

SOCILOGY SOURCE

Happy
 New Year!

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” ~ Robert Louis Stevenson

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a fantastic break, full of good times mixed in with much needed relaxation! As the spring semester begins, we have important information to share. Please take a few minutes to read through the Sociology Source. It contains important updates and information related to advising, academics, enrichment, and extra-curricular opportunities. You should receive two newsletters during the fall and two newsletters during the spring semesters via email. Please let us know if you do not receive them.

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Special Drop/Add Period Hours

We will hold all drop-in hours only, during the first two weeks of the semester (January 13-22) for drop/add concerns. Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m..

Regular Spring Advising Hours:

Drop-In Hours:

Monday and Wednesday

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

All other advising by appointment only

You can schedule an appointment by going to www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/

Scheduling Appointments with the Advisers

You may schedule an appointment and view our calendars by visiting the following Web site:

www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/.

1. Click on Appointments.
2. Register

Your username and password do not need to be the same as your Penn State account, but when registering your contact email for the account, please give your PSU email and do not use a private email. Remember to write down both, and keep them in a safe place for the next time you want to schedule an appointment.

Appointments are meant for issues that you know will take longer than 10 or 15 minutes. Examples of topics that could be covered in an appointment include:

1. Change of major or concurrent major paperwork
2. Long-range planning
3. Study abroad plans
4. Major/career exploration
5. Class schedules for the upcoming semester
6. Other topics that you want to discuss in detail and would like a designated time to do so

Contacting your advisers

Karen Sones

(klo1@psu.edu)

317 Oswald Tower

Julie Willits

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315 Oswald Tower

TBD

315 Oswald Tower

Phone number:

814-865-2217

Department Web site:

www.sociology.psu.edu

Advising Clipboard



During the first two weeks of the semester, we see a much higher volume of students. With this in mind, please request help with your most pressing concerns, and try to remember that other students are also waiting for help. If you have other items to discuss that can wait until later in the semester, please plan to stop back in after the first two weeks. We will return phone calls and emails as soon as possible, but please understand that the response time may be longer than usual.

Remember: Students who are waiting in line will receive first priority, and we respond to voice mail and e-mail messages as time permits. If you need more immediate attention, the best way to connect with us is to stop by the Advising Offices.

During the first two frantic weeks of the semester, these are the kinds of things we're happy to discuss with you:

- Dropping and adding classes on your spring schedule
- Graduation checks for seniors who plan to graduate in the spring semester
- Emergency situations regarding classes and scheduling
- Questions about particular courses and degree requirements



Some things we typically don't handle during this busy time of the semester are*:

- Class schedules for the next semester
- Résumé proofing and editing
- Long-range planning
- Letters of recommendation
- Study abroad plans and concurrent majors
- Internship planning for future semesters
- Career concerns

***While these advising items are very important, they aren't necessarily time-sensitive, so we ask that you return after the initial two weeks to seek assistance with them.**

Appointment FAQ's

During peak periods such as registration, adviser's schedules fill up approximately one to two weeks in advance. During slower times, advisers' schedules may have openings within 3-5 days.

Can I just stop in and ask you a quick question between your appointments?

No. Advisers' time between appointments is spent entering contact reports, completing substitution requests, responding to student emails, making phone calls, and other important administrative work.

Can I schedule with any CRIM/SOC adviser?

You should schedule your appointment with your assigned adviser. Students can check who their assigned adviser is by logging onto eLion and clicking "Adviser Information." If you are not currently a CRIM or SOC major, you may schedule an appointment with an adviser of your choice.

What if I need to cancel my appointment?

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, you may cancel your appointment through the scheduling system up to 24 hours in advance. If you are unable to cancel the appointment yourself, please contact the adviser via email as soon as you realize you are unable to meet at your designated time.

How do I know if a drop-in or appointment is the appropriate choice for me?

Schedule an appointment if you think your question will take more than 10 minutes to answer or if you'd like to be guaranteed not to wait in a line. Come to drop-ins if you have to drop off or pick up a form, ask a question that will take 10 minutes or less to answer, or need to request a course substitution.

Internship Central



Summer 2014 Internship Information

If you're considering a summer internship, the internship dates are planned for **May 12–August 15, 2014**. Be sure to contact the SOC department by **February 8** regarding summer internships. The following are key deadline dates:

- February 8** Indicate your intent to complete an internship by this date and email our internship coordinator, Cynthia Meyers (cab408@psu.edu), to let the SOC department know your plans.
- March 15** Letters must be sent to three possible internship sites by this date. Send an email to Cynthia Meyers with the names of the three sites.
- April 19** Placements should be finalized by this date. Send an email to Cynthia Meyers with your internship site placement. We will then send a letter to your internship site with information and instructions about your internship duties/activities.

