write an effective resume and cover letter.
8. Find on-going sources of inspiration for difficult days and unanticipated roadblocks, and appreciate the importance of taking “the long view.”

Prerequisites: At least junior level standing; senior level standing is recommended. The successful completion of or concurrent enrollment in Soc 310 is required; completion of Soc 317 or CrmJ 321 is recommended.

Required Course Materials:

- Lemert, Charles. 2012. *Social Things: An Introduction to the Sociological Life*. Lanhan, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- McKibben, Bill. 2007. *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin
- Robbins, Alexandra and Abby Wilner. 2001. *Quarterlife Crisis: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties*. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam a member of Penguin Putman, Inc.
- Zinn, Howard. 2002. *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times*. Beacon Press.

Recommended Additional Reading:

- Kramer, Eric. 2012. *Active Interviewing: Branding, Selling and Presenting Yourself to Win Your Next Job*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
- Orman, Suze. 2009. *The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke*. Riverhead Trade.

Course Policies and Procedures:

Syllabus:

Read the syllabus! Make sure you understand course requirements, policies, assignments, and your responsibilities as a student. These are not up for re-negotiation at the end of the summer session. Ask questions if you are confused about anything on the syllabus.

Blackboard course space:

For your convenience I have set up a course space on Blackboard to access readings outside of the required books, as well as assignment instructions. You will also be required to turn in all assignments (including the course contract and letter of agreement) in drop-boxes on this course site. Also check out the course information tab!

If You Need Help:

If you have questions or need help, please email me! Don't wait until the last week of the session if you're having trouble. There's little either of us can do at that point.

Email:

As we will not meet in person for this course, all interaction will be done through email correspondence. **I will regularly check email throughout this semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** This does not mean that I will not check/respond to emails throughout the week, but I may not get back to you until the following Tuesday or Thursday. I will not check/respond the

email over the weekend. Remember, there are no emergencies in sociology! I will work with you to answer or accommodate any questions or concerns.

Per WSU policy, the preferred email address for all active students is your WSU email address. All correspondence regarding academic and business-related activities will be sent to your WSU email address- do not use your personal email.

Late work:

Please mark your calendar now with all due dates and turn your work in on time. *A 10% per day late deduction will be taken off for late work.*

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is essential to any university. If you violate standards of conduct set forth by the university, I will assign you an “F” for the course (a sanction allowed by WAC 504-26-405). It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. For information regarding this issue please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.conduct.wsu.edu/default.asp?PageID=343>

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/plagiarism/main.html>

If you have any questions please contact your professor *before* turning in an assignment.

WSU Disability Resources:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to participate fully in this class, please notify the professor during the first week of class. All accommodations must be approved through Access Center, Washington Building Room 217. Please stop by or call the Access Center at 509 335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist.

Safety:

Review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Internship: A large part of Soc 495 is taking part in an academic internship in which you apply your understanding of sociological theory and concepts to work you undertake as a paid employee, volunteer, or as an intern in a specific work-related learning environment. You should have an internship (work or volunteer position) arranged prior to the first day of the semester, so you can begin participating in your internship the first week of class. **If you do not, please contact me no later than August 26th:**

On or before August 26th:

- Complete the Course Contract and return it to me
- Submit the Letter of Agreement from your internship supervisor
- Begin your internship (unless you have made other arrangements with me)

You are required to work at least 9 hours a week for 15 weeks (135 hours minimum).

Course Contract and Letter of Agreement (5%): You are required to turn in a course contract and letter of agreement by the first Friday of the semester. These documents can be found on Blackboard in the “important documents” folder under the content tab.

Closeout Email (5%): In lieu of having you turn in time cards each week to verify that you are completing the required hours and meeting the expectations of your internship supervisor; you will be required to have your supervisor send me a “closeout” email upon the conclusion of the semester. This closeout email just needs to confirm that you have worked the required amount of hours and did so in a professional manner. You will not receive a grade for the course until I receive this email! I also reserve the right to contact your supervisor at any point during the semester to just “check in.”

