SYA5625 “Prosem”
Monday, 11am-noon; Bellamy 519

Instructor: John Reynolds
Email: john.reynolds@fsu.edu
Office hrs: Monday 1-3, & by appointment
Office: 526b Bellamy

Description: Prosem is distinct from other graduate sociology classes in that it covers how to succeed as a sociologist beyond completing degree requirements. Through prosem, students meet prospective faculty advisors and committee members and discuss current challenges/new frontiers in higher education and related careers. Prosem will help you plan strategically for the 1st year.

Course Objectives:
After successfully completing this course, students will be able to…
1. Articulate concrete professional preparation goals for their first year of graduate study.
2. Summarize career options for sociologists and the grad school opportunities that lead to them.
3. Link sociology faculty to their areas of concentration and affiliations with institutes/centers.
4. Identify major trends in higher education that shape graduate education and academic careers.
5. Recognize the importance of non-academic factors for academic success.

Readings and other course materials are available at https://sites.google.com/site/fsuprosem/.

Course Requirements:
1. Attend class every week.
2. Participate in class discussions, being respectful of differences in opinion.
3. Be attentive to the guest speakers, and ask them questions about sociological careers.

Course grades:
Grading is S/U and based primarily on attendance, which is required. Missing class without a valid excuse is a problem and more than one unexcused absence can result in an unsatisfactory grade (U). A “valid” excuse is defined by the university’s attendance policy (see next page).

Course Calendar (subject to revision):
8/28/2017 Welcome, setting goals for the semester; John Reynolds
9/4/2017 Labor Day Holiday; no class
9/11/2017 Inequalities & social justice area; Paromita Sanyal [confirmed; asks for a reminder]
9/18/2017 Center for Demography & Population Health; Karin Brewster [confirmed]
9/25/2017 Health & Aging area; Koji Uneo [confirmed]
10/2/2017 Demography area; Woody Carlson [confirmed]
10/9/2017 Pepper Institute, and aging as a sociological lens; Anne Barrett [confirmed]
10/16/2017 Stress management; FSU Counseling Center [to be confirmed]
10/23/2017 Time management, translational research; Dawn Carr [confirmed]
10/30/2017 Studying organizations with qualitative methods; Patricia Martin [confirmed]
11/6/2017 Social networking in academia; Miranda Waggoner [confirmed]
11/13/2017 Habits of highly effective quantitative researchers; Miles Taylor [to be confirmed]
11/20/2017 Resources for research and instruction at Strozier; Jesse Klein [confirmed]
11/27/2017 Public sociology; John Reynolds
12/4/2017 End-of-semester group lunch at Gaines Street Pies, meet there at 11:30am
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.

Academic Honor Policy:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Policy online at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

Americans With Disabilities Act:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
(2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Free Tutoring from FSU:
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy:
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.