



Question of the Month: The SOC major and minor have been changed?

After completing a review of the Sociology program, the Sociology faculty worked revamp and improve the Sociology major and minor. These changes were approved last spring and have gone into effect with the 2006-2007 academic year. Some of you may be wondering what these changes are and how they will impact you.

The Changes: The OLD Major requirements consisted of 30 credit hours which included: SOC 230, SOC 374, SOC 375, SOC 471, 472, 473 (all one credit courses), SOC 489, SOC 496 and 12 credits in SOC electives.

The NEW Major requirements consist of 39 credit hours. SOC 230, 374, and 489 will remain requirements, while MAT 245 or PSY 200 will replace SOC 375. The three one credit courses SOC 471, 472 and 473 have also been eliminated and have been replaced with SOC 280 Applied Sociology. SOC 496 has been reworked and is now entitled Seminar in Public Sociology and is designed to give students hands on experience and a chance to apply their sociological knowledge to problems facing the local community. Finally, students will complete 18 credits in SOC elective courses

with at least 6 credit hours at the 400 level.

For the SOC minor the only change was to require that one elective be at the 400 level. In the OLD minor students took SOC 230 and 15 credits in electives at any level. In the NEW minor requirements students take SOC 230 and 15 credits of SOC electives with at least 3 credits at the 400 level.

Additionally we deleted several courses that had not been offered on a regular basis and added several to better reflect the teaching expertise of those in the department and the needs of our students. New courses that you will be seeing in the future include:

SOC 271 Home and Housing in Mexico (1 credit)

SOC 272 Culture and Family in Mexico (1 credit)

SOC 273 Education and Family in Mexico (1 credit)

SOC 280 Applied Sociology

SOC360 Media, Self and Society

SOC 420 Gender and Society

SOC 440 –449 Selected Topics in Sociology

The Impact: For students entering Meredith prior to 2006-

2007 you are only required to complete the 30 credit SOC major or 18 credit SOC minor. The new changes will only impact you in that SOC 375 and SOC 471, 472, and 473 are no longer offered. To replace these courses you will be advised to take either MAT 245 or PSY 200 in place of SOC 375 and SOC 280 in place of SOC 471, 472 and 473. If you are unable to include SOC 280 before graduation this requirement will be waived. This will not reduce the SOC credits you need to complete the major, but it will allow you to graduate with 15 instead of 18 credits that are required courses as long as you reach a total of 30 credits with your electives included.

For those who are minoring in SOC and entered Meredith prior to 2006-07, you will complete your minor using the OLD requirements.

As you look ahead and begin to plan your schedules for the coming years, please see Dr. Brown or Dr. Cokely with any questions that you have regarding these changes. Also plan on attending a session for majors and minors on October 2 at 10am in Ledford 301 to get more information on all these changes and the ways they may impact you.

Upcoming Events

Day with Shirin Ebadi 2pm Kresge Q&A Session 7pm Jones Lecture	September 14
Campus Dialogue on Diversity: Community Building 6pm Kresge	September 21
Information Session for Current Majors and Minors 10am Ledford 301	October 2
Department Info Session for Those interested in SOC 5pm	October 4

Quote of the Month:

“If it’s far away, it’s news, but if it’s close at home, it’s sociology.”

— James Reston

Scottish Journalist 1909-1995

New Faces on 3rd Ledford

Jennifer Ashlock, Adjunct Instructor
Ledford 308

Jennifer Ashlock is teaching criminology this semester as a new adjunct instructor of sociology. She graduated with a BA in Sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill and is currently completing a PhD in sociology at UNC about gender, race, and social class differences in job satisfaction. In addition to criminology, she teaches symbolic interaction, and the sociology of work, race, class, and gender. She is also a documentary filmmaker and her films have screened on public television and in film festivals around the country.



Jack Huber, Interim Department Head
Ledford 308

While Dr. Zingraff is on leave this year, Dr. Jack Huber will be serving as interim Department Head. Dr. Huber served as Head of the Psychology Department from 1974 to 2005. He is interested in social psychology and in addition to publishing over 40 articles, many co-written with students, he is also co-editor of *Cornerstones of Psychology*, a book of readings on the history of psychology. He is a consulting editor for *The Journal of Individual Psychology*. A licensed psychologist, he also works as a pastoral counselor at Triangle Pastoral Counseling.



Mary Mofitt, Departmental Assistant
Ledford 309

Mary Mofitt is the new departmental administrative assistant. She will be assisting with both our department as well as undergraduate research. Prior to coming to the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Mary offered administrative support in both the School of Music and the School of Business.



Take some time to come and introduce yourself to the new people in our department and to find out more about them!

Alumna Spotlight: Shannon Massey Lowry

This year we will again be showcasing graduates of the Sociology program at Meredith and ways that they use their Sociology training in their careers. This month's alumna is Shannon Massey Lowry. Shannon graduated in 2004 and double majored in Sociology and Political Science. She currently teaches 6th grade social studies at Henderson Middle School.

When asked how she uses Sociology in her career as a teacher Shannon replied "I work

at a school where approximately 90% of the students receive free or reduced school lunches. The sociology classes I took have really helped me understand my students and my students' families better, especially Race and Ethnic Relations and Social Stratification.

Prior to her junior year at Meredith, Shannon did not know much about Sociology but after taking Race & Ethnic Relations with Dr. Brown decided that she wanted to

pursue a major in Sociology. In thinking about her major she said, "The professors were great and the classes actually made me think! My sociology classes prepared me for the "real world" better than any other classes at Meredith."

Shannon's one piece of advice for current students is "Choose your research topics carefully and consider graduate school."

You can contact Shannon at:
smlowry@hotmail.com

FYI: Shirin Ebadi Lecture

On Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 7pm Nobel Prize Winner Shirin Ebadi will give the Lillian Parker Wallace Lecture in the McIver Amphitheater.

Ebadi works as an activist and is especially concerned with issues that are impacting refugees, women and children. She is the founder of the Association for Support of Children's Rights in Iran. She also served as president of the City Court in Iran from 1975 to 1979 and was one of the first female judges in Iran. Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 in recognition of her work as a human rights attorney in her native country of Iran. In her work



In her work as an activist, Ebadi promotes peaceful solutions to social problems and new thinking on Islamic terms. She is well known among the public as an individual who defends groups and individuals who have fallen victim to powerful political and legal systems. Shirin Ebadi received her law degree from the University of Tehran. Shirin Ebadi is sure to give the Meredith Community much to think about in relation to the status of women in our world. Consider attending this lecture to learn more.

Info taken from: <http://www.meredith.edu/campus-theme/shirin-ebadi.htm>