COMMUNICATING SOCIOLOGY (81473)

Instructor: Paul Luken
Office: Pafford 209b
Office hours: M & W 3:20-4:50; T & Th 9:30-noon; and by appointment
Class time and place: MW 2-3:20; Pafford 106

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Course Description:
This course, designed for beginning sociology majors, provides practice in fundamental perspectives, skills and habits necessary to succeed in sociology. Communication skills will be emphasized, especially writing skills.

Required reading:


ASA Undergraduate Student Resources
http://www.asanet.org/students/resources_majors.cfm
“Majoring in Sociology”
“Navigating the Sociology Major”

“Twenty-First Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology” (all links)
http://www.asanet.org/employment/careers21st_intro.cfm

“Policy on Academic Integrity.” Department of Sociology
http://www.westga.edu/sociology/index_4657.php

Course Objectives for Students:
1. Students will assess source material pertinent to their research project.
2. Students will recognize the transferable skills that they have acquired.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in both spoken and written English.
4. Students will identify career options for sociology majors and the requirements needed for these careers.
5. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of ASA style for citation and references.

Learning Outcome: The course objectives, assignments, and class activities contribute to the following learning outcome:
1. Be able to communicate (orally and in writing) how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality.
Evaluation

1. Grades
Grades will be based on a 600 point scale:

A = 540-600
B = 480-539
C = 420-479
D = 360-419
F = 000-359

2. Graded Assignments: Graded assignments in this class are numerous and varied; therefore specific instructions will be given for each assignment. Late assignments will lead to penalties. Faxes and emails of assignments are not acceptable. The point value for each assignment follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>five short essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>working bibliography parts 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>thesis, summary statement and outline draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>first research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>first oral presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>second oral presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>second research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>three Smarthinking comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3. Attendance: Attendance and attention in class are assumed. Students cannot accrue points for attendance and participation; however, points will be deducted for lack of attendance and participation. Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted as absent. Five absences will result in a loss of 60 points. Five more points will be deducted for each additional absence. It is important that you bring your textbooks to class. Students who do not have their textbooks when we are going over material covered in the books will be counted as absent. The only absences that are excused are cases in which students must attend other UWG sponsored activities, e.g., debate tournament or basketball game. In these cases I must be notified in advance of the absence.

4. Inappropriate conduct: Inappropriate conduct, e.g., eating, rudeness toward others, making noise, class disturbances, dishonesty, cheating, using the same work for two different classes, or plagiarism will result in a grade reduction or receiving an F for the course. Cheating and plagiarism on any assignment will be dealt with severely and the incident will be reported to the VPAA’s office to be part of the student’s record. All students must familiarize themselves with the department’s policy on Academic Integrity and the Common Syllabus: [http://tinyurl.com/UWG_Syllabus_Policies](http://tinyurl.com/UWG_Syllabus_Policies)

Pagers, cell phones, and other electronic communication devices must be turned off and removed from sight. If there is a reason why you must have such devices at hand and available during class time, see me for approval. Students who do not comply with this will be told to leave the class, and they will be counted as absent.

Sociology invariably involves discussion of controversial and sensitive topics. We will not shy away from these matters. However, in an academic environment it is important that we
show respect for others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Conflict surrounding ideas is normal, but we should avoid personal attacks and words which threaten or make people feel unduly uncomfortable.

5. **Extra-credit.** Some extra-credit opportunities might develop during the semester.

**Tentative class readings, assignments, and holidays schedule**

SSWM = *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual*; ES = *The Elements of Style*

- **8.24** First class – Introduction
- **8.26** SSWM – Chapter 1, “Writing as Communication”
  “What Is Sociology?” short paper due
- **9.2** SSWM – Chapter 2, “Writing Competently”
- **9.7** Labor Day holiday
- **9.9** ES – Chapter 1, “Elementary Rules of Usage”
  “Why I Am a Sociology Major” short paper due
  “Policy on Academic Integrity.”
- **9.16** “What Are My Strengths and Weaknesses?” Comments from Smarthinking due
- **9.21** “What Are My Strengths and Weaknesses?” short paper due
  Continuation of Chapter 5
  ES – Chapter 4, “Words and Expressions Commonly Misused”
- **9.28** SSWM – Chapter 6, “Sources of Information”
  SSWM – Chapter 7, “Internet Sources and Distant Learning,” pp.138-141
- **10.5** Working bibliography Part 1 due
  SSWM – Chapter 3, “Formats”
  SSWM – Chapter 4, “Citing Sources”
- **10.12** Working bibliography Part II due
  Developing a thesis
- **10.19** Draft of thesis, summary statement and outline due
  ES – Chapter 2, “Elementary Forms of Composition”
  ES – Chapter 3, “A Few Matters of Form”
- **10.26** SSWM – Chapter 9, “Social Issues Papers”
- **10.28** “Plagiarism and How to Avoid It” short paper due
  ES – Chapter 5, “An Approach to Style”
- **11.2** First research paper due
  Preparation for oral presentations
- **11.4** Skills identification
"Twenty-First Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology" (all links)

11.11 First oral presentations
11.16 First oral presentations
11.18 First oral presentations
    Resume due
11.20 Second Smarthinking comments due
11.23-17 Thanksgiving break
11.30 Final paper due
12.2 Second oral presentations
12.7 Second oral presentations: 2-4:30
    "What I learned in This Class" due