For students planning to enroll in Soci 498 (Senior Seminar) in Spring 2020:

1. Be sure you have been approved for Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 graduation. Your Academic Requirements Report should say “filed for graduation” in the upper left corner.

2. There will be five sections of Soci 498 (see below). Choose your preferred section based on its topic and method. Your personal research project will use your section’s topic and method.

**Soci 498.1: Senior Seminar: Identity, Biography, & Society**  
Instructor: Prof. Debora Paterniti  
Method: **Ethnography**  
Time: Tues 1:00-4:40 pm

This course will focus on the topic of Identity. We will use theories and concepts in social psychology to examine identity as a symbolic process, including the ways individual and social group identities are created, develop, and change. Weekly topics will emphasize the role and impact of narrative accounts and biographic construction on claims about self, social groups, institutions, and in public/collective action. This course will introduce you to the ethnographic method (observational research and interviewing) as well as to engage you in original research using this method. You will learn to develop a sociological research lens and narrative "voice" through active and intentional participation in a variety of exercises and assignments, including (verbal and written) presentation of original research on the topic of identity of interest to you (approved by the professor). Weekly writing assignments and course exercises will require intensive reading and development of a literature review in an area relevant to your chosen topic, practice in writing and detailing field notes from observations, and creation of an interview guide to elicit meaningful reflections about identity and the social institutions and processes that create it. The final research project will require inductive analysis of the rich and detailed data from field observations and interviews as well as triangulation of these data, through which you will formulate your own sociological contribution to the topic of identity.

**Soci 498.2: Senior Seminar: Gender & Sexualities**  
Instructor: Prof. James Joseph Dean  
Method: **In-Depth Interviews**  
Time: Tues 8:00-11:40 am

Gender is grounded in sex; bodies cannot be represented as entirely social. This lack of a sharp distinction results in a conflation and a confusion around the difference between gender and sex. What is gender, anyway? We will explore gender as a performative identity situated in social and hierarchical relations of power. Sexuality is a three-part relationship among desire, sexual behaviors, and identity. How do we understand the relationship between biology or nature and society or nurture in determining sexuality? We will examine the major models of sexualities, particularly focusing on social constructionist writings that are attentive to social and historical factors and how sexuality is a principle of social organization in social life.
We will investigate gender and sexual identities and formations through recent sociological studies which will act as role models for your own in-depth interview research projects.

**Soci 498.3: Senior Seminar: US Housing Policy**  
Instructor: Dr. Roxanne Ezzet  
Method: **In-Depth Interviews, Content Analysis**  
Time: Fri 9:00 am – 12:40 pm

For this section of senior seminar, the emphasis will be on urban sociology as it relates to housing and social services. Your project will focus on the use of interviews to understand the role of housing (e.g., housing policies, affordable housing, homelessness) and the link to social services in urban areas.

Specifically, this course will focus on the role of housing in shaping the quality of life in various parts of society. We will examine housing issues in urban areas while also focusing on the broader history and social impact of housing and affordable housing policies. This course will examine past and current housing policies and their influence on American society. We will also spend a significant amount of time discussing proposed policy issues to persistent affordable housing issues as well as strategies that community-based organizations and social movements are using to bring about change. We will use interviews with members from the public sector, private sector, non-profit groups and the community to understand housing problems and address policy solutions. Students will conduct in-depth interviews and use content analysis to examine the interview data.

**Soci 498.4: Senior Seminar: Sports & Society**  
Instructor: Dr. Heather Flynn  
Method: **Statistics, Secondary Analysis of Quantitative Data**  
Time: Mon/Wed 8:00-9:50 am

The theme of the course is Sports in Society; research projects will be based upon this subject. Weekly topics as they relate to sports include sport research and theory, socialization, children/youth sports, deviance, violence, gender, race, social class, the economy, media, politics, and high school & college sports. This course will introduce students to statistics using secondary analysis of quantitative data. Secondary analysis is (1) the use of data collected by someone other than the researcher and (2) is one of the primary analytical methods used in quantitative Sociology. In this course, students will not collect their own data, but will analyze quantitative data collected from a nationally representative sample and write an original research paper.

The course will explore the following topics: research design; operationalization and measurement; establishing causality; statistical inference; and basic and intermediate statistics, including probability, cross-tabulations, z-scores, t-tests, correlation, chi-square, and multiple regression. A major component of the course will be using SPSS, a statistics software program, to analyze the data. This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend graduate school in Sociology and for students interested in research careers.
**Soci 498.5: Senior Seminar: Family & Life Course**  
Instructor: Prof. Soo-Yeon Yoon  
Method: **Statistics, Survey Data Analysis**  
Time: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:50 am

For this section of senior seminar, the theme of the course is the sociology of families. Students will learn how to conduct research on families and become an intelligent and critical consumer of research on families. The course will focus on understanding changing family and demographic behavior in the United States and beyond. Students will conduct research projects drawing upon sociological theories and the life course perspective. Research projects will examine how family behavior and family relationships vary by race/ethnicity, age, gender, class and across the life course with the use of the statistical analysis of survey data.

Learning outcomes include 1) how to frame research questions and formulate them into testable research hypotheses; 2) critically evaluate previous studies and write a literature review; 3) analyze quantitative survey data to answer the research questions; and 4) produce an original research paper. The course will cover core topics in descriptive and inferential statistics. We will use SPSS, a statistical software program, to analyze the data.