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

Instructor:  John Reynolds  
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Office hrs: Monday 1-3, & by appointment  
Office: 526b Bellamy

Description: This course will provide students with an introduction to the profession of sociology through class discussion, occasional class exercises or readings, and an impressive roster of guest speakers. Prosem is distinct from other graduate sociology classes in that it covers how to succeed as a sociologist beyond completing degree requirements. We also use prosem to meet prospective faculty advisors and committee members, and we discuss current challenges and new frontiers in higher education and related careers. Lastly, 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 (networking, well-being, planfulness, etc.) for academic success.

Readings and other course materials will be distributed as needed via email.

Course Requirements:
1. Attend class every week.
2. Read assigned materials before the class that features them.
3. Participate in class discussions, being respectful of differences in opinion.
4. 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:
8/24/2015 Welcome, setting goals for the semester; John Reynolds  
8/31/2015 FSU Resources, PFF; Judith Devine, Associate Dean of the Graduate School  
9/7/2015 Labor Day Holiday; no class (go to job talk on Thursday at 2pm)  
9/14/2015 Top ten tips for grad school success; Irene Padavic  
9/21/2015 Mapping out the world of academic sociology; John Reynolds  
9/28/2015 Inequality & Social Justice area; Doug Schrock  
10/5/2015 Demography area; Woody Carlson  
10/12/2015 Health & Aging area; Amy Burdette  
10/19/2015 Stress management; FSU Counseling Center  
10/26/2015 Academic social networking; Miranda Waggoner  
11/2/2015 Frontiers in methodology; Ion Bogdan Vasi, Univ of Iowa (via Skype)
Trends in online educ; Joe Clark, Asst Dir of Instructional Development, ODL
How to craft a good research question; Koji Ueno
Science for the public good; John Reynolds (50th anniv of Unsafe at Any Speed)
End of semester field trip; Bird’s Aphrodisiac Oyster Shack

[The remainder of the syllabus is boilerplate info that needs to go in every FSU syllabus. For future reference, you can copy & paste it from http://facsenate.fsu.edu/Curriculum/Syllabus-Language.]

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. This should be done during the first week of class.

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)
sdc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

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.