

**Kennesaw State University**  
**Senior Seminar in Sociology**  
**SOCI 4499 03 CRN 10113**  
**Spring 2017**

Classroom: SO #3026  
Class Meetings: 3:30pm -4:45pm on the following dates:  
January 10, January 12, January 24, February 2, February 21, March 16,  
April 13, April 18, April 20, April 25, and April 27.  
Instructor: Gail Markle, PhD  
E-mail: [gmarkle@kennesaw.edu](mailto:gmarkle@kennesaw.edu)  
Office: SSB 4071  
Office hours: TR 8:30 am-9:15am, 12:30 – 2:30 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 your 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, eleven 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 10, January 12, January 24, February 2, February 21, March 16, April 13, April 18, April 20, April 25, and April 27.** You should schedule your individual meeting with the instructor to take place on **February 23, February 28, March 2, March 7, March 9, March 14, March 21, March 23, March 28, March 30, 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	15%
Online Book Discussion	20%
Research Presentation	10%
Research Paper	40%

**Resume:** We will have a Resume Workshop during class on January 24. 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 for approval at <http://careers.kennesaw.edu/owllinkinfo.php> by **February 2.** 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) for the mock interview. You must schedule your appointment with Ms. Marks by **February 2. 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 bring your revised resume and the completed “Resume Self-Critique) to your scheduled appointment with Ms. Marks. Specific details will be provided in class on **January 12.** The mock interview must be completed by **April 11.** 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: **January 17, January 26, February 7, and February 14.** 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: **January 19, January 31, February 9, and February 16.** The reflection paper assignments are as follows:

January 17	Group 1	Chapter One
	Group 2	Chapter Two
January 26	Group 1	Chapter Three
	Group 2	Chapter Four
February 7	Group 1	Chapter Five
	Group 2	Chapter Six
February 14	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 **April 13, April 18, April 20, April 25, and April 27** 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 27**, 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 16.** Requests for IRB approval must be made no later than **February 23.** The final

paper is due **April 27**. 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 **April 27**. 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 **February 16**. The paper needs to be at least 12 pages long **not including references or title page**, double spaced, 12 point font with one inch margins, 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 **April 27** 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 **April 27**. 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.

**Strategies for Success:** Students are encouraged to consult with the KSU Writing Center at <http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/>

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

**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.

<http://kennesaw.edu/sds/insititutionalpolicies.php>

**Other Important Policies:** Please familiarize yourself with the following important KSU policies: Confidentiality and privacy (FERPA) <http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>; University Student Rights Statement <http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>; Ethics Statement <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>; Sexual Harassment Statement <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>; and Disruption of Campus Life Policy <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>.

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

January 10	<b>Class Meeting</b> Introduction, IRB
January 12	<b>Class Meeting</b> KSU Career Center Presentation
January 17	Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
January 19	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm
January 24	<b>Class Meeting</b> Resume Workshop, bring paper copy of resume to class

January 26	Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
January 31	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm
February 2	<b>Class Meeting</b> Theory: Micro, Macro and in-between Resumes due to Dropbox and OwlLink Deadline for making Mock Interview appointment
February 7	Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
February 9	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm Deadline for IRB approval requests
February 14	Read Chapters 8 and 9 in Pollak Reflection papers due on D2L by 11:00 pm
February 16	Reflection paper replies due on D2L by 11:00 pm <b>Deadline for instructor approval for research or theory paper</b>
February 21	<b>Class Meeting</b> Writing Workshop
February 23	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
February 28	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 1	<b>Last day to withdraw without academic penalty</b>
March 2	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 7	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 9	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 14	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 16	<b>Class Meeting</b> Career Workshop
March 21	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 23	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled

March 28	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
March 30	Individual meetings with instructor as scheduled
April 4	Spring Break, no class
April 6	Spring Break, no class
April 11	<b>Deadline for completion of mock interview assignment.</b>
April 13	<b>Class Meeting.</b> Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 18	<b>Class Meeting.</b> Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 20	<b>Class Meeting.</b> Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 25	<b>Class Meeting.</b> Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory.
April 27	<b>Class Meeting.</b> Research presentations as assigned. Attendance mandatory. <b>Final Research and Theoretical Papers due</b>

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