This course is expected to be one of your last as an undergraduate sociology major. Throughout your coursework in the sociology program, you have learned about various topics, theories, methods and social problems that define the discipline. This seminar provides you with the opportunity to reflect on the role and contributions of the discipline, integrate what you have learned in your previous coursework, and to apply that knowledge in a “real world” setting.

This will be an applied/public sociology course in a seminar setting. We begin by analyzing the problem of contemporary political discourse and its effect on citizen and student disengagement. We then discuss the deliberative turn to democracy as a way to promote active civic life and a better, less divisive political discourse. From there, students will be trained as facilitators and asked to organize and moderate a series of public deliberations on the topic of “Shaping Our Future: How Should Higher Education Help Us Create The Society We Want?” At the end of the semester, students will put forth an Issue Report that summarizes the results of each public forum and outlines just how UAF and Fairbanks residents see the university.

*Specific to Spring 2013 Capstone Seminar course.