

# SOC 2020: Exploring Careers in Sociology

**Location:** Bentley Annex 102--- the seminar room across from the front door!

## Course Description:

This two credit-hour course helps students explore career paths and prepare for success in a broad array of fields related to sociology, criminology, and law. In this course, we will reflect on our goals, and take active steps to prepare for the future that we want to pursue. This starts by building an aspirational vision of our future self, and then working to build the reality by drawing on resources and building others.

## Hands on learning:

Our class sessions will be a mix of seminar discussion and small group work. Plan to bring your laptop to class every session, be prepared to work in groups to accomplish tasks during class and outside of class. Be prepared to report on your progress on weeks 2-7, every week in class.

Sociological training prepares students for a variety of career options. Many organizations (corporate, nonprofit and public sectors) rely on social science research methods to solve workplace problems (i.e. managerial and employee conflict), improve information-gathering processes (i.e. police interrogations and patient care), and increase market share (i.e. sell pharmaceuticals or jeans). Sociology majors are well equipped to evaluate problems holistically, analyze the risk and benefits associated with decision-making, and implement changes that improve systemic outcomes.

## Skill-based Learning Objectives

### 1. Learn to learn better.

- a. Search, feeds, communities for examples, instructions and advice
- b. Learn how to use campus and department resources
- c. Learn which resources need to be localized or can be sourced remotely
- d. Organize your learning and skills by keeping records of your goals
- e. Document your progress towards your goals.

### 2. Discover life goals

- a. Work for your "self"
- b. Develop your vision
- c. Start taking steps

### 3. Develop your social capital

- a. Current collaborations become future connections
- b. Reinforce connections through meaningful contributions to work groups
- c. Reach out to peers and connect
  - i. Shared interests
  - ii. Past shared contexts / activities
  - iii. Connections to similar others

### 4. Comprehensive job searching

- a. LinkedIn job searching; make list of saved jobs
- b. Handshake job searching
- c. Active networking through contacts
- d. Industry specific searching

### 5. Disciplinary, platform and digital literacies

- a. Soc career specific
- b. Collaboration platforms
- c. Digital skills

### 6. Presentation of your digital self

- a. LinkedIn profile
- b. Complete and refine two resumes
- c. Other digital profiles to develop

### 7. Communication

- a. Interviewing
- b. Email / messaging
- c. Team leadership

## Readings and resources

Soc 2020 Course Schedule will link to resources will be linked electronically, as needed.

## Technology

Bring a laptop to class every day. Your computer is your office, your desk, and your toolbox. Be prepared to work during class and to present your progress to your peers.

LinkedIn is the platform for presenting your professional self and developing your network. We will use LinkedIn extensively during our course, so if you have an account already that is great, if not, you should get started on it right away.

Gmail, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, etc. It will be helpful for you to have a professional gmail address

for use with files, folders and collaboration.

Using google docs to allow ongoing collaboration:

- Save files so that anyone can view or anyone can edit
- Share access to that file by copying the URL
  - Create a link by typing text, like this
  - Highlight the text, press CTRL-K, CTRL-V return
    - In Macs, use command key instead of Ctrl
  - For example, see the next item
- This is the [Course Schedule](#) for 2020; this is where I make edits prior to each class to provide additional information and structure for what we will do in class.
  - [Example week 1](#)

**Collaboration platform:** Slack and LinkedIn messaging

The slack group will put you in touch with me, students from earlier sections of our course and your class mates. Slack Invite link: WelserAdvising, I will have made a channel for our course and add you to it after you join

[https://join.slack.com/t/welseradvising/shared\\_invite/zt-16c180ls5-oEDvwfn5T93q4Jy9MIYxTw](https://join.slack.com/t/welseradvising/shared_invite/zt-16c180ls5-oEDvwfn5T93q4Jy9MIYxTw)

**Assignments** have been redesigned after completing the first section of our course

Assignment	Points	Description
Week1 Intro slide	15	quality of and timeliness of completion of your intro slide
Week 2 Vision slide	15	quality of and timeliness of completion of your vision slide
Scorecard123	30	document your participation and tasks from weeks 123
Progress23	20	in class presentation of progress weeks 2 and 3
LinkedIn 1	20	first draft of linkedin profile after improvements
Resume 1	20	first improved draft of resume
Hedgehog1	5 / 0	participation bonus from weeks 1-3
Job search 1	20	initial exploration of jobs on linkedin
Scorecard456	30	document inclass work and progress from weeks 4,5,6
Progress456	30	in class presentation of progress weeks 4,5,6
Resume 2	20	final improved draft of resume or second resume
LinkedIn 2	20	final draft of linkedin profile after additional improvements
Job search 2	20	final evidence of job search insights

