Course Description:

A sociology internship is a professional learning experience that gives students an opportunity to apply what they have learned in class to “real world” experiences. This course is designed to increase the usefulness of this experience by providing students with a structured opportunity to reflect by thinking, discussing, and writing about their internship experience. The course has the following goals:

- Students will learn to think sociologically about the organization in which they are interning. How is the organization interconnected with other elements of society – how the organization impacted by society and what impact does it have on society?
- Students will apply sociological knowledge, theories, and methods to understand social dynamics at their internship sites.
- Students will learn from each other and the different experiences they are having at their various internship sites.
- Students will use their internship experiences as a means of advancing their career or professional goals.

This is a writing-intensive course, meaning that is designed to enhance your writing capabilities within the discipline of sociology. To that end, students will keep internship journals over the course of the semester and will write an Internship Project/Paper related to your internship experience. You will turn in two drafts of this paper: a rough draft and a final draft. I will use these drafts to evaluate the improvement in your writing over the course of the semester.

Getting an Internship:

- Check with your advisor to make sure that Capstone: Internship will help you advance toward graduating.
- Locate an internship site. Look for a site that fits your interests and skills, and is a place or type of place that you might be interested in working at in the future. I will provide assistance with internship placement, and all internship sites must be approved by me.
Meet with me to complete the Internship Registration Form and the Internship Site Contact Information Form. These forms must signed by me, and the chair of the sociology department, Dr. Luken. You will not be able to register for Capstone: Internship without these signed forms.

Take the Internship Registration Form to the registrar’s office. This is the only way to register for Capstone: Internship. You cannot register via BanWeb.

**Internship Etiquette:**
When you are at your internship site, you represent UWG, the Sociology Department, and me in the community. As an internship participant, you are committing to the following:

- A regular schedule of work at your internship site for 150 or 300 hours over the course of the semester.
- Seek to serve and learn in the community by being prepared, responsible, and open to new things.
- Be sensitive to the populations you may be serving by understanding their experiences, strengths, and challenges.
- Exhibit professional behavior at all times.
- Respect your internship site’s rules, expectations, and any confidentiality requirements.
- Communicate any questions or challenges to me in a timely manner.

Your grade will be based on the following 4 assignments:

**Assignments:**
- Resume
- Internship Journal (on CourseDen)
- Internship flyer
  - Describe the internship site, the activities of the intern, and the pros and cons of working at this internship site
- Internship Project/Reflection Paper

**August 29th – Introduction to the Course**

**September 5th – Internship Journals**

**September 12th – NO CLASS – COSS DAY OF SERVICE**

**September 19th – NO CLASS – PRESIDENTIAL INAGURATION**

**September 26th – Grant and Report Writing**
Reading - TBA

**October 3rd – NO CLASS**
October 10th – Program Evaluation
Readings:
- “Evaluation: A Beginner’s Guide” (CourseDen)
  Note: this guide is written for people working in human rights, but it is a good general introduction to evaluation

October 17th – NO CLASS

October 24th – Resumes & Careers in Sociology
Readings:
- ASA – “What are they Doing with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology?” (CourseDen)
- Occupational Outlook Quarterly – “Paid Jobs in Charitable Nonprofits” (CourseDen)
- Occupational Outlook Quarterly – “Policy Analysts” (CourseDen)

October 31st – NO CLASS

November 7th – Sociology of Work
Readings:
- Arluge – “Managing Emotions in an Animal Shelter” (CourseDen)
- Lively – “Occupational Claims to Professionalism: The Case of Paralegals” (CourseDen)
- Sanders – “Annoying Owners: Routine Interactions with Problematic Clients in a General Veterinary Practice” (CourseDen)

November 14th – NO CLASS

November 21st – NO CLASS

December 5th – Course Conclusion

December 12th, 11-1:30 – Internship Project/Reflection Paper Due
Learning Objectives & Learning Outcomes for the course:

Learning Objectives:
1. Students will apply qualitative and quantitative methodological techniques to analyze their work environments.
2. Students will apply a variety of analytical frameworks to theorize the relationship between their work setting and larger institutional structures.
3. Students will develop strategies to improve how their respective organizations deliver social services or public goods.
4. Students will learn how to use their internship experience as a means of obtaining a formal job.

Learning Outcomes:
The course objectives, assignments, and class activities contribute to the following learning outcomes.

1. Be able to communicate orally and in writing how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality (LO1).
2. Understand theoretical and methodological approaches to description and interpretation (LO2).
3. Understand basic concepts, perspectives, and their interpretive applications (LO3).
4. Understand the reciprocal relationship between the individual and society (LO5).