

## SYLLABUS

### PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN SOCIOLOGY SOCI 3001-01W (80898) Fall 2007

**Instructor:** Paul Luken

**Office:** Pafford 236

**Office hours:** M & W 1-5:00; T & Th 1:45-2:45

**Class time and place:** TTh 3:30-4:45; Pafford 109

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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:**

*The Sociology Student Writer's Manual* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Johnson, Retting, Scott and Garrison. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.

*The Elements of Style* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Strunk and White. Longman Publishers, 2000.

*Careers in Sociology*. American Sociological Association.

(<http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Careers+and+Jobs&name=Careers+in+Sociology>)

“Policy on Academic Integrity.” Department of Sociology and Criminology

<http://www.westga.edu/~soccrim/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.htm>

“ASA Style Guide for UWG Sociology Classes”

<http://www.westga.edu/~soccrim/Styleguide.htm>

#### **WAC requirements:**

This is a WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum) course. The goals are

- to encourage students to use writing as a way to learn.
- to show students how to write effectively in sociology
- to improve students writing skills

Two types of writing assignments will be used to meet these objectives: Writing to Communicate (WTC) and Writing to Learn (WTL). WTL assignments are short and are often used to develop information and formulate ideas. They are evaluated on the basis of evidence presented which demonstrates progress in these areas. For WTL exercises the focus is on content, not on writing proficiency. WTC assignments are generally longer and the more formal of the two, and the purpose is to use writing to communicate ideas. They are evaluated on the basis of clarity, organization, appropriate elaboration, consistency, spelling, variety in sentence formation, tone, and grammar.

### 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.
6. Students will summarize and criticize an instructor approved work in sociology.

The attainment of these objectives will be measured through the preparation of numerous brief writing assignments, a book review, a working bibliography, a term paper, a PowerPoint assisted oral presentation, a poster presentation, a two-year program of study and a projected resume.

**Learning Outcomes:** The course objectives, assignments, and class activities contribute to the following learning outcomes:

1. Be able to communicate (orally and in writing) how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality.
2. Demonstrate an ability to think critically.

## Evaluation

### 1. Grades

Grades will be based on a 700 point scale:

A=630-700

B=560-629

C=490-559

D=420-489

F=000-419

**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:

30	resume	100	1 <sup>st</sup> term paper draft
20	two-year program of study	100	2 <sup>nd</sup> term paper draft
120	six short essays	100	final term paper
20	research schedule	50	book review
40	working bibliography	50	oral presentation
20	thesis and outline draft	50	poster presentation

**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 70 points. Seven more points will be deducted for each additional absence.

**4. Inappropriate conduct:** Inappropriate conduct, e.g., 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 assignments 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.

Pagers, cell phones, and other electronic communication devices must be turned off and removed from sight unless they are first approved by me.

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.

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

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

In addition to the following schedule, students will submit six brief essays. This will be done at a rate of one story per week. More information on these stories will be given in class. (WTL)

8/16 First class – Introduction

8/21 SSWM – Chapter 1, “Writing as Communication”

8/23 Continuation of Chapter 1

8/28 SSWM – Chapter 2, “Writing Competently”

8/30 ES – Chapter 1, “Elementary Rules of Usage”

**9/3 Labor Day holiday**

9/4 ES – Chapter 4, “Words and Expressions Commonly Misused”

9/6 SSWM – Chapter 5, “Organizing the Research Process”

“Policy on Academic Integrity.” Department of Sociology and Criminology

9/11 Continuation of Chapter 5

**9/13 Research schedule due (WTL) (WTC)**

SSWM – Chapter 6, “Sources of Information”

SSWM – Chapter 7, “Internet Sources and Distant Learning,” pp.138-141

9/18 SSWM – Chapter 10, “Critical Evaluation of Sociological Literature”

- 9/20 Continuation of Chapter 10
- 9/25 Book review due (WTC)**  
SSWM – Chapter 3, “Formats”
- 9/27 SSWM – Chapter 4, “Citing Sources”  
“ASA Style Guide for UWG Sociology Classes”
- 10/2 Working bibliography due (WTC)**  
*Careers in Sociology*
- 10/4 UWG’s Sociology Program
- 10/9 Draft of thesis and outline due (WTL)**  
Academic advising
- 10/11 Fall Break**
- 10/16 Skills identification
- 10/18 Two-year program of study due (WTL)**  
Continuation of skills identification
- 10/23 First draft of term paper due (WTL)**  
SSWM – Chapter 9, “Social Issues Papers”
- 10/25 ES – Chapter 2, “Elementary Forms of Composition”
- 10/30 ES – Chapter 3, “A Few Matters of Form”
- 11/1 ES – Chapter 5, “An Approach to Style”
- 11/6 Other forms of sociological presentations;  
Preparation for oral presentations
- 11/8 Resumes
- 11/13 Second draft of term paper due (WTC)**
- 11/15 Resume due (WTL)**  
Preparations for poster presentations
- 11/20 Oral presentations**
- 11/22 Thanksgiving holiday**
- 11/27 Oral presentations**
- 11/29 Oral presentations**
- 12/4 Final version of term paper due (WTC)**
- 12/13 Poster presentations: 2-4pm (WTC)**