

Kennesaw State University
Senior Seminar in Sociology
SOCI 4499 01
Fall 2014

Classroom: English Building # 266
Class Meetings: 6:30 -7:45 on the following dates:
August 19, August 21, September 9, October 30, November 4, November 6,
November 11, November 13, November 18, November 20, December 2, and
December 4.
Instructor: Gail Markle, PhD
E-mail: gmarkle@kennesaw.edu
Office: SSB 4071
Office hours: TR 9:30-12:15 and 2:00 - 3:15

Course Description: This is the capstone course designed to help senior-level students integrate their learning from previous sociology courses and other courses in their concentration. Students will (1) carry out an individual research study or write a theoretical research paper; (2) present the results of that research; (3) listen to the presentations of others and provide constructive criticism; (4) synthesize the material from all of their sociology courses; and (5) take steps to further their career goals.

Course Prerequisite: SOCI 2301 Social Science Research Methods, and SOCI 3300 Foundations of Social Theory

Course Goals:

- Conduct a research study or write a theoretical research paper in an area of sociological interest
- Report the findings from the research study in a report and a professional presentation
- Become familiar with the services offered by the KSU Career Services Center
- Develop a professional resume
- Participate in a mock interview
- Participate in several activities designed to further career goals

Textbooks:

Pollak, Lindsey. 2012. *Getting from College to Career, Revised Edition: Your Essential Guide to Succeeding in the Real World*. HarperBusiness. ISBN: 978-0062069276

Class Format: This course is delivered in a hybrid format, which includes a combination of on-line learning activities and assessments, twelve face-to-face class meetings, and one individual face-to-face meeting with the instructor. Progress toward completion of the research study or theoretical paper will be discussed at the individual student and instructor meeting. Students are

required to attend all face-to-face meetings. The face-to-face class meetings will take place on **August 19, August 21, September 9, October 30, November 4, November 6, November 11, November 13, November 18, November 20, December 2, and December 4**. You should schedule your individual meeting with the instructor to take place on **October 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 24 or 28, or during office hours**. Regular and punctual attendance is required at all scheduled class meetings; one point will be deducted from your final grade for each absence. You will not receive attendance credit when entering late.

Class Requirements and Grading:

Resume	15%
Interview	15%
Online Assignments	20%
Research Presentation	15%
Research Paper	35%

Resume and Mock Interview: Students will create a professional resume and have it reviewed by a member of the KSU Career Services Center. Students will participate in a mock interview, either at the KSU Career Center or through the online interview portal InterviewStream. Specific details will be provided in class on **August 21**. Students should schedule an appointment with the KSU Career Services Center at 770-423-6555 by **September 11**, to have their resume and interview critiqued. These appointments must be completed by **November 13**. Students must dress appropriately for the interview. The grade for the interview will be determined by the evaluation of the Career Services representative.

Online Assignments (3): Students will be divided into two groups. For each assignment each group will be assigned a chapter of the book *Getting from College to Career*. Students will write a one page reflection paper on their assigned chapter which they will **post as an attachment** to the Discussion Board on the course website. You must put your group number and the chapter number in the subject line of your post. In the reflection paper you should discuss in detail which of the author's tips you found relevant and how you might specifically put them into action. You should also discuss which tips you would not be likely to utilize, and describe why not. You should also suggest additional tips not included in the book that you think might also be appropriate for the chapter topic. **Reflection papers** must be posted by **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **August 26, September 2, September 16, and September 23**. In addition, you must reply to two reflection papers posted by members of the other group. In your reply you should state whether you agree or disagree with your colleagues' assessments of the author's tips and describe why or why not. **Replies** must be posted by **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **August 28, September 4, September 18, and September 25**. The reflection paper assignments are as follows:

August 26	Group 1 Chapter One
	Group 2 Chapter Two
September 2	Group 1 Chapter Three
	Group 2 Chapter Four
September 16	Group 1 Chapter Five
	Group 2 Chapter Six
September 23	Group 1 Chapter Eight
	Group 2 Chapter Nine

Research Presentation: Students will present the results of their research study or theoretical paper in class **November 4, November 6, November 11, November 13, November 18, November 20, December 2, or December 4** as assigned. All students must attend these presentations. Students not presenting should listen intently to their colleagues' presentations and provide constructive criticism. The presentation should last between 12 and 15 minutes and utilize PowerPoint. **Please do not embed YouTube videos in your presentation.** Presentations lasting less than 12 minutes will not receive full credit. Although your paper is not due until December 4, it is expected that the majority of your research will be done by the time of your presentation. In other words; do not treat the presentation as a proposal of what you plan to do, but what you have done.

Research Study Paper: Students will prepare a 10 page (not including references or title page) double spaced paper with one inch margins reporting the results of their research study. This research must follow a proposal **approved in advance by the instructor**, and for which IRB approval has been obtained (if necessary). Instructor approval must be obtained by **September 30**. Requests for IRB approval must be made no later than **September 30**. The final paper is due **December 4**. No e-mailed papers will be accepted. Your paper must include:

- Discussion of the theoretical perspective informing your study (at least full one page, plus sources)
- Literature review (at least **ten** academic journals or scholarly books)
- Hypotheses (if quantitative)
- Research method
- Data analysis; methods and results
- Conclusion
- References in ASA format

Theoretical Research Paper: Students will choose a social problem or a social topic and frame it as a question. You must then use three theoretical paradigms from which to examine your question. You must thoroughly engage the theories through your question. You must use at least **twelve** scholarly resources. You must do a significant amount of research on the theorists you will be drawing on and the substantive question you are examining. You must have your

question approved by me by **September 30**. The paper needs to be 12 pages (not including references or title page), double spaced and is due **December**. No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your paper using through Dropbox on D2L where it will be subjected to plagiarism detection software. You must also turn in a hard copy to me by the end of class on **December 4**. Failure to submit your paper through D2L or to provide me a hard copy by the due date will result in a zero for the paper grade.

IF ANY PART OF THE PAPER IS PLAGIARIZED YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE PAPER, AN “F” FOR THE COURSE, AND APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

Grading Scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = F

Earning Grades: Grades are “earned” and are not arbitrarily “granted” in this class. Thus, unless I make an error in calculation, I will not change your grade at the end of the semester for HOPE eligibility, graduation requirements, or any other reason.

Academic Honesty: You are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/academicaffairs/acadpubs/acadpub/ucat2006-07/x.General_Policies.pdf

Accommodations: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and make the appropriate arrangements with Disabled Student Support Services located in Suite 267 of the Carmichael Student Center Addition, 770-423-6443.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

August 19	Class Meeting Introduction, IRB
August 21	Class Meeting KSU Career Center Presentation
August 26	Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
August 28	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm
September 2	Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
September 4	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm

September 9	Class Meeting Theory: Micro, Macro and in-between
September 11	No class, Deadline to make appointments with KSU Career Center
September 16	Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
September 18	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm
September 23	Read Chapters 8 and 9 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
September 25	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00pm
September 30	Deadline for instructor approval for research or theory paper Deadline for IRB approval requests
October 2	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 7	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 8	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
October 9	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 14	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 16	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 21	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 24	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 28	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 30	Class Meeting Career Workshop
November 4	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory
November 6	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory
November 11	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory
November 13	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory

November 18 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory

November 20 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory

November 25 No Class

November 27 No Class

December 2 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory

December 4 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
Final Research Papers due

****I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE SYLLABUS AS THE COURSE PROCEEDS****