

# *The Department of Sociology Honours Handbook*

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## **SOCIOLOGY HONOURS COURSES OFFERED IN 2024-2025**

**SOC-4101(3) SEMINAR IN SOCIAL STRATIFICATION** This course examines the nature and significance of social stratification from an historical perspective as well as the structure and development of modern capitalism and socialism. Class relationships in contemporary societies and the future of class are analyzed. Other topics include caste and status communities, power differentials, women and stratification, and such topics in social stratification as students choose to research.

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC-1100(3) or SOC-1101(6).

This course will be offered in the Winter term on Tuesday & Thursday: 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. **Instructor Permission Required.**

**SOC-4116(3) SEMINAR IN QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS** This course is an advanced study of the techniques and methodology of quantitative sociological analysis. This will include in-depth discussion of methodological questions plus theoretical and practical experience with research design, data collection, statistical data processing and interpretation. The emphasis will be placed on computer-based data analysis techniques. A major research project is to be completed.

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC-2125(3) and SOC-2126(3), or the former SOC-2106(6).

This course will be offered in the Fall term on Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

**Instructor Permission Required.**

**SOC-4413(3) SEMINAR IN RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS** This course emphasizes the theoretical and substantive issues in the study of race and ethnic relations. The structure, development, ideologies, and linkages of race and ethnic relations with social institutions are examined in a comparative cross-national perspective.

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC-1100(3) or SOC-1101(6).

This course will be offered in the Winter term on Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Instructor Permission Required.**

**SOC-4405(6) HONOURS RESEARCH PAPER** At the end of their fourth year, Honours students are required to present an Honours paper. This course provides fourth year students with an opportunity to prepare that paper. Each student will select an area of special interest and will work under the guidance of a supervisor throughout the year.

**The Honours Research Paper is required of all Honours students. Honours Form Required.**

### **SOC-4800(6) FIELD RESEARCH PLACEMENT**

(Apprenticeship/Internship/Practicum) This course provides students with two sociological field research placement options. They can either be matched with an opportunity to work in a supervised research setting in a community or they can take an existing research proposal and work with a matched community organization to bring that proposal to completion. The course has both classroom and field research components.

**PREREQUISITES:** SOC-2125(3) and SOC-2126(3). Students may not hold credit for this course and CJ-4800.

This class will meet Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. **Honours Form and Instructor Permission Required.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Any 4000-level course offered in the Sociology department is considered to be an honours course. In these courses, the student participates in small seminars which foster intensive discussion among fellow students and between students and faculty members. In this way, the courses are structured similarly to many graduate-level courses and thereby provide students with important experience. The Honours Curriculum, which requires students to take 30 credit-hours of honours courses, offers students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge of their major field(s). For 6 of these credit-hours, the student undertakes an independent research project (see Honours Research Paper) under the direct supervision of a faculty member. This format allows students to form a one-on-one connection with a professor for more in-depth learning within their chosen area of sociology.

## **ADMISSION TO THE HONOURS PROGRAM**

If you wish to register in the Honours Program, begin by consulting with the Chair of the Department. They will review your record to ensure that you meet the requirements for admission.

Requirements for admission to the Honours Program include a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. in Sociology and a G.P.A. of 2.5 in non-sociology courses. A minimum of 30 credit-hours must have been previously completed. In consultation with the Department Chair, you will then complete an Honours Form which includes a proposed program of courses you plan to take in the coming year (all honours and non-honours courses). The Department may consider exceptional cases that fail to meet the requirements.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HONOURS PROGRAM**

- A. Requirements for the Honours degree are detailed in the University of Winnipeg General Calendar. It constitutes the final authority in regard to Honours regulations.
- B. Students must complete 30 credit-hours prior to entering the Honours Program.
- C. In order to be eligible for admission into the Honours Program, to continue in the Honours Program, and to graduate with an Honours degree, a student must have an overall cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.5, and a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in Sociology courses.
- D. For Single Honours, students are required to take a minimum 54 credit hours/maximum 78 credit hours in Sociology. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be Honours courses.
- E. A Sociology honours student may take one Honours course (6 credit-hours) after completing 30 credit-hours of university courses. After completing 60 credit-hours, students can take two more honours courses (12 credit-hours). The remaining honours courses can be taken after 90 credit-hours have been completed. In many cases, however, students take all of their honours courses toward the end of their degree.

