

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

Classroom: EB #253
Class Meetings: 11:00am -12:15pm on the following dates:
January 12, January 14, January 21, February 2, February 25, March 17,
March 29, March 31, April 12, April 14, April 19, April 21, April 26, and
April 28.
Instructor: Gail Markle, PhD
E-mail: gmarkle@kennesaw.edu
Office: SSB 4071
Office hours: TR 9:00-10:45 am, 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 **January 12, January 14, January 21, February 2, February 25, March 17, March 29, March 31, April 12, April 14, April 19, April 21, April 26, and April 28**. You should schedule your individual meeting with the instructor to take place on **March 1, March 3, March 8, March 10, March 15, March 22, March 24, 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	10%
Interview	20%
Online Assignments	20%
Research Presentation	15%
Research Paper	35%

Resume: The KSU Career Center will present a Resume Workshop during class on January 21. Please bring your current resume to the workshop. Based on this workshop students will prepare a revised resume, which will be due on **February 4**. You must attend the Resume Workshop to receive credit for the assignment.

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 **February 16**. **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.** Specific details will be provided in class on **January 14**. The mock interview must be completed by **April 19**. 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 **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **January 19, January 28, February 9, and February 16.** 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 **5:00 pm** on the following dates: **January 26, February 2, February 11, and February 18.** The reflection paper assignments are as follows:

January 19	Group 1	Chapter One
	Group 2	Chapter Two
January 28	Group 1	Chapter Three
	Group 2	Chapter Four
February 9	Group 1	Chapter Five
	Group 2	Chapter Six
February 16	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 **March 29, March 31, April 12, April 14, April 19, April 21, April 26, or April 28** 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 **April 28**, 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 **February 23.** Requests for IRB approval must be made no later than **February 11.** The final paper is due **April 28.** No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your paper through 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 **April 28**. 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:

- 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 issue and frame it as a question, for example: What sociological theories explain the high rate of recidivism in the U.S.? You must then use 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 by **February 23**. The paper must be 12 pages long (not including references or title page), double spaced twelve point font, and is due **April 28**. No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your paper through 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 **April 28**. 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

January 12	Class Meeting Introduction, IRB
January 14	Class Meeting KSU Career Center Presentation
January 19	Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
January 21	Class Meeting Resume Workshop
January 26	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm
January 28	Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
February 2	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm
February 4	Class Meeting Theory: Micro, Macro and in-between Resumes due
February 9	Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
February 11	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00 pm Deadline for IRB approval requests
February 16	Read Chapters 8 and 9 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 5:00 pm
February 18	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 5:00pm
February 23	Deadline for instructor approval for research or theory paper

February 25	Class Meeting Writing Workshop
March 1	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 2	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
March 3	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 8	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 10	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 15	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 17	Class Meeting Career Workshop
March 22	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 24	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 29	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
March 31	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 5	No Class Spring Break
April 7	No Class Spring Break
April 12	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 14	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 19	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory. Deadline for completion of interview assignment.
April 21	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 26	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 28	Class Meeting. Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory. Final Research Papers due

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