Reflection Journal (30%): You will be keeping a reflection journal throughout the semester to record your experiences at your internship and how these relate to course readings. More specific journal instructions and requirements will be posted in the “assignments” folder on the Blackboard course site.

Public Sociology Paper (20%): Part of the goal of this course is to encourage students to think as public sociologists and take what you learn outside of the classroom. Midway through the semester you will write a paper discussing the importance of public sociology and how it relates to the course readings and your internship. Additional information will be posted in the “assignments” folder on the Blackboard course site.

Senior Portfolio (40%): Towards the conclusion of the semester you will be required to complete a senior portfolio. This portfolio will contain the following: 1) a professional statement, 2) a personal statement, 3) a resume/CV and, 4) two pieces of scholarship (e.g. papers written for courses, papers presented at conferences, or other scholarship that demonstrates competencies). Students will be asked to submit 1st drafts of both the personal and professional statements. After these have been submitted, students will be asked to set up a meeting with me to receive feedback/check-in. More extensive directions for this will be posted to the “assignments” folder on the Blackboard course site.

BA Exit Survey: You will complete the anonymous Sociology BA exit survey through a specified website link. The information you provide on this survey will be kept strictly confidential. Your thoughtful and honest answers will be carefully considered by the Sociology Department to help improve our program and student services. The Exit Survey is a requirement of this class, but it is not graded. The instructor reserves the right to offer extra credit as encouragement.

Grading Scale*

A: 100-93	B-: 82-80	D+: 69-68
A-: 92-90	C+: 79-78	D: 67-60
B+: 89-88	C: 77-73	F: 59 and below
B: 87-83	C-: 72-70	

*A grade represents my best professional evaluation of a piece of work. It neither is, nor can be, a judgment about the person who submitted the work.

Course Outline:

Note: Course schedule is subject to change, as conditions require. Updates/changes will be announced in class.

*Assignments are DUE on Fridays by 5PM.

Week 1	August 22-26
What's Due	Course Contract & Letter of Agreement Begin Internship
Reading	Lemert: Preface, Introduction & Chapters 1-6
Week 2	August 29-September 2
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Continue Lemert Chapters 1-6
Week 3	September 5-9
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Lemert Chapters 7-12
Week 4	September 12-16
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Continue Lemert Chapters 7-12
Week 5	September 19-23
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	McKibben Chapters 1-3
Week 6	September 26-30
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings:	Continue McKibben Chapters 1-3, begin Chapters 4-5
Week 7	October 2-7
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	McKibben Chapters 4-5
Week 8	October 10-14
What's Due	Public Sociology Paper due Friday, Oct. 14th <i>*No Journal Entry due this week</i>
Readings	No Readings

Week 9	October 17-21
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Zinn Introduction & Chapters 1-8
Week 10	October 24-28
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Zinn Chapters 9-15
Week 11	October 31-November 4
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Robbins and Wilner Introduction & Chapters 1-4
Week 12	November 7-11
What's Due	1 st Draft of Personal and Professional Essays *Schedule Feedback/Portfolio Meeting (No Journal Entry due this week)
Readings	Continue Robbins and Wilner Introduction & Chapters 1-4
Week 13	November 14-18
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry
Readings	Robbins and Wilner Chapters 5-7 & Conclusion
Week 14	November 21-25
What's Due	*Thanksgiving Break*
Readings	No Readings
Week 15	November 28-December 2
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry Ask supervisor for Closeout Email (due Friday, Dec. 9 th)
Readings	No Readings- Work on Senior Portfolio!
Week 16	December 5-9
What's Due	Weekly Journal Entry Closeout Email
Readings	No Readings- Work on Senior Portfolio!

Senior Portfolio Due Monday, December 12, 2016 @ 11:59 PM