- F. For Double Honours, students must take a minimum 36 credit hours/maximum 78 credit hours in Sociology, and a minimum of 24 credit hours must be Honours Courses.
- G. For single and double Honours students, the following courses are required:
1. **1100(3)** *Introductory Sociology I*, or the former SOC-1101(6) *Introductory Sociology* (generally taken in first year)
  2. **2010/3** *Classical Sociological Theory* **plus either** SOC-2011/3 *20<sup>th</sup> Century Sociological Theory* **or** SOC-2012/3 *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, or the former SOC-2114/6 *Sociological Theory*.
  3. **2125/3** *Introduction to Research Design & Qualitative Research* (generally taken in second or third year)
  4. **2126/3** *Introduction to Quantitative Research Method* (generally taken in second or third year)
  5. **4405/6** *Honours Research Paper* (generally taken in fourth year)

Examples of typical programs are as follows:

#### **Single Honours**

Year I	SOC-1100(3), or the former SOC-1101(6)
Year II	Two Sociology courses at the 2000 or 3000 level, which typically include the required theory courses (see above)
Year III	Two Honours Sociology courses plus SOC-2125/3 and 2126/3 if they haven't been taken in year II
Year IV	Three honours Sociology courses, including the required research paper (SOC-4405/6)

#### **Double Honours**

Year I	SOC-1100(3), or the former SOC-1101(6)
Year II	SOC-2125/3, 2126/3 and the required theory courses (see above)
Year III	Two Honours Sociology courses
Year IV	Two honours Sociology courses, including the required research paper (SOC-4405/6)

**Note:** Students are strongly encouraged to take 4000-level Theory and Research Methods courses in their Honours programs because those topics are central to the practice of Sociology.

## **HONOURS RESEARCH PAPER (SOC 4405/6)**

Each honours student must complete a major research paper. As a general rule, it should be taken in the final year of study. As the title implies, this course allows the student the opportunity to do this work. Each student will select an area of special interest and will work under the guidance of a supervisor throughout the year. Students are urged to consider choosing a research topic in which they have some background knowledge through other courses or honours seminars taken, although this is not required. Students should be aware that neither the honours research paper nor any significant portion thereof may be turned in for credit in any other course.

### **Choice of a Faculty Supervisor**

Ideally, a Faculty Supervisor whose competencies and interests are related to the Honours topic should be chosen. Students should check with their chosen faculty member early to ensure that the member is available to take on the project. Ideally, a student will have a faculty supervisor by the end of September. Students having problems finding a suitable supervisor should see a member of the Honours Committee or the Department Chair.

Once the student has a supervisor, the two of them will select another faculty member to act as a "second reader". The role of the second reader is flexible and may constitute additional support throughout the year or they may only read the final paper and consult with the supervisor on that grade.

### **The Paper**

Each student taking Sociology 4405/6 should submit to their faculty advisor a description of the proposed paper no later than November 15th. The proposal should include the theoretical basis of the research, the type of methodology that might best be employed, and a brief review of the relevant literature.

Students should have a first draft of the research paper to their advisors by March 1st. The final draft should be submitted by the last day of classes. The length of the research paper can vary, but in general they are approximately 35-40 pages typed, double-spaced.

## **FACULTY SUPERVISORS**

To assist you in selecting a faculty member to supervise your Honours Research Paper (4405/6), below is a list of members' main research areas. As noted above, make sure you check early, because members are not always able to take on new students.

### **DAVINA DesROCHES**

I specialize in the sociology of communication and culture, museology, heritage conservation, labour, and urban studies. My work examines a variety of cultural forms – everything from museums to cities to advertising – from a political economic perspective (meaning, I am interested in how power and money shape culture and cultural practices). I am currently working on two major research projects. The first is a comparative study of

museum employees across four different institutions, and documents how these workers are responding to changes in museum workplace organization and culture, including increasingly insecure employment, declining levels of compensation, and shrinking labour protections. My second research project uses the work of Thorstein Veblen to construct a sociological critique of rhetorics of decluttering and minimalism (is the 'life-changing magic of tidying up' *really* all it's cracked up to be?).

