

**Sociology 306: Career Planning for Sociology Majors**  
Spring 2017

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Prerequisites: Sociology majors and minors only

General Education: No

Meets Sociological Experience Requirement for majors.

Note: information below is subject to change

**Course Description:**

Work occupies a huge percentage of the waking day. People often spend more time with their fellow employees than their own families. However, studies show that only 30% of people with a college degree like what they do for a career. That leaves a huge number of people living a huge portion of their day dissatisfied. While no one can be happy with their careers 100% of the time this course is geared to help students explore what they might “want to be when they grow up” using their sociology degree.

Students will develop living documents to support them in their career journeys such as resumes, cover letters, and life mission statement to guide career decision. Much of the material in the class is based on reflective activities and practical assignments to guide students towards possibilities of career development using their sociological training.

Readings are all geared to helping students use research and intent to create career plans instead of the sense of desperation of just getting a job to pay the bills. In addition, guest speakers are invited to class to candidly discuss their own career journeys and allow students to ask questions from people who have careers in arenas they may one day want to enter.

In addition to career development and preparation, students will be able to learn how to: translate their academic skills into marketable hard and soft skills, go on the job market, use social media to enhance networks for job searches, to negotiate a salary, and how not to get fired once they have a job. Students will also explore whether or not an advance degree is necessary and/or if an advanced degree in the future might protect their career and/or open doors for new possibilities.

Over the semester each student will journal their career exploration and readings, create a professional portfolio with all the documents needed to go on the market, and explore three career options of their choosing. This last project will be presented to the group and summarized in a paper.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

1. Give students tools to determine what kinds of work environments will match their personal style and goals
2. Demonstrate to students how their sociology degree and classes can be translated into a resume and cover letter

3. Have each student explore three careers of their choice and begin developing career networks in those fields
4. Develop a living career portfolio
5. Have students discuss and practice skills needed to successfully enter the job market: looking for jobs, evaluating the fit of jobs, applying, interviewing, negotiating a compensation packet, first days on the job, and how to ask for a promotion.
6. Have students explore graduate school options

**Required Reading:**

- Lore, Nicholas. (2008). *Now What? The Young Person's Guide to Choosing the Perfect Career*. New York, NY: Fireside.
- Bolles, Richard. (2014). *What Color is Your Parachute? Job-Hunter's Workbook*, 4th ed. New York, NY: Ten Speed Press.