For more information about the internship process, go to the departmental Web site: sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships. Karen and Julie are available to discuss questions about internships including the internship process, how an internship fits into your academic plan, and potential sites.

Funding Available for Summer Internships

One of the goals of the Sociology Department is to involve undergraduates in internship opportunities. Both the College of the Liberal Arts and the Sociology and Criminology department have modest funds to provide some financial assistance to students who participate in internships. Students with demonstrated need are given preference for funding as are students who will be interning during the summer. Students must also be receiving academic credit for their internship experience. If you're interested in applying for these enrichment funds, you can apply online at lanet-work@psu.edu. When you submit this application to the Liberal Arts College, the same information will be shared with our department so you will be considered for funds from both sources.



Scheduling News

Dropping/Adding Classes

If you are planning to re-arrange your schedule, please note that you can drop and add classes in several ways during the first few days of the semester:

- Adjust your schedule online at <https://elion.psu.edu/>.
- Complete a drop/add slip in the Advising Offices (315, 316, & 317 Oswald).
- Complete a drop/add slip in the departmental office (211 Oswald).

Through January 22nd before Midnight

Make changes to your schedule without using your late-drop credits.

Through January 23rd before 8 a.m.

Add courses to your schedule without a late-add fee

January 23rd–April 11th

Dropping any course from your spring schedule involves using your late-drop credits.

A \$6.00 late fee is assessed EACH time you make changes to your schedule.

Want to Get Involved?

The Sociology Club

The purpose of the Sociology Club is to better serve our students, and the club focuses on perennial questions asked by sociology majors including:

- What can I do with a sociology degree when I graduate?
- How do I get into graduate school?
- What do graduate students think about graduate school?
- What can I do to make myself more marketable after graduation?
- Where can I find a forum to interact with and make friends with other sociology students?
- What kinds of volunteer and service activities will help me get a job and can the club provide them?

The club sponsors faculty-student mixers, reviews films, raises money for THON, and participates in a Careers in Sociology evening and a Graduate School night. If you would like more information, please contact the SOC club faculty adviser, Dr. Stacy Silver (sjr11@psu.edu).

Alpha Kappa Delta

Sociology majors and minors can strive for membership in the Penn State chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society. To be eligible for membership, majors/minors must be a junior or senior with an overall grade point average of 3.00 as well as a 3.00 grade point average in the sociology major or minor. Qualified applicants must also have completed four sociology courses. Application forms for Alpha Kappa Delta are available outside of 315 Oswald Tower. For more information, contact the faculty adviser, Dr. Stacy Silver (sjr11@psu.edu).



Student Spotlight – Education Abroad – Gillian Wood

Studying abroad in Amsterdam, Netherlands through Penn State's Dutch Criminal Justice Summer Program was an exceptional experience. As a criminology and sociology major, it gave me the opportunity to look at the United States' justice system comparatively through a social lens. Through this program, I lived in an international college dormitory at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) which gave me the opportunity to meet Dutch students in addition to other international students. The structure of the program gave me the opportunity to travel throughout Europe on the weekends and explore the beautiful city of Amsterdam. Although Amsterdam has a reputation for being a dirty city because of the Red Light District and the recreational use of marijuana, I soon learned that this is not the case; the city is safe, clean, and very peaceful. For example, The Red Light District is full of families. Canals line the streets, and there are always people biking. The Dutch society has an established tradition of acceptance

and diversity. It was very interesting to see the unique approach that the Dutch have through crime, justice, and social lenses; the system is known around the world for being peaceful. The Dutch have a reputation for their open-mindedness of various topics of crime such as legalization of prostitution, the decriminalization of soft drugs, the medical attitude toward hard drugs, and the way in which issues like crime, euthanasia, and gay marriage are approached. Instead of having harsh prison sentences and the stigmatization of criminals, their system focuses on rehabilitation and reintegrating them back into society. Each day of class consisted of lectures from people of different backgrounds and included academics, policy makers, and professionals in the field. One lecture was conducted by a former prostitute and another was by a doctor who performed euthanasia. We also went on field trips throughout the country such as, The Hague, the capital of the Netherlands. We also went to a women's prison and often went to Rotterdam, which is the second-largest city in the Netherlands and one of the largest ports in the world. This program was phenomenal and I cannot wait to go back to Amsterdam again!

Faculty Fun Fact: Did you know?.....

Corina Graif is a new assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. She studies spatial stratification and neighborhood effects on crime. In the Fall of 2013 she taught a course on Communities and Crime. She completed her PhD in Sociology at Harvard and was a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at the University of Michigan. Dr. Graif has a Law degree from Romania where she practiced law before moving to the United States for her doctoral training. She's always been interested in how people become involved in crime and how the lack of opportunities where one lives can increase risky behavior, delinquency, and criminal behavior. She uses GIS and spatial analysis tools to understand the spatial distribution of opportunities and resources relevant for crime and studies the role of immigrants and local social capital in increasing or decreasing violent crime. Her research has focused on neighborhoods in various US cities, such as Chicago, Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and New Orleans. In her current work she's taking a close look at the implications for crime of the increasing spatial mismatch between housing and jobs in metropolitan Detroit.