I am happy to supervise students in the following areas:

1. Popular culture
2. Mass media and communication
3. Heritage, museums, and public memory
4. Urban sociology
5. The sociology of work

### **KIMBERLEY DUCEY**

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

I engage in critical dialogue on white supremacy, far-right demagoguery, and racial divisiveness as the world bears witness to what is taking place globally in terms of the spread of nativist ideologies, "strongman" politics, and the detestation of "the other" through, for example, xenophobic and anti-immigrant policies.

I am excited to team with honours students whose projects relate to my research interests of:

1. Race, ethnic, and Indigenous relations.
2. Racism and anti-racism.
3. Gendered racism.
4. Critical race and whiteness studies.
5. Theories of race and ethnicity (e.g., white supremacy, implicit bias, microaggressions, systemic racism theory, critical race theory, racial formation theory, laissez-faire racism, colorblind racism, colorism, intersectionality).
6. White racial framing and counter-framing in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

I am likewise enthusiastic to team with honours students whose projects relate to my work on:

7. Critical, Indigenous, and anti-oppressive approaches to research.
8. Liberation sociology/Public sociology (including animal liberation).
9. Genocide studies (including colonial theories).
10. Gendercide (including feminist theories).
11. Peace and conflict studies.

#### SELECTED PREVIOUS SUPERVISIONS

Topics I have supervised during my time at the University of Winnipeg include: Indigenous resistance to colonial spatial projects; culturally safe birthing practices for Indigenous women; contemporary educational colonization; Indigenous genocide in white

settler nations; the Nanjing Massacre; the 1994 Rwanda Genocide; rape as a weapon of genocide; the rape of enslaved women; Holocaust fatigue; genocide, morality, and altruism; the white racial frame and black counterframing; black imaging in the mainstream media; the public and psychological wage of whiteness; pacifist violence on the Prairies; cultural appropriation, whitewashing, and the white racial frame in Hollywood and Japanese cinema; the whiteness of artificial intelligence; international development policies; masculinity and violence in male sports culture; heteronormativity and sports; homelessness and poor-bashing; workfare and lone mothers; postpartum depression; an autoethnographic study of the feminized, addicted self; vegan-feminism; North America's gendered legal system; the Canadian security regime and racial and ethnic profiling; sex trafficking in Canada; and Byzantine culture and identity.

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Some of my published work, which may help you decide if I am an appropriate match for your honours project, includes:

**Kimberley Ducey.** "The Life and Death of Queen Elizabeth II: Defender of the Faith, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and Manifestation of the White Colonial Gaze." In George Yancy, Editor, *Behind and Beyond the Whiteness of Christianity*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023.

Joe R. Feagin and **Kimberley Ducey.** "White Privileges and Black Burdens." In Lawrence M. Eppard and Henry A. Giroux, Editors, *On Inequality and Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

**Kimberley Ducey** and Joe R. Feagin. *British Systemic Racism. The Case of Meghan Markle and the Royal Family*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Oxford, United Kingdom: Routledge Press, 2021. [2<sup>nd</sup> edition forthcoming in 2025]

**Kimberley Ducey**, Clevis Headley, and Joe R. Feagin (editors). *George Yancy: A Critical Reader*. Lanham, Maryland, United States: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2021.

**Kimberley Ducey.** "David Vs. Goliath: Using Herbert Gans' Model to Explain How a Campaign to Save Nine Lambs Became Public Sociology." In Brooke Kelly, Leslie Hall Hossfeld, and Cassius Modisana Leeuw, Editors, *Handbook on Public Sociology*. New York: Routledge, 2021.

Biko Agozino and **Kimberley Ducey.** "Liberation Criminologies as Public Criminologies: All Criminology is Public Criminology." In Rita Shah and Kate Henne, Editors, *Public Criminologies Handbook*. New York: Routledge, 2020.

**Kimberley Ducey** and Joe R. Feagin. "Teaching Students Systemic Racism Theory and Autopathy: The Age of White Nationalism." In George Yancy, Editor, *Educating for Critical Consciousness*. New York: Routledge, 2019.