Survey recruitment OR zoom interview	40	based on number of alums successfully invited to complete our survey
Vision slide final	50	quality and presentation of your careers vision, inclass and as a slide
Slide- progress linkedin and resume	50	quality and presentation of your progress on your linked in and resume
Potluck	5 / 0	Woooo!
Hedgehog2	5 / 0	participation bonus from weeks 4-7

### **Flexible details for assignments, approach to learning and professional development.**

Some of our assignments will include tasks that everyone does, some assignments can be extended or leveled up for additional points. Other assignments are entirely optional. Students will complete a subset of the optional aspects of assignments that they are most interested in completing.

Below is a partial list of topics that we will select from and can become parts of our in class deliverables and items for digital learning portfolios. Completing these will help you make progress towards your career and succeed in our class.

1. Aspirational digital self portrait slide
  - a. Choose 1,2 or 5 year time period
  - b. Identify cultural and social capital that you can build to achieve your goal
2. Resumes [building, revising, finding models, comparing to job ads and applicants]
  - a. One page machine readable resume
    - i. Narrow job specific
    - ii. Medium specific
  - b. Standard resume
    - i. General purpose
3. LinkedIn Profile, [building, curation, ongoing development]
  - a. Network connections
    - i. Local peers
    - ii. Faculty
    - iii. Professional
    - iv. Bridging ties
    - v. Bonding ties
  - b. Photos
    - i. Headshot
    - ii. Background image

- c. About
  - d. Activity
  - e. Experience
  - f. Education
  - g. Volunteering
  - h. Skills
  - i. Recommendations
  - j. Projects
  - k. Interests
4. LinkedIn Learning
    - a. Skill quizzes and badges
    - b. Videos
    - c. Courses
    - d. Certificates
  5. Handshake
    - a. Make a profile and search for jobs
    - b. See this discussion of [Handshake for college students](#)
  6. Discovery of jobs, careers, and skill sets
    - a. Network contacts
    - b. LinkedIn job/position/career search
    - c. Conduct informational interview
  7. Improve your Interpersonal skills
    - a. Interviews
    - b. Email
    - c. Application submission
  8. Technical skills
    - a. Typing
    - b. Editing and formatting digital papers
    - c. Using ChatGPT or AI to aid tasks
    - d. Effective searching
    - e. Others. . .
  9. Participate in OU related career support resources
    - a. Meet with Amanda Cox (Soc career counselor)
    - b. Meet with an Allen Advisor
    - c. Complete a career coaching meeting at ACEL
    - d. Attend a career fair or other professionalization event
  10. Recruit new participants for our career survey, OR conduct an interview of a Soc Alum
    - a. Record and share zoom interview
    - b. Reach out to Soc Alums--- surveys goal=3 successful survey responses

### **Additional Class Information**

## Note on Blackboard

I will only use blackboard for the gradebook and occasionally to send out announcements. Instead, info will be linked and shared on the [Course Schedule](#) 2020

## Contacting me

Send me an email, direct message me on Teams or on Slack, if you used slack in a previous course with me.

Howard T. Welser Professor Welser

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Email: [h.t.welser@gmail.com](mailto:h.t.welser@gmail.com); [welser@ohio.edu](mailto:welser@ohio.edu)

Office hours:

Monday	11:00 to 11:50	123 Bentley Annex
Tuesday	1:00 to 3:00	123 Bentley Annex
Zoom in:	Most weekdays 9:30 to 4:00;	

## General teaching issues

**Attention:** Treat class time like your avocation.

**Attendance:** Be in class everyday, and be ready to do the work that we have planned for that day. If you know you will miss a day it is your job to get your work done ahead of time and contact your peers in the course to keep up.

**Polite electronic communication:** Be brief, courteous and considerate. I will be brief, to the point, and to the best of my abilities, prompt. Send a follow up if you don't hear back within 24 hours (during the school week).

**Take credit for your work only:** I should not need to mention this in this course, but I will include it from my 100 level syllabus: You should, with pride, lay claim to all of your unique contributions. When you work with others on assignments you should take pains to assure that you know, appreciate, and clearly identify the contributions of each of your colleagues. Deliberate attempts to claim the work of others as your own without clear acknowledgement will be seen as plagiarism and will be severely punished: a grade of F will be assigned to the plagiarized assignment.

## **Other details**

**Students with disabilities:** I will gladly provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, with the recommendation of Disability Services, at the Office for Institutional Equity (740-593-2620). Please show me the letter from that office indicating accommodations that you may need for this class.