“Read, read, read. Read everything – trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.” – William Faulkner

Course Description and Goals:

This course is designed to help you succeed as a sociology major and as a college student more generally by learning and practicing skills that will help you in your other classes.

A major component of this class will be practicing good writing and revision skills. We will accomplish this through regular in-class writing, as well as several written assignments. For two of your assignments, revising and editing your paper based on my and your classmate’s recommendations will explicitly be part of your grade.

In addition to writing, this class will also help you practice other skills that are required of sociology majors. These including using the library to find information, giving oral presentations, and understanding displays of quantitative data (such as graphs) when you come across them.

One of the assigned books for this class, *The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual* by Johnson Jr et al, will help you learn to write well and to write various types of papers. The other two books that I have assigned, *Doormen* by Peter Bearman and *A Matter of Taste* by Stanley Lieberson, are examples of good sociological writing. In addition, we will also be reading a number of articles from *Contexts*, a magazine published by the American Sociological Association.

By the end of the semester, you should have many of the skills you need to succeed as a sociology major and as an undergraduate. You should be better equipped to read academic texts and understand the author’s meaning. You should be able to write papers and give presentations that effectively communicate to their intended audience.
Course Etiquette:

- I expect everyone attending class to have done the assigned readings and to be prepared to discuss them.
- I expect everyone to practice sensitivity and respect in all course discussions. You should feel free in class discussions to share as much as you are comfortable with about your experiences and background, but you must keep in mind that your classmates’ beliefs and experiences may be different from yours and are equally deserving of respect. I expect you to also respect everyone’s race, gender, sexuality, nationality, religion, etc.
- **We will begin and end class on time.** In addition, unless you have an emergency or an extremely compelling reason, you should plan to stay for the entire class period.
- **Do not use your cell phone during class.** Keep cell phones in your bag/pocket, not out on your desk. If you are texting in class, I will ask you to leave.
- You may use computers during class only for course-related activities.
- Please check your UWG email and CourseDen daily M-F – I will do the same!
- **Course assignments must be turned in to me at the beginning of class in hard copy. In addition, you must upload them to our CourseDen Dropbox.** I will not accept or grade assignments turned in over email.

Contacting your professor:

The best way to contact me outside of class is to visit my office hours. If you can’t make these hours, please let me know and we can arrange to meet at another time. If you feel that you are having a problem, please come with specific questions so that I can help you. You should also feel free to visit even if you are not having a “problem” in the course and just want to chat about something. I will also usually be available for a few minutes before and after class.

For more complicated questions, I recommend that you contact me via email – mckendry@westga.edu. I check my email frequently and will respond to you as soon as possible. **When you email me, remember to note in the email which class you are taking, and also to use correct grammatical English and normal capitalization.**

Preparing for class:

For each hour spent in class, you will probably need to set aside **at least two hours for work outside of the class session** such as reading, reviewing your notes, and completing your assignments.

Readings are listed in the syllabus on a daily basis. It is your responsibility to prepare for class each day. I recommend doing the reading for the each day before our class meeting, and then reviewing them again briefly afterwards. Your readings are an important resource to succeeding in this course. You will need to be familiar with the terms and concepts we discuss, and periodically reviewing your readings is the best way to stay familiar with important ideas.
In addition, you will find our discussions much more meaningful if you spend some time before class to make some notes listing what you think are the main points of the author’s argument, as well as any questions you have about the reading.

**Honor Code and UWG Policies:**

The University Honor Code is in effect for all written assignments and exams. Please read the provisions of the Honor Code carefully, and make certain that you understand and follow them. Violations of the Code will not be tolerated.

In addition to the Honor Code, you should review the University’s policies on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Email, and Credit Hours, as these change periodically. You can view the Honor Code and other policies here: [http://tinyurl.com/UWGSSyllabusPolicies](http://tinyurl.com/UWGSSyllabusPolicies)

I expect you to do all of your own work. Initial instances of academic dishonesty (ie plagiarizing on an assignment or cheating on a quiz/exam) will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment/quiz/exam. Additional instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Readings:**

I have assigned the following three books for our course. They are available for purchase at the university bookstore and online. I strongly encourage you to obtain your own copy of these books.


All other course readings will be available on CourseDen in the “Content” section.