Joe R. Feagin and **Kimberley Ducey.** *Racist America: Roots, Current Realities and Future Reparations*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford, United Kingdom: Routledge Press, 2018. [5<sup>th</sup> edition forthcoming in 2025]

**Kimberley Ducey.** “At Least We Don’t Have Trump’: Canadian Racism’s Systemic Character—A Countersystem Perspective.” In Pinar Batur and Joe R. Feagin, Editors, *Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations*. New York: Springer International Publishing, 2018.

Ruth Thompson-Miller and **Kimberley Ducey** (editors). *Systemic Racism Theory: Making Liberty, Justice, and Democracy Real*. London, United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Joe R. Feagin and **Kimberley Ducey.** *Elite White Men Ruling: Who, What, When, Where, and How*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Routledge Press, 2017.

**Kimberley Ducey.** “The Chicken-Industrial Complex and Elite White Men: Connecting the Oppression of Humans and Other Animals.” In David Nibert, Editor, *Animal Oppression and Capitalism, Volume 1*. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger Publishers, 2017.

**Kimberley Ducey** and Joe R. Feagin. “Systemic Racism.” In Kathleen Odell Orgen, Editor, *Cambridge Handbook of Sociology*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Joe R. Feagin, Hernán Vera, and **Kimberley Ducey.** *Liberation Sociology*. Boulder, Colorado: Paradigm Publishers, 2014.

## **KENNETH FISH**

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Classical and Contemporary Social Theory
2. Global Political Economy
3. Science, Technology and Society
4. Environmental Sociology
5. Self and Society

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Fish, K. 2022. "Essence, Alienation, and Animal Liberation: Toward a Humanism for non-Humans." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 33(3): 37-55.  
DOI:10.1080/10455752.2020.185957.
2. Fish, K. 2014. “Relational Sociology and Historical Materialism.” In G. Depelteau and C. Powell, *Conceptualization Relational Sociology*. Macmillan Palgrave: London.
3. Fish, K. 2013. *Living Factories: Biotechnology and the Unique Nature of Capitalism*. McGill Queen’s University Press: Montreal.
4. Fish, K. 2011. “Machine Systems and the Unique Nature of Industrial Capitalism.” *Critical Sociology* 37(1): 125-143.
5. Fish, K. 2003. “Biotechnology and the Society-Nature Relation.” *Alternate Routes* 19: 58-78.



## **JONATHON FRANKLIN**

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Research Methods
2. Population Health/Medical Error
3. Demography/Aging

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Franklin, J. (2005). "Changing the culture of safety in healthcare: innovations and challenges". Managing Innovation in the Healthcare Sector: Book of Abstracts. European Health Management Association (EMHA). Barcelona, Spain. Pgs. 13-14.
2. Franklin, J., Kozyrskyj, A., Hall, K. (2004). "Changing the culture of medication error reporting". Canadian Therapeutics Congress Book of Abstracts. Winnipeg, Manitoba. Pg. 51.
3. Franklin, J. (2004). "Pathway to citizen empowerment: understanding patient satisfaction. Citizen Empowerment: Opportunities and Threats for Health Management", Book of Abstracts. European Health Management Association (EMHA). Potsdam, Germany. Pg. 25.

## **BILL KIRKPATRICK**

I am especially interested in the sociology of media, disability studies, law and policy, and the politics of the body (including sexuality and queer studies). My current research focuses on the intersections of media and health, with a strong emphasis on the overlapping histories of broadcasting and medicine in the 20th century.

I would be especially excited to work with students on projects in the following areas, keeping in mind that these are non-exclusive (i.e., I can be curious about almost any question or topic you bring to the table):

1. The sociology of media (including media texts, industries, audiences, policies, and technologies).
2. Sociological approaches to health, medicine, and disability (including critiques of mainstream medical and psychological institutions).
3. Sex and sexuality (including queer studies and questions of normalization).
4. Sociological and critical approaches to issues in law and policy.
5. The sociology of technology, especially non-digital technologies).

