

SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGY

SOC 499

Spring 2008
AB1 302
2:00-5:00 MO
3 Credit Hours

Professor: Dr. A. Bonanno

Office: 311 AB1

Office Hours: Tu 2:00-4:00

Phone: (936) 294-1488

e-mail: soc_aab@shsu.edu

Textbook

Johnson, William A., Richard P. Rettig, Gregory M. Scott, and Stephen M. Garrison. *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual*. Fifth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Description, Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course reviews the salient aspects of the discipline of sociology and its fundamental substantive areas. It is designed to enhance the students' **critical thinking in Sociology**. It also will allow students how **to find and use scientific resources**. Students are required to become familiar with the objectives, theories and methodologies of these substantive areas and the ways in which contemporary issues are translated into sociological themes. Though the application of the "*Sociological Imagination*," students are asked to evaluate the analyses of groups, institutions and social structures performed by members of the discipline. The final objectives are to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the discipline and organize their knowledge. The course is designed for graduating seniors in Sociology.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of **one original research paper**, a class presentation and class participation. At the outset of the semester, each student will be assigned to research one substantive areas in sociology. This decision will be made by Dr. Bonanno. After a topic is assigned, each student is required to produce a paper on the assigned topic. It must be at least a 10 double-spaced typewritten (12 point-type) page paper which reviews the most salient aspects of the debate in the selected area. The student must consult *at least five* Sociological Journals (such as American Sociological Review; American Journal of Sociology; Social Forces; Sociological Quarterly, Social Science Quarterly, etc.) and review relevant articles which appeared within the 1997-2008 period.

Recent books on the selected topic should be reviewed as well. The student will orally present the content of the paper during an assigned class period. This presentation will be followed by a class discussion involving the participation of the professor and the other students. Comments must be incorporated into the final version of the paper which is due at the outset of the first class period after the oral presentation. **No late paper will be accepted.** The research paper will account for 60 percent of the final grade. Papers that use only internet entries and do not appropriately cite at least five relevant sociological references will be rejected and the student will receive the grade of zero (0). Each student is required to actively participate in the discussion of the papers presented and make comments on each of them. This will constitute the most fundamental component of class participation. Class participation will constitute 20 percent of the final grade. The oral presentation of the research paper constitutes the remaining 20 percent of the final grade.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Any absence after the first one will result in a five (5) point deduction from the final grade. Partial attendance to any class period will be considered equivalent to an absence. Students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class period. Once the door is closed and the class session starts, students will not be allowed in the classroom. If students do not promptly return to class after the class-break they will receive a ten-point (10) penalty. Students are required to **actively** participate in the class. **Absences due to personal, family and/or other reasons will not be excused.** As this is a once a week class, missing one class is equivalent of missing an entire week.

Grades

Grades will be assigned according to the following chart:

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

Academic Dishonesty

SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on a paper and/or presentation is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the paper. Because the paper constitute 60 percent of the final grade, this action will result into receiving an automatic F in the course. Students who cheat more than once in other portions of the course will

also receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. **Plagiarism** – the appropriation of the written work of others – is an act of dishonesty and will be punished accordingly.

Instructor Evaluation

Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Religious Holy Days

Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to Dr. Bonanno a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester.

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then you are encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to Dr. Bonanno about how you can be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodations can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

According to University rules (section 5 of the Student Handbook), students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. During the class period, students must maintain an academically sound behavior. Reading newspapers and other non-class related material, doing homework for other classes, using electronic devices are strictly forbidden. Cell phones must be turned off and stowed away for the duration of the class. If a classroom rule of conduct is violated the student will receive a 5 point penalty. A second violation will be punished with a 10 point penalty. A third violation will result in the dismissal of the student from the class with an F grade.

Class Schedule

General Themes

Jan. 28- Feb. 11 How to write a scientific paper: The sociological model.

Substantive Areas

- February 18 Marriage and the Family
- Feb. 25 Race and Ethnicity
- March 3 Gender and Sexuality
- March 17 Age and Inequality
- March 24 Social Inequality
- March 31 Economy and Society
- April 7 Social Change and Development
- April 14 Sociological Theory
- April 21 Environmental Sociology
- April 28 Social Movements
- May 5 Conclusion