UNF’s Sociology Program will offer an internship course in the fall of 2014, led by Dr. Jeffry Will. The Sociology Internship offers students who seek an internship opportunity a chance to maximize the academic elements of their placement while earning course credit.

The internship in sociology is designed to help you connect what you have learned in your coursework to local social problems, processes, and institutions. This may include work on an Applied Sociology research project, assisting a social services agency with assessment or program development, working on a community-based project, or another appropriate placement.

**How does the Sociology Internship count toward the Sociology Major or Minor?**

The internship course, SYA4943, may be counted toward your sociology major or minor (depending on your catalog year you may need permission to do so; please consult with your COAS Advisor). Depending on the nature of the internship, sociology majors may be able to substitute this for one of the advanced methods courses: SYA3310, SYA3450C, or SYA4654 (this is on case-by-case basis, and requires permission of the Department Chair).

**Why take an internship course, as opposed to doing an internship on your own?**

The internship course has a number of benefits. It allows you to work with a faculty advisor who can assist you in finding the right placement, make sure that the internship is an academically and professionally enriching experience, and help you connect what you are doing in your internship site to what you have learned through the sociology curriculum. Through a combination of class meetings and online activities, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences, questions, and challenges with other students who are completing internships at the same time. The internship course also allows you to earn credit for your internship and the related academic work (including a final report on your experience – see the Sociology Internship Handbook for details), and it will appear on your transcript.

**What types of internship placements are available?**

The Department has established relationships with a significant number of non-profit and human services agencies in the region, many of which have hosted interns in the past. Additional opportunities are listed in the Career Wings Database and on the Non-Profit & Agency Placement List available in the Internship section of the Sociology Program website. If you have a particular project in mind, or do not see an opportunity that appeals to you, please meet with Dr. Will to explore these possibilities.

**Are there any prerequisite courses?**

Participation in the Internship course is by permission only. The Internship has only one prerequisite – Logic of Inquiry (SYA 3300) – but depending on your placement, you may be best prepared by having completed courses related to the activities of your placement agency and/or one or more upper level research methods courses.

**When should you take an internship?**

We recommend that you take an internship in your junior or senior year. If you are interested in the internship as an academic capstone or as a means of transitioning into a potential career, you should plan to take this in your final semester. If you are considering the internship as a way of exploring different types of careers, you can take it at any time.
How many hours will you spend at your placement?

Students will typically spend 120 hours for a 3 credit hour internship. Depending on the project, these hours will be spent either in the agency offices or location, or “in the field” conducting activities related to the internship. For most internship opportunities, students will need to have access to transportation to and from the agency site.

Enrolling in the course:

To enroll in the course, you must secure an internship for fall 2014 (August 25 through December 5). You may begin the process of identifying a potential internship by meeting with Dr. Will, on your own by searching in the Career Services Career Wings database, or meeting with Career Services Staff (Brooke Hammon, Valarie Robinson or Dee Dee Wyckoff). When examining the possibilities you should consider your interests and goals, as well as the kinds of skills you would bring to your internship. The Internship Application, available on the Sociology Program website, can help you to think through this. When you have some idea of the kind of placement that interests you, you can schedule a meeting with Dr. Will to discuss your interests and possible placements (please bring your completed Internship Application to this meeting). Then, Dr. Will will assist you in coordinating the placement and securing the necessary paperwork. Please do not contact any agency directly before you have approval from Dr. Will to do so. Once the placement is secured, we will generate permission for you to register in SYA4943(82687).

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