**Course requirements and evaluation:**

All written assignments must be turned in hard-copy. I will not grade papers that I receive over email. Grammar and composition are not a formal part of your assignment grades, but both are necessary to clearly present your ideas and experiences in a relatively small number of pages. If I cannot understand what you are trying to say, it is as though you have not said it, which may result in a lower grade.

Although regular class attendance and participation are necessary for achieving a good grade in this course, they are not formally part of your course grade. You will simply do much better on the assignments and exams if you attend class each day and actively participate in discussions and group-work. **If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what occurred during the class session. Do not send me an email asking what you “missed.”**
Your final grade will be based on the following required assignments:
  - In-class writing (15%)
  - Interview assignment (20%)
  - Annotated bibliography (20%)
  - Occupation group presentation (10%)
  - Book application assignment (15%)
  - Cultural trends assignment (20%)

Details for assignments will be provided in class on the day that they are assigned and will be available on CourseDen. I do not grade on a curve. You will receive point values, but not letter grades, for individual tests and assignments. I will award final grades using this scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 0-59

**Week 1**
*August 25th: Course Introduction*

-August 27th: How to Read for College
  - Gabler & Kaufman, “Chess, Cheerleading, Chopin: What Gets You into College?” (CourseDen)
  - Dartmouth College, “Six Reading Myths” and “Pivotal Words” (CourseDen)

**Week 2:**
*September 1st: NO CLASS – Labor Day*

*September 3rd: How to Write for College*
  - SSWM, Ch 2 – “Writing as Communication”
  - Writing Center, “Thesis Statements” (CourseDen)
  - Darby, “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice: Why Can’t We Stop Circumcising Boys?” (CourseDen)

**Week 3:**
*September 8th: How to Write for College*
  - SSWM, Ch 3 – “Writing Competently”
  - Writing Center, “Should I Use I?” (CourseDen)
  - Writing Center, “Effective Email Communication” (CourseDen)

*September 10th: Writing Example 1: Doormen*
  - Doormen, Ch 2

**Week 4:**
*September 15th: Writing Example 1: Doormen*
  - Doormen, Ch 3
  - SSWM, Ch 12 – “Qualitative Research Papers”
September 17th: Writing Example 1: Doormen
  o  Doormen, Ch 4
  o  Weiss, “In Their Own Words: Making the Most of Qualitative Interviews” (CourseDen)

Week 5:
September 22nd: Writing Example 1: Doormen
  o  Doormen, Ch 5
  o  Writing Center, “Introductions” (CourseDen)

September 24th: Writing Example 1: Doormen
  o  Doormen, Ch 6

Week 6:
September 29th: Writing Example 1: Doormen
  o  Doormen, Ch 7
  o  Writing Center, “Conclusions” (CourseDen)

October 1st: Writing Example 1: Doormen
  o  Doormen, Ch 8

Week 7:
October 6th: Editing and Revising
  o  Writing Center, “Editing and Proofreading” (CourseDen)
  o  Writing Center, “Revising Drafts” (CourseDen)

October 8th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o  AMOT, Prologue & Ch 1

Week 8:
October 13th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o  AMOT, Ch 2

October 15th: Plagiarism
  o  SSWM Ch 4 – “Citing Sources”
  o  Writing Center, “Plagiarism” (CourseDen)

Week 9:
October 20th: Writing About Sociological Literature
  o  SSWM Ch 10 – “Critical Evaluation of Sociological Literature”
  o  Wrigley & Dreby, “Violent Fatalities in Childcare” (CourseDen)

October 22nd: Library – Meet in 3rd floor “Glassroom”
  o  SSWM Ch 6 – “Sources of Information”
  o  Writing Center, “Annotated Bibliographies”
Week 10:
October 27th: Presentations

October 29th: Presentations

Week 11:
November 3rd: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o SSWM Ch 11 – “Quantitative Research Designs”
  o AMOT, Ch 3

November 5th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 4

Week 12:
November 10th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 5
  o Writing Center, “Figures and Charts” (CourseDen)

November 12th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 6

Week 13:
November 17th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 7
  o Writing Center, “Word Choice” (CourseDen)

November 19th: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 8

November 24th & 25th – NO CLASS - Thanksgiving

Week 14:
December 1st: Writing Example: A Matter of Taste
  o AMOT, Ch 9
  o Writing Center, “Passive Voice” (CourseDen)

December 3rd: Bringing It All Together
  o Reading – to be announced

FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 8, 2-4:30 PM