

Introduction to the Major
Central Washington University
Spring 2019

Sociology 300-001

Wednesdays 11-11:50 a.m.

Samuelson 103

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This one credit course (which requires approximately 30 hours of coursework outside of class), will introduce Sociology and Social Services majors to information about program requirements, build knowledge about resources and skills that they need to be successful, and develop a plan to graduate. *Pre-requisite: students must have declared the Sociology or Social Services major as of fall 2017.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will guide Sociology and Social Services majors to explore the knowledge and tools that they will need to get the most out of the major and assist them in making informed decisions about career choices in Sociology and Social Services. It is also designed to assist majors in determining if the Sociology or Social Services majors are the most viable option to assist them in achieving their career goals. During the course of the quarter, we will also discuss career options with varying levels of education. Students will learn about Sociology and Social Services at CWU, including course requirements and opportunities that are available outside the classroom.

Additionally, students will learn about writing in American Sociological Association (ASA) format and have opportunities to practice writing in this format. Overall, there are two main goals for this course. The first is to give you some helpful tools and resources to enhance your experience as a Sociology or Social Services major, and the second is to give you a clearer sense of the knowledge and skills you'll acquire with a Sociology or Social Services degree and how you can apply them upon graduation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- Become knowledgeable about the fields of Sociology and Social Services
- Become familiar with the requirements of the Sociology and Social Services majors and opportunities available at CWU.
- Have an understanding of the career opportunities available to individuals with varying levels of education in Sociology and Social Services and related fields (e.g. BS, MS, MSW, PhD, etc.)

- Have an understanding of and strategies for success in a job search or graduate school application
- Begin to develop information literacy skills and knowledge of research ethics (e.g. literature searching, use of ASA format) that will facilitate success in future Sociology courses
- Understand some of your own strengths and weaknesses as a student and have specific strategies for improvement. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate that they've met these course objectives in a variety of ways, including self-assessments, class discussion, and the final reflection.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY:

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Therefore, academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at CWU and all members of the community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Students are expected to understand and abide by the University's Code of Conduct; all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed. These standards are set forth in the Student Judicial Code, which can be found in the current undergraduate/graduate catalog (refer to the section on "Proscribed Conduct"). Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception; this includes plagiarism (claiming that someone else's work is your own). *Instances of academic dishonesty will automatically result in a failing grade for the course.*

PARTICIPATION and BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Attendance, preparation, and participation are required. While excused absences are allowed, but you must contact me in advance. Please arrive in a timely manner and be alert and attentive in class; please turn off your cell phones.

- There will be no extra credit work for missed attendance or assignments.
- All assignments are due on the specified due date. Points will be deducted for late work, but please contact me in advance if there are extenuating circumstances.
- If you are unable to turn in your work on the due date, you are welcome to turn your work in early.
- You will have the option to revise and resubmit assignments.

ADA/DISABILITY SUPPORT

CWU encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and welcomes students into the University's educational programs. Any student who feels that she/he may need accommodations based on a disability should make an appointment to see me and be sure to have a copy of the *Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments* from Disabled Student Services (DSS). If you have a disability-related need for modifications or

reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit DSS (963-2214) in Hogue 126 as early in the quarter as possible.

WAYS TO REACH ME

Email is usually the best way to get a hold of me and I will respond within 24 hours. Please be sure to indicate in your message that this is about SOC 300. My office phone is useful for leaving a message during the week, but please be sure to mention the day and time that you called. Feel free to drop by my office to chat during office hours or schedule a time to stop by.

STRUCTURE OF THE CLASS

Weeks 1 and 2 - Academic plan: Module 1 - Introduction to the Major

Part 1: Navigating the Major - Creating an Academic Plan

- Review the Sociology course offerings in the CWU Undergraduate Catalogue and map out your schedule for the remainder of your undergraduate career
- Meet with your Sociology faculty advisor to review your course plan and then make adjustments to your plan based on the meeting with your advisor

Part 2: Revising Your Plan and Peer Review

- Offer critical and constructive feedback to other students in class; Revise and resubmit your plan

Weeks 3 and 4 - Evaluate sources of research: Module 2 - Introduction to Categories of Research

Part 1: Learning about Categories of Research

- Review the lecture on Categories and Uses of Scholarly Literature for Sociology
- Read sociological research assignment and assess what categories they fall into

Part 2 – Revising and Peer Review

- Participate in a peer evaluation activity, assess how others examined sources of research, and offer critical and constructive comments for revision
- Revise and resubmit your assignment

Weeks 5, 6, and 7 - Explore career and educational goals: Module 3 - Introduction to Careers

Part 1: Navigating Careers - Resumes and Internships

- Evaluate internships and job opportunities for Sociology and Social Services Majors
- Develop a job/internship or graduate school resume

Part 2: Navigating Career Goals and Graduate School

- What is needed for applying to a graduate school

- Students will research career interests and future educational options and have group discussions with other students

Part 3: Reflection on Career Goals

- On the basis of peer review of resume and career presentations, revise and resubmit your resume and reflect on the experience, including how you structured your plan for the major

Week 8 - Attend SOURCE (Learn about Research: <https://www.cwu.edu/source/>): SOURCE

Weeks 9 and 10 - Module 4: Introduction to Writing Papers (Empirical papers - literature search and ASA-style reference page

Part 1: Understanding how to build a literature review and write empirical papers

- Locate empirical, peer-reviewed journal articles on a topic assigned
- Write an empirical paper using these articles
- This assignment will introduce you to ASA format, which you will use extensively in your other Sociology courses

Part 2: Revise and Resubmit

- Using a rubric, evaluate feedback for your paper and revise and resubmit final papers

Finals Week: Using the assignments and activities completed this quarter, students will reflect on what they have learned about themselves and the fields of Sociology and Social Services.

COURSE SUMMARY

Date	Details	
Wed Apr 3	Worksheet for Planning the Major	Bring hard copy to class
Wed Apr 10	Revised Worksheet	Due on Canvas
Wed Apr 17	Which Category of Research is It?	Bring hard copy to class
Wed Apr 24	Revised: Categories of Research Paper	Due on Canvas
Wed May 1	Resume -	Due on Canvas
Wed May 8	Career Presentation	Bring hard copy to class; due on Canvas
Wed May 22	SOURCE -	Due on Canvas
Wed May 29	Empirical Paper (draft)	Bring hard copy to class; due on Canvas
Fri Jun 7	Final Assignment	Due on Canvas
	Revised Empirical Paper	Due on Canvas