

Kennesaw State University
Senior Seminar in Sociology
SOCI 4499 01
Fall 2016

Classroom: SO #2021
Class Meetings: 8:00am -9:15pm on the following dates:
August 15, August 17, August 29, September 12, September 28, October 24,
November 2, November 7, November 9, November 14, November 16,
November 28, November 30, and December 5.
Instructor: Gail Markle, PhD
E-mail: gmarkle@kennesaw.edu
Office: SSB 4071
Office hours: MW 11:00 am-1:00 pm, and by appointment

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 2301/3305 Social Science Research Methods, and SOCI 3300 Foundations of Social Theory

Course Goals:

- Conduct a research study and report the findings in a journal-article-format paper or
- Write a paper applying three sociological theories to a social issue or problem
- Report the findings from the research study or a summary of the theoretical paper in 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: PLEASE NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS. This course is delivered in a hybrid format, which includes a combination of on-line learning activities and assessments, fourteen 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 15, August 17, August 29, September 12, September 28, October 24, November 2, November 7, November 9, November 14, November 16, November 28, November 30, and December 5.** You should schedule your individual meeting with the instructor to take place on **October 3, October 5, October 10, October 12, October 17, October 19, October 26, 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.** Absence for KSU business and mandatory court appearances may be excused with proper documentation. You will not receive attendance credit when entering late or leaving early.

Class Requirements and Grading:

Resume	15%
Interview	20%
Online Book Discussion	20%
Research Presentation	10%
Research Paper	40%

Resume: The KSU Career Center will present a Resume Workshop during class on August 29. Please bring a paper copy of your current resume to the workshop where it will be subjected to peer review. Based on this workshop students will prepare a revised resume. You will submit your revised resume to the Resume Assignment Submission Folder (previously Dropbox) **and** upload it to OwlLink at <http://careers.kennesaw.edu/owllinkinfo.php> by **September 12.** You must attend the Resume Workshop to receive credit for the assignment. Please see the Resume Detailed Instructions in D2L.

Mock Interview: Students will schedule an appointment with Ms. Karen Marks, Associate Director of the KSU Career Services Center (470-578-6555, kmarks7@kennesaw.edu) for the mock interview. You must schedule your appointment with Ms. Marks by **September 12. Once made, you may not reschedule your interview appointment. If you cancel your appointment or do not show up, you will not be able to make up the assignment.** You must email your resume to Ms. Marks one week before your scheduled appointment. Specific details will be provided in class on **August 17.** The mock interview must be completed by **November 16.** Students must dress appropriately for the interview. The grade for the interview will be determined in consultation with Ms. Marks.

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. Grades will be assigned according to content. Late assignments will not be accepted. **Reflection papers** must be posted by **11:00 pm** on the following dates: **August 22, August 31, September 14, and September 21.** 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. Grades will be assigned according to content. Replies consisting of simple sentences agreeing with the reflection paper will not receive credit. **Replies** must be posted by **11:00 pm** on the following dates: **August 24, September 7, September 19, and September 26.** The reflection paper assignments are as follows:

August 22	Group 1	Chapter One
	Group 2	Chapter Two
August 31	Group 1	Chapter Three
	Group 2	Chapter Four
September 14	Group 1	Chapter Five
	Group 2	Chapter Six
September 21	Group 1	Chapter Eight
	Group 2	Chapter Nine

Research Presentation: Students will present the results of their research study or a summary of their theoretical paper in class **November 2, November 7, November 9, November 14, November 16, November 28, November 30, and December 5** as assigned. All students must attend these presentations. Students not presenting should listen intently to their colleagues' presentations and ask pertinent questions. The presentation should last between 10 and 12 minutes and utilize PowerPoint. **Please do not embed YouTube videos in your presentation.** Presentations lasting less than 10 minutes will not receive full credit. Although your paper is not due until **December 5**, 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. The presentation will be graded on content and professionalism. **There are no makeups for scheduled presentations.**

Research Study Paper: Students will prepare a 10 page (not including references or title page) double spaced 12 point font 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 7**. Requests for IRB approval must be made no later than **September 19**. The final paper is due **December 5**. No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your paper through the Research Study Assignment Submission Folder (previously Dropbox) in 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 5**. 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. The paper must be original work, not previously submitted in any other class.

Your paper must include:

- Introduction
- 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, results and discussion
- Conclusion
- References in ASA format
- You may use only one direct quote in the paper

Theoretical Research Paper: Students will choose a contemporary social problem and frame it as a question: for example, “what sociological theories explain the current rates of recidivism in the U.S?” 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 26**. The paper needs to be at least 12 pages long **not including references or title page**, double spaced, using **ASA** style. **You may only have one direct quotation in your paper.** An example paper, detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided in the D2L folder “Theoretical Research Paper.” No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your paper by **December 5** through the Theoretical Paper Assignment Submission Folder (previously Dropbox) in 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 5**. 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. The paper must be original work, not previously submitted in any other class.

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.

NOTE: INCLUDING REFERENCES ON THE REFERENCE PAGE THAT HAVE NOT BEEN CITED OR DISCUSSED IN THE BODY OF THE PAPER IS A FORM OF PLAGIARISM.

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 15	Class Meeting Introduction, IRB
August 17	Class Meeting KSU Career Center Presentation
August 22	Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
August 24	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm
August 29	Class Meeting Resume Workshop, bring paper copy of resume to class
August 31	Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
September 5	Labor Day Holiday, no class
September 7	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm

September 12	Class Meeting Theory: Micro, Macro and in-between Resumes due to Dropbox and OwlLink Deadline for making Mock Interview appointment
September 14	Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
September 19	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm Deadline for IRB approval requests
September 21	Read Chapters 8 and 9 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
September 26	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm Deadline for instructor approval for research or theory paper
September 28	Class Meeting Writing Workshop
October 3	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 5	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
October 10	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 12	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 17	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 19	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 24	Class Meeting Career Workshop
October 26	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
October 31	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
November 2	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
November 7	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
November 9	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.

November 14 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.

November 16 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
Deadline for completion of mock interview assignment.

November 21 Fall Break, no class

November 23 Fall Break, no class

November 28 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.

November 30 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.

December 5 **Class Meeting.** Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
Final Research Papers due

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