DESCRIPTION OF THE OPTION:

This option will allow students to achieve a fuller understanding of issues surrounding inequality and diversity. The increasing diversity of American society will pose new challenges and require a workforce that understands issues of social inequalities and diversity. Students who choose this option will develop a broad understanding of inequality and diversity through coursework both within and outside the sociology department. CSULA has departments and courses that specifically focus on the following 4 areas: Asian and Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies, Latin American Studies, and Pan African Studies. Students will draw on these areas to complement their sociological studies on the topics of inequalities and diversity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPTION:

Lower and Upper Division Required Courses as in the General Option (26 units)
SOC 201, SOC 210AB, SOC 301, SOC 390, SOC 412, SOC 414
SOC 348 - Class, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender (4 units)
Upper Division Inequality/Diversity Electives Within Sociology (16 units)
Upper Division General Sociology Electives (8 units)
Upper Division Electives outside Sociology in Ethnic/Area Studies (12 units)

The program sheet for the option can be obtained from the sociology office (King Hall C3093) or from the sociology department website: http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/soc/BA.htm. These program sheets list the courses that can be used to satisfy each of the above requirements.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The sociology major provides students with broad training to enter a variety of career fields. In particular, the option in inequalities and diversity prepares students to work with diverse groups of people in any setting. Students in this option could potentially work in the following areas (as a few examples):

- Social Services
- Community Work
- Business and Human Resources
- Health Services
- Government Services
- Teaching and Education
Why study inequalities and diversity?
In a recent national survey by the American Sociological Association of graduating sociology majors, 83.8% of students graduating with a B.A. in Sociology strongly agreed that they gained the ability to describe and explain how people’s experiences vary by race, class, gender, age, and other ascribed statuses. This option in Inequalities and Diversity formalizes that training by requiring students to take a number of classes that specifically address these issues.

Can I combine this option with a minor in another program?
Yes, this option combines nicely with minors in any of the ethnic/area studies programs on campus: Asian and Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies, Latin American Studies, and Pan African Studies. Minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and Labor and Working Class studies would also fit nicely with this major option. In many cases, courses that count on the major program can also be used to satisfy minor program requirements.

Can I get any work/internship experience through this major option?
Several courses in this program utilize service learning. In service learning, students do community service as a portion of the class requirements thus gaining valuable experience while learning to apply sociological concepts and theories to activities outside the classroom. Students also have the option to complete up to 8 units on the major program through cooperative education. Cooperative education is work done independently by the student writing papers that apply sociology concepts to experiences in the workplace, internships, or volunteer settings.

If I am transferring from a community college, can I use any of my transfer courses for this option?
As with the other options in sociology, students transferring from community college can use an Introductory Sociology course and a Statistics course towards their sociology major here at CSULA. Students should check out http://www.assist.org for more information about how transfer courses equate to courses at CSULA.

How can I get more information about this option?
A copy of the program sheet listing all of the requirements for this option can be obtained from the Sociology Department (King Hall C3093). Appointments with an academic advisor can be made by visiting the department office or calling at 323-343-2200. Questions about the program can also be directed to Professor Gretchen Peterson at: gpeters@calstatela.edu.