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Ellcessor, Elizabeth and Bill Kirkpatrick, eds. *Disability Media Studies*. New York: New York University Press, 2017.

Kirkpatrick, Bill. "Media Policy." *The Craft of Criticism*, 2d. Ed. Eds. Michael Kackman and Mary Celeste Kearney. New York: Routledge, 2024. 134-145.

Kirkpatrick, Bill. "Digital Media Economy through a Disability Lens." *Sage Handbook of the Digital Media Economy*. Eds. Terry Flew, Julian Thomas, and Jennifer Holt. London: Sage, 2022.

Kirkpatrick, Bill. "The Health Roots of Early Radio." *Routledge Companion to Radio Studies*. Eds. Mia Lindgren and Jason Loviglio. New York: Routledge, 2022. 167-178.

Kirkpatrick, Bill. "'A Blessed Boon': Radio, Disability, Governmentality, and the Discourse of the 'Shut-In,' 1920-1930." *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 29:3 (2012), 165-184.

## **CURT PANKRATZ**

My work focuses on how states shape the welfare and ideology of their populations while distributing social, economic, and political power. This includes public health & safety, surveillance, and how various institutions exert their power to shape such policies. Relatedly, my work includes propaganda and information control (including the structure and interests of media institutions that support particular ideologies). I frame all of this work within the global context, which includes global inequality as well as resistance to its expansion (like protests and what we are trained to think of as "terrorism").

I am happy to work with students interested in the areas listed below. If you aren't sure whether your work falls within one of these things, come see me and we'll talk about it!

1. Terrorism, surveillance and national security
2. Propaganda and the control of information
3. Global inequality, empire-building & World Systems
4. Social policy, public welfare and welfare states.
5. Population health & safety

## **HEIDI RIMKE**

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Social and Political Theory and Philosophy
2. Historical Sociology
3. Political Sociology
4. Law and Criminology
5. Science, Medicine/Psychiatry, and Technology

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. "The Culture of Therapy and Psychocentrism in Everyday Life" in M. Thomas, R. Raby and D. Brock (Eds.) *Power and Everyday Practices*. Toronto: Nelson. 182-202, 2012. (with D. Brock)
2. "Security: Resistance" in Mark Neocleous and George Rigakos (Eds.) *Anti-Security: A Declaration*. Ottawa: Red Quill Books, 191-215, 2011.
3. "The Pathological Approach to Crime: Individually Based Theories" in K. Kramar (Ed.) *Criminology: Critical Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Pearson, 78-92, 2011.
4. "Beheading Aboard a Greyhound Bus: Security Politics, Bloodlust Justice, and the Mass Consumption of Criminalized Cannibalism." *The Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research*, 1, Fall, 172-192, 2010.
5. "Remembering the Sociological Imagination: Transdisciplinarity, the Genealogical Method, and Epistemological Politics." *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, 5:1, 239-254, 2010.

6. Constituting Transgressive Interiorities: C19th Psychiatric Readings of Morally Mad Bodies” in A. Arturo (Ed.) Violence and the Body: Race, Gender and the State. Indiana: Indiana University Press, 403-28, 2003.
7. “Governing Citizens through Self-Help Literature.” Cultural Studies, 14:1, 61-78, 2000.

## **WEI XING**

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Globalization and families
2. Immigration and cross-cultural integration
3. Immigrant marriage and families
4. Immigrants and Aboriginal relations
5. Global sociology

**SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**(submission deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>)**

\*\*Please Note: Scholarship bestowment is dependent upon availability of funds\*\*

**ALEXANDER & CATHARINE SMITH SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship was established by Dr. Doreen Smith, Associate Professor of Sociology, in memory of her parents, Alexander and Catharine Smith who were staunch supporters of higher education. It will be awarded to an outstanding student majoring in Sociology.

**BETHIA HENRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

A scholarship has been provided by the late Mrs. B.L. Henry in memory of her daughter, Bethia, who graduated from Wesley College in 1936. It will be awarded to a student with high standing in the Major or Honours program in Sociology who is entering third or fourth year.

**DR. DAN A. CHEKKI PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

This scholarship is awarded to the student who has written the best Honours research paper/thesis in completion of the requirements of the B.A. (Honours) programme in Sociology and who will undertake a graduate programme in Sociology.

