

**Oakland University**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**Guidelines for**  
**Field Experience/Independent Study/Apprentice Teaching Courses**

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers students the opportunity to receive credit for an Independent Study and Research (SOC 480/AN480), Field Experience (SOC 399/AN399) and Apprentice College Teaching (SOC497/AN497) with a faculty member. The following statement reflects the department's guidelines for faculty and students.

These courses are intended to allow students to pursue a topic in depth, or obtain experiences that are not provided in a regularly scheduled course offered by the department although exceptions can be made if circumstances warrant.

Generally, these course opportunities are open to Sociology and Anthropology majors and minors at Oakland University, who have achieved junior or senior standing and have a minimum 3.0 GPA in the major or minor.

The department depends upon the faculty's willingness to sponsor and supervise students in any of these endeavors, since these projects are not counted in the faculty member's teaching load, nor do faculty receive compensation for undertaking these projects. Consequently, all of these opportunities require the voluntary participation and permission of the faculty sponsor/supervisor. The "Instructor of Record" is the Department Chairperson, who will receive the final grade from the faculty sponsor/supervisor and submit it to the registrar.

Because credit is earned for these courses, students should expect to devote the same (if not more) amount of time that they would to any other upper division course in the major. Specific expectations with respect to reading, research or experiential activities; amount of time spent; and product(s) or project outcomes; are negotiated with the faculty member, who acts as the student's sponsor and supervisor.

The student and faculty member should complete and sign the attached course information form, which briefly outlines the plan of study/experience, including goals and expectations; the product(s) or project outcomes; criteria for evaluation; and, if relevant, a timeline for completion of activities.

SOC/AN 399 Field Experience, involves an academic project related to the respective departmental discipline that incorporates student performance in an occupational setting. The academic component typically entails a combination of related readings, maintenance of a reflective journal on experience in the field or other written product, along with regular meetings with the faculty sponsor/supervisor. Students interested in this course can approach a faculty member and request sponsorship or solicit the advice of their department advisor or the chairperson, who can assist in identifying possible faculty sponsors.

SOC/AN 480 Independent Study and Research, allows students the opportunity to pursue a topic in depth under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Typically, students take SOC 480/AN 480 with a faculty member with whom they have had some previous class experience--although this is not a requirement. Students usually have a "topic" in mind, and it is best to match the student's topical interests with the professor's area of expertise in order to maximize the benefit of the project to the student. This course rubric is also used when there are research opportunities for students to participate in a faculty member's research as an assistant. Students interested in this course can approach a faculty member and request sponsorship or solicit the advice of their departmental advisor or the chairperson, who can assist in identifying possible faculty sponsors.

SOC/AN 497 Apprentice College Teaching, is *by invitation only*. This experience entails supervised participation in teaching an undergraduate course in either sociology or anthropology, combined with readings and discussion of teaching objectives and pedagogical methods. Specific duties vary by professor. However, the student apprentice is not responsible for grading other students.

**Procedure:**

- 1) Student should identify a full-time faculty member sponsor, in consultation with advisor or chairperson.
- 2) Student and faculty sponsor should complete the attached course information form and file it with the Department administrator, no later than two weeks after the beginning of a fall/winter term, or one week after the beginning of the spring/summer terms.
- 3) Faculty grade for the student must be submitted no later than the last day grades are due for the term.

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Oakland University**

**Information form for SOC/AN 399, SOC/AN 480, SOC/AN 497**

*To be completed by student:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grizz# \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

OU Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

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***To be completed jointly by student and faculty sponsor :*** Please briefly describe the project to be undertaken including course goals, expectations, course product(s), the criteria for course evaluation and, if relevant, a timeline for completion of activities. (Attach an extra sheet if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty Sponsor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**