

SOCI 4984W
Senior Seminar

Dr. John Randolph Fuller

Fall 2007

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Office Hours:

Monday 1:30 – 5:30

Wednesday 1:30 - 5:30

Thursday 4:00 – 5:30

Or by Appointment

Texts: Stephen R. Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Fireside Books. 1989.

J. Scott Harr and Karen M. Hess, *Careers in Criminal Justice and Related Fields*.
5th ed., Wadsworth. 2006

Course Description:

The Senior Capstone course is designed to ensure that graduates of the sociology program are equipped with the skills necessary to pursue further study in their discipline or obtain responsible positions within social service agencies or related professional organizations. The class requires students to demonstrate oral and written communication skills. Additionally, students will develop materials that will be helpful in gaining admission to graduate study or obtaining employment.

This is a WAC (writing across the curriculum) course. It will fulfill one of two WAC requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences. There will be several written assignments that will be evaluated for grammar, spelling, and thoroughness, in addition to subject matter. Informal assignments are designed to promote writing to learn. The formal assignments are designed not only to promote knowledge acquisition, but also to enhance the student's skills in writing to communicate.

In addition to the above, this course functions as a means of assessment for the Department of Sociology and Criminology to evaluate the criminology program. Students will be asked to maintain a portfolio in which all returned assignments are placed. At the end of the semester, these portfolios will be reviewed by the criminology faculty and stored for future program evaluation. Students should make copies of all materials they wish to keep.

Learning Outcomes (as determined by the sociology program Learning Outcomes requirements):

- Ability to ask relevant questions and engage in research to explore special issues in sociology and their effects on the larger society. LO5
- Ability to apply sociology theories, principles and concepts to address "real life" problems and situations in the social service field; ability to engage in critical thinking/analysis. LO7
- Demonstration of strong oral and written communication skills. LO8 and WAC requirements.
- Ability to Utilize appropriate technology in the study of sociology issues. LO9
- Knowledge of career options in sociology, including advanced degrees. LO10
- Ability to engage in ethical behavior in a professional work setting. LO11

Classroom Policies:

Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than two (2) classes may adversely affect your grade. Students are expected to complete all assignment on time and be prepared to participate in meaningful discussion on the subject matter. Disruptive behavior (including eating, sleeping, or personal conversations) will not be tolerated. Cell phones are to be turned off! Academic integrity will be enforced. Individuals who engage in plagiarism or are caught cheating will fail the course.

Grading:

The final grade will be based upon the timely completion of assignments (all typed except for in-class writing) and class participation. Informal assignments will be graded and returned to the student for review and inclusion in their class portfolio. The instructor will critique formal assignments at different stages during their preparation to ensure a high-quality finished product. Unexcused late assignments will be accepted with a letter grade penalty in the next class following the deadline. No unexcused assignments will be accepted after the next class meeting. Excuses for late assignments or missed assignments will be at the instructor's discretion.

Grading Scheme for the course will be based on a formula where points are configured on a 100 point grading scale:

A = 90 and above

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

Course Requirements:

Writing to communicate

Policy paper	10 pages	200 points
Intellectual Biography	5 pages	150 points
Portfolio	Big Folder	100 points

Writing to learn

7 Habits Exercise	Planner	100 points
Theory to Practice	3 pages	100 points
10 Year Plan	3 pages	100 points
Grad school package	many pages	100 points
Employment Package	many pages	100 points
Professional Demeanor		50 points

Written instructions will be provided for each of these requirements.

Tentative Outline (This may vary considerably. Students are responsible for all work on days they miss and are expected to be prepared for the following class).

August	20	Introduction and Orientation
	27	Intellectual biography instructions
September	3	Labor day, No Class
	10	Draft intellectual biography
	17	Final intellectual biography
	24	Grad School
October	1	Grad School
	8	Employment
	15	Employment
	22	Theory to Practice Paper
	29	10 year plan
November	5	Policy Paper Draft
	12	Policy paper due
	19	Presentations
	26	Presentations
December	3	Presentations – Portfolio Due