

**Kennesaw State University**  
**Senior Seminar in Sociology**  
**SOCI 4499 Online**  
**Fall 2014**

Instructor: Gail Markle, PhD  
E-mail: [gmarkle@kennesaw.edu](mailto:gmarkle@kennesaw.edu)  
Office: SSB 4071

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday. I am also available for phone conferences. Please contact me via e-mail in order to set up a conference.

**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 also participate in several activities designed to further their career goals.

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

**Course Goals:**

- Students will develop a professional resume.
- Students will prepare for a job or graduate school interview.
- Students will evaluate their performance in a mock interview.
- Students will evaluate, critique, and implement various job-seeking strategies.
- Students will assess their personality and temperament characteristics and evaluate their potential suitability for various sociological careers.
- Students will critically evaluate various sociological theories and apply them to a specific social problem.
- Students will integrate scholarly knowledge from various sources and communicate this knowledge in a written paper.

**Textbook:**

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

**Additional Reading (posted on electronic reserve):**

Lore, Nicholas. 2011. "Chapter 15. Temperament and Personality." Pp. 183-207 in *The Pathfinder: How to Choose or Change Your Career for a Lifetime of Satisfaction and Success*. NY: Simon and Schuster.

**Class Format:**

This class is taught fully online using D2L. The class is broken up into 13 modules that must be completed weekly. Each module will consist of readings and/or other assignments. Modules will be available two weeks before the due date. All assignments will be turned in online. In addition

to completing the assignments within each module, students will also prepare a 12 page theoretical research paper which will be due **December 1**. All class assignments must be completed by the posted due date.

**Class Requirements and Grading:**

Resume	15%
Mock Interview	15%
Book Discussion	20%
Personality Type Indicator	15%
Research Paper	30%
Exit Survey	5%

**Resume:** Students will create a professional resume and have it reviewed by a member of the KSU Career Services Center. Please familiarize yourself with the Career Services website at <https://careerctr.kennesaw.edu/> After you create your resume you will contact a career services representative at 770-423-6555 or [careerctr@kennesaw.edu](mailto:careerctr@kennesaw.edu) and request that your resume be critiqued. Your revised resume will be used in the Mock Interview assignment described below.

**Mock Interview:** Students will participate in a mock interview through the online interview portal InterviewStream. I will provide a set of interview questions for you to select. Prior to completing your interview, you will email a copy of your resume to Ms. Karen Marks, Associate Director of Career Services at [kmarks7@kennesaw.edu](mailto:kmarks7@kennesaw.edu). In the body of your email, please indicate that you are sending her the resume as a requirement of the Sociology Senior Seminar Class. You will also have a copy of your interview sent to Ms. Marks for review.

Both the resume and the interview assignments must be completed by **October 30. Grades for these assignments will be determined by me in consultation with the Career Services Representatives.**

**Book Discussion:** Students will participate in an online discussion of the book *Getting from College to Career*. Students will write a one page double spaced reflection paper on each assigned chapter which they will **post as an attachment** to the Discussion Forum *From College to Career* under the appropriate chapter topic. Detailed instructions for using the discussion board will be provided in Module 2. 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. In addition, you must reply to two reflection papers posted by other members of the class. 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. Late postings will be not accepted. **Reflection papers** and **replies** must be posted by **5:00 pm** on the following dates:

Due Dates 5:00 PM		
Chapter	Reflection Papers	Reply Posts
1	Aug 26	Aug 28
2	Sept 3	Sept 5
3	Sept 16	Sept 18
4	Sept 23	Sept 25
5	Oct 7	Oct 9
6	Oct 14	Oct 16
8	Oct 21	Oct 23
9	Oct 28	Oct 30

**Personality Type Indicator:** Students will follow the instructions provided in the Lore reading to complete the personality-sorter. Once you have completed the assignment you will write a 4-5 page paper reflecting on the assignment. Your paper should address the following questions: Did you find it difficult to choose among the statements? What is your personality type, or if you had high scores for two types, what are the types? Discuss the extent to which you believe the results are an accurate reflection of your personality type. Are you interested in any of the careers that are suggested for your type? Can you think of any other careers that might be a good match for your type? Did you find this activity useful? How might you use this information in your career search? **Your paper must be submitted via Dropbox by 5:00 p.m. on November 6.** There is a 10-point penalty for each day (24 hour period) the paper is submitted late).