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Considering law school?

If so, contact the pre-law adviser, Katherine Garren (keg146@psu.edu), located in the Grange Building or call 814-865-7576.

Visit www.psu.edu/dus/prelaw/ for Pre-Law information including LSAT prep courses, law school resources, and other upcoming events. Also check out www.lsac.org to get more information regarding law school.



GRE Registration

Wondering when to take the GRE? The GRE exam is offered via computer at various computer centers on a first-come, first-served basis. Since the GRE is a computer-based exam, if you don't do well the first time, you can retake the exam within a month of your first exam. Visit the GRE Web site at www.gre.org for more information or call 1-800-GRE-CALL to register.

Information for Graduating Seniors

If you are planning to graduate in May, you will need to activate your intent to graduate by **January 27, 2014**. Activating your intent to graduate is easy—simply log on to eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/> and follow the listed steps. If you don't activate your intent, no one at the University will have any idea that you're planning to graduate—which means we won't review your degree audit, the Dean's Office won't certify you for graduation, you will not receive a diploma! If you miss the deadline date, please contact the Advising Offices at 865-2217 as soon as possible. Spring commencement will be held **Saturday, May 10, 2014** at 6:00 p.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center.

So, you've activated your intent to graduate, but what's the next step? What kinds of things should you be doing?

- Check in with the [Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network](#) for a resume review, talk about your job search strategy, and complete the LEAD assessment program.
- Review a copy of the Penn State Career Services Career Guide, which you can get [on-line](#) or by stopping by the Bank of America Building.
- Attend any of the workshops offered by [Career Services](#) to get a jump start on your job search.
- Have your resume reviewed by as many professionals as possible - Career Enrichment Network staff, Career Services counselors, academic advisers, former internship supervisors and colleagues, etc.
- Plan to attend the [People to People](#) fair (February 27) and/or [Spring Career Days](#) (March 26-27) to connect with potential employers.
- Chat with alumni via [LionLink](#), a great networking resource.
- Make sure that everyone in your network of friends, relatives, and acquaintances knows that you are actively looking for a job.
- Think about ways to expand your network - student organizations, alumni connections, family and friends, informational interviews with professionals in your field, LinkedIn connections via professional groups, attendance at guest speaking events of interest to you, joining professional associations, etc.
- Visit www commencement.psu.edu/ for commencement ceremony details.
- Explore sites listed on the SOC/CRIM handout, "What Happens Post-PSU? Planning for Life After Penn State." Copies are available on the SOC/CRIM department website, 3rd floor Oswald beside the elevator, or from a CRIM/SOC adviser.

Join us for our annual Come Back to Campus Event

Thursday, February 27, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Bryce Jordan Center

We have many successful Penn State Sociology and Criminology alumni traveling back to Happy Valley to offer advice on a multitude of career paths and to answer any questions that you may have. This is an excellent opportunity for you to network with our alumni and to gain valuable insights about career options. We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to connect with alumni for career networking and one-on-one mentoring. Career fields that will be represented include state and local law enforcement, the federal government, the legal system, security and investigations, and social and human services. A representative from Penn State’s law school will also be there for those considering law school. Like us on Facebook for event details, alumni biographies, and information on how to prepare for this workshop.

CAREER NEWS

This year’s People to People Fair will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014. The People to People Fair is geared towards service-oriented careers which include agencies related to Sociology and Criminology majors. We will be sending more information to you as the date approaches.

Thursday, February 27, 2014
 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Bryce Jordan Center



Congratulations

Dean’s List – Way to Go!

Congratulations to all our students who made the Dean’s List for the Fall 2013 semester!! Great job! We’ve posted the names of these students on the bulletin boards by the third floor elevators. We are very proud of you!

Important Semester Dates At-A-Glance

January 13	Classes begin
January 13-22	Drop/add period
January 23	Late drop period begins
January 20	Martin Luther King Day; No classes
January 27	Deadline to activate intent to graduate Spring 2014
February 4	First date to register for Summer session 2014 courses
February 8	Notify the SOC department of intent to complete Summer 2014 internship
February 17–March 9	Final exam conflict filing period
February 27	People to People Career Fair
March 9-15	Spring Break
March 15	Letters sent to possible internship sites for Summer 2014
April 9	Finalize Summer 2014 internship site
April 11	Late drop deadline
May 2	Withdrawal deadline
	Classes end
May 5-9	Final exams
May 10	Spring commencement

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