

SOCIOLOGY 395: PRE-PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

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COURSE CREDIT

2 semester hours

PREREQUISITES

Soc 201, The Sociological Imagination

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 631** to order books from Bookstore site.

“Job Postings Magazine” at jobpostings.net

Also, please note that if you do not have access to the internet, the study guide can be modified to accommodate you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the profession of sociology and the various career options available to graduates. Occupational and graduate school options are explored in detail through library research, presentations, observational experiences, and informational interviews. Skills for job interviewing, résumé development, and professional correspondence are explored.

This class is designed to prepare students for their Internship class and help prepare what you want to do with your sociology degree from Adams State College. There are many options, such as going directly into the job market, pursuing a graduate degree, or seeking other paths less traveled. To assist you, in this course we will learn about job markets, conduct a case study, and those interested will learn about graduate school.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Critically examine their professional goals and objectives for entering their intended career and/or attending graduate school.
2. Assess information relevant to the job market in sociology, social work, and criminology.
3. Discuss the graduate school experience, including GRE, application procedures, and financial assistance.
4. Identify their own job strengths and skills.
5. Construct persuasive cover letters and résumés.
6. Practice interviewing skills and conducting informal informational interviews.
7. Evaluate sociological, social service, and criminal justice settings with the goal of becoming better informed to choose their career.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Job Choices for Business and Liberal Arts Students. (University Edition). 2006. Published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Ongoing issues are available at www.jobweb.com.

Note that the Denver Post often has a section on getting a job and The Chronicle of Higher Education lists professional jobs and is a good resource.

Helpful Career Websites:

adams.edu (Counseling and Career Center)

Peacecorps.org careerbuilder.com

flipdog.com

collegegrad.com

careercc.com

americorps.org

ASAnet.org (American Sociological Association – click on “Students”)

helpwanted.com

careermag.com

careers.com

wetfeet.com

usjobnet.com

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The assignments are designed to assist you whether you want to become employed or first attend graduate school. The written materials relate to lesson assignments and include the online magazine, “Job Postings Magazine.”

1. You will write an initial 2-3 page essay and final essay about your plans after graduation. At the beginning of the course write an initial essay and email it to me for comments. At the end of the course, revise and submit your final essay. 50 points
2. Cover letter. One page, single spaced. See "Job Postings Magazine" and the web sites as well as the attached for guidance about how to write

a good cover letter. 50 points.

3. Interview someone in your career field of choice or, if you plan to attend graduate school, research a graduate school of interest and write a graduate school application letter. The interview should tap into such basic information as a textured description of the person, the job description, the work, the work setting, the organization, as well as challenges and rewards of the job or field of study. The interview should include such probe questions as, “Could you elaborate?”, “What do you mean,” and the like. This assignment is worth 50 points.
4. Résumé. The Adams State Counseling Center and also “Job Postings Magazine” have instructions how to create a résumé. 50 points for this assignment. For students who plan to go to graduate school, learning how to create these documents will help you in your search for on-campus work, summer work, and your career after receiving the degree.
5. Extra credit. 25 points. Described below.

EXTRA CREDIT

For students interested in graduate school, compare graduate application information and requirements from two schools, and write a two or three page paper comparing the two. For students not interested in graduate school, contact the American Sociological Association to order the brochure, “Careers in Sociology” by calling the ASA at (202)383-9005, and/or gain access to their website at ASAnet.org and click on “Students.” Also, use the websites that contain information about job searches and job market analyses. Then write a two or three-page paper about the information and options presented to you and an analysis of the job market in which you are interested.

(25 points)

GRADING SCALE

180-200	A
160-178	B
140-158	C
120-138	D
118 and less	F