**Theoretical Research Paper:** Students will choose a social problem or a social topic and frame it as a question. You must then select three sociological theories 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 via e-mail by **September 18**. The paper needs to be at least 12 pages long **not including references or title page**, double spaced, using ASA style. An example paper and a grading rubric will be provided in the D2L Dropbox folder under "Theoretical Research Paper." **Your paper must be submitted via Dropbox by 5:00 p.m. on December 1. No late papers will be accepted.** NOTE: D2L includes a plagiarism detection application, similar to turnitin.com which will be utilized in grading this assignment.

**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.**

**Exit Survey:** Students will complete a survey that will help assess the quality of education in the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department so that we can continually improve the program. Your responses will be anonymous. The program will only report whether or not students completed the survey. To take the survey, click on the D2L Survey icon and select “Exit Survey.” In order to obtain credit for this assignment, the survey must be completed **by 5:00 p.m. on November 13.**

**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 Integrity:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions of plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of University computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Disruption of Campus Life:** It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and /or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Code of Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such conduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

**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, 770-423-6443, [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/dsss.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html)

**Student Success Services (SSS):** The SSS center provides year-round counseling, advising, and testing services. For incoming students, First Year, Transfer and Parent Orientation services are also available. They have recently added a program devoted to Alcohol and Drug Education & Prevention and a Collegiate Recovery Center. They are located in Room 2401 of Kennesaw Hall, 770-423-6600, <http://www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccess/>

**Student Development Center:** The Student Development Center provides information of particular interest to adult learners, minority, multicultural, international, and disabled students, and provides links to opportunities for student community service and a peer mentor program. The center is located in Suite 267 of the Carmichael Student Center, 770-423-6443, [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/home/home.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/home/home.html)

<b>READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Module/Dates</b>	<b>Readings, Assignments, Due Dates</b>
<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
Week 1 8/18 - 8/22	Read "Start Here" Document Read the syllabus Review the rules of online communication (Netiquette) Introduce yourself in the discussion forum: Seminar Salon
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 1</b>
Week 2 8/25 - 8/29	Read Chapter 1 in Pollak Read instructions for the Book Discussion Assignment Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 8/26 and replies by 5:00 on 8/28
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 2</b>
Week 3 9/2 - 9/5	Read Chapter 2 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 9/3 and replies by 5:00 on 9/5
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Career Services</b>
Week 4 9/8 - 9/12	Familiarize yourself with the KSU Career Services Website Create your resume and contact Career Services to arrange review Review the instructions for InterviewStream and prepare Complete the resume and interview assignments by 5:00 on 9/11
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 3, Paper Topics</b>
Week 5 9/15 - 9/19	Read Chapter 3 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Request Approval for your Research Topic via email by 9/18 Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 9/16 and replies by 5:00 on 9/18

<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 4</b>
Week 6 9/22 - 9/26	Read Chapter 4 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 9/23 and replies by 5:00 on 9/25
<b>Module 7</b>	<b>Sociological Theory</b>
Week 7 9/29 - 10/3	Read PowerPoint slides on Sociological Theories
<b>Module 8</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 5</b>
Week 8 10/6 - 10/10	Read Chapter 5 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 10/7 and replies by 5:00 on 10/9
<b>Module 9</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 6</b>
Week 9 10/13 - 10/17	Read Chapter 6 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 10/14 and replies by 5:00 on 10/16
<b>Module 10</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 8</b>
Week 10 10/20 - 10/24	Read Chapter 8 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 10/21 and replies by 5:00 on 10/23
<b>Module 11</b>	<b>Pollak Ch. 9</b>
Week 11 10/27 - 10/31	Read Chapter 9 in Pollak Participate in the discussion forum: From College to Career Post reflection paper by 5:00 on 10/28 and replies by 5:00 on 10/30 Resume and Interview should be completed by 5:00 on 10/30
<b>Module 12</b>	<b>Personality Type</b>
Week 12 11/3 - 11/7	Read Loring Chapter 15 and complete Personality Sorter Submit Reflection Paper via Dropbox by 5:00 on 11/6
<b>Module 13</b>	<b>Exit Survey</b>
Week 13 11/10 - 11/14	Submit Exit Survey by 5:00 on 11/13
<b>Week 14</b>	
11/17 - 11/21	<b>No Assignments Due</b>
<b>Fall Break</b>	
11/24 - 11/28	<b>No Assignments Due</b>
12/1	<b>Submit Theoretical Research Paper Via Dropbox by 5:00</b>

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