**KATHERINE OAKES GEORGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

One scholarship will be awarded on the nomination of the Department of Sociology to a student entering third or fourth year who has an interest in the areas of stratification or theory and has demonstrated a capacity to produce papers of excellent quality and of a critical nature.

**DR. KENNETH TRUEMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is provided by the Erica and Arnold Rogers Fund for Academic Excellence. It will be awarded annually to a promising student entering the final year of the Sociology Honours program and preferably, but not necessarily, with a demonstrated interest in medical topics.

**\* This award requires the completion of an application form.**

**LORNE J.C. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This annual scholarship commemorates Lorne J.C. Elliott who graduated from Wesley College in 1937. It is awarded annually to a student with high academic standing who is entering or continuing the Major or Honours program in Sociology.

## **MARION TAYLOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship will be awarded annually to a Sociology Major or Honours student entering third or fourth year. Preference will be given to a student who is involved in some capacity with social service work.

**\* This award requires the completion of an application form.**

## **THE NOVEK FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

Awarded annually on the recommendation of the Sociology Department to a promising student enrolled at The University of Winnipeg who has completed at least one sociology course at the 2000 or 3000 level. Recipients should have a demonstrated interest in the environment or technology based on written course work.

## **REBECCA & ROY HAMBLETON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship, established by endowment in 1986 by Mr. E. Lee Hambleton in memory of Rebecca and Roy Hambleton, will be awarded annually on the recommendation of the Sociology Department to a student who shows promise in that discipline and who has financial need.

**\* This award requires the completion of an application form.**

In order to apply a fair and consistent approach to determining financial need, and to safeguard the privacy of student financial information, the University of Winnipeg asks that all students applying for financial need-based awards complete a General Application through the new online award application portal. More information and a link to the online application is available here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/awards/apply-for-awards/index.html>

**\*\* Students must complete both the Departmental Application form and the General Application to be considered for the Rebecca & Roy Hambleton Memorial Scholarship\*\***

**NOTE:** for each of the awards listed, it is required that a copy of your mark transcript be included with your application. It does not have to be an official transcript, but a complete printout of your grades (for example, from WebAdvisor) is required. Where an application form is not available, please submit a letter of application to the department Chair stating how you meet the qualifying criteria as it pertains to the award applied for.

**\*Application forms are available on the Sociology department website or from the Department Assistant: room 6L39; telephone: 204-786-9364; e-mail: [sociology@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:sociology@uwinnipeg.ca)**

## **Applying to Graduate School**

If you wish to attend graduate school, expect to spend some time researching various schools and programs. Start early, at least by the fall of your final year. Graduate schools frequently differ in their substantive emphases and in their theoretical/methodological orientations. Apply to a number of schools and select the one that best fulfills your academic, financial and geographic requirements.

You may find it useful to discuss the matter with your supervisor, with faculty members in your area of interest, with the University's Career Services, and with graduate student advisors at other institutions.

When selecting referees, consider which faculty members can best give a strong and thorough appraisal of your potential. Make every effort to give referees at least three weeks to write a reference letter – they take time because faculty members may be busy and an effective letter often requires careful consideration of your performance, experience, and the program (or funding) for which you are applying.

Almost all programs provide some form of teaching or research assistantship you can apply for. In addition, SSHRC and CIHR have a limited number of scholarships (sometimes they call them "fellowships") available to MA students. The deadline for application is often the November prior to entrance, so start your enquiries into financial assistance early. If you have a specific thesis topic already in mind, some federal or provincial government department may be willing to subsidize your research.

The University's Career Services Office supports recent graduates by offering "tips and tools on how to assess yourself, explore different fields, decide on a career path and then make it happen". Career Services has resources regarding graduate and pre-professional programs, testing such as the MCAT and LSAT and ways to get experience through volunteer programs. They also give advice on conducting job searches, writing cover letters, making effective CVs or resumes and preparing for interviews. These are useful skills for making effective graduate school applications and seeking employment thereafter.

The Sociology Department places great value on producing strong and successful honours graduates, so remember that you can approach any of our members for advice.