STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 495 – Sociology Capstone (CRN: 25641)
Spring, 2016

Professor
Dr. Ray Darville, Regents Professor of Sociology, 2015-2016
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Phone Number: (936) 468-2256 (office phone) / 468-4405 (department number)
FAX Number: (936) 468-2162 (department FAX)
Class Hours: 2:30 - 3:45 Mondays and Wednesdays
Classroom: FG78
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00; Wednesdays 1:00-2:00; Thursdays 10:00-12:00; others by appointment; others by appointment
E-mail Address: rdarville@sfasu.edu (email through Desire to Learn only)
Web Address: Desire to Learn (D2L.SFASU.EDU)
Assistant: Ms. Peggy Moss (468-4405)

Course Description (SFA Bulletin)
Culminating experience for sociology majors. Application of sociological theory and methods. Pre-requisites and co-requisites: SOC379, SOC471, and one of the following: SOC378, ANT440, or ANT441

Program Learning Outcomes for Sociology
1. The student will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
2. The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
3. The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
4. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
5. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
6. The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
7. The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.
Student Learning Outcomes
After successfully completing this course, a student will be able to:
(1) Articulate the sociological perspective and key sociological concepts
(2) Select and use appropriate research methods and theory to conduct research to complete an individual research project.
(3) Produce a professional research product.
(4) Provide peers with constructive feedback.
(5) Give an oral presentation using appropriate visual technology.
(6) Demonstrate professionalism through peer collaboration, regular and timely meeting attendance and participation.

Text and Readings
- Selected readings based on student’s research topic

Software
Each must have or have access to the following software, or software that is comparable:
- Internet Browser
- Adobe Reader
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- SPSS

Assessment
- Exams
  There will be no written exams during the semester
- Written Paper
  Each student will produce a written paper suitable for submission for publication in a sociological or social science journal. Thus, the student will identify an appropriate journal and adhere to its guidelines. The capstone project will involve developing and answering relevant, sociological questions stemming from coursework and from other readings. Topics must be developed by end of the fourth week of the semester via a two-page proposal and the professor will then meet with each student individually to discuss the topic. The professor must give permission for the student to proceed with the research. Each paper will have the following headings and sections: abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, results, and discussion and conclusion. Students may choose from a qualitative or quantitative methodology. The written and oral presentation (see below) will address all six core objectives (critical thinking skills,
communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, social responsibility, and personal responsibility).

- **Oral Presentation**
  Each student will be given an in-class oral presentation of their independent research work. The oral presentation will last approximately 10 minutes and will be scheduled during one of the last class meetings of the semester. Department faculty will be invited to attend these presentations. The presentation will generally follow guidelines for presentations at sociology conferences; students will be instructed on this during a class session. Each student will provide brief, written feedback to the other students. Appropriate visual aids will be used during the presentation and will form part of the grade on the presentation.

- **Major Field Test**
  Each student, during the last two weeks of the semester, will complete the sociology major field test (MFT). Students will be given instruction and information regarding the exam during the semester.

- **Professionalism**
  Students are expected to attend all class meetings. As a professional, you are expected to arrive on time and not leave early. You are expected to be respectful of others and to make thoughtful contributions to each class meeting. You are expected to participate in peer collaborative work, too.

### Grading

- **Philosophy**
  I believe that a grade is a reflection of a students' performance in a given course, not necessarily how much a student has worked during the semester or how intelligent a student is. In other words, two students may receive the same final letter grade, but their amount of work and effort in the class may vary greatly with one student working much more than the other. It is not simply a memorization course, but requires abstract thinking, logical reasoning, and the ability to apply methodological concepts in specific research situations. I believe that I do not “give” grades, but rather assign grades based on student performance. You can be successful in this course, but work is required that hopefully will help move you into a more professional mode of thinking as you prepare to graduate.

- **Formula (Weights) for Final Class Average Calculation**
  1. Written Paper 30%
  2. Oral Presentation 20%
  3. Major Field Test 20%
  4. Reading Quizzes 20%
  5. Professionalism 10%

  100%
- **Grading System**
  I do not automatically “round up” final averages. I will consider raising a final letter grade for those students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the course and who have a “9” average such as 89.0. Your grade will be determined using the following standard system. Make the most of these opportunities; every assessment opportunity is precious. I do not grant extra credit opportunities during the semester or after the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Average</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A = “excellent”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B = “good”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C = “fair”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D = “poor”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F = “failing”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Missed Examinations and Assignments**
  Students are expected to take their examinations at the scheduled times. Officially-recognized school activities are exceptions. Complete documentation that satisfactory is required for any missed exams to be made up. In cases of illness or family emergency, I may allow make-ups. This is purely and exclusively my decision.

**Course Evaluation**
Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to electronically complete an evaluation for this course. The Department of Social and Cultural Analysis uses the data from course evaluations for these purposes: (1) course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; (2) instructional evaluation; (3) decisions regarding faculty tenure, promotion, merit pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, we ask you to be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate. The department faculty members are committed to teaching excellent and appreciate your feedback and therefore we want your thoughts on this course. The evaluation process has been simplified and will be completed through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to see the names of students who complete the evaluation, all ratings and comments are anonymous and will be made available to the instructor until after the grading cycle for this semester has been concluded.

**Student Behavior - Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
Academic Integrity (Policy 4.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. You should read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

Withheld Grades Policy (Policy 5.5)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities (Policy 6.1)
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Monday of Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; discussion of syllabus; Introduction capstone project; The Sociological Perspective and Sociological Investigation</td>
<td>Macionis 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>Macionis 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Socialization and Social Interaction in Everyday Life</td>
<td>Macionis 5 and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Groups and Organizations and Deviance</td>
<td>Macionis 7 and 9; Capstone project proposal due</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Social Stratification and Social Class in the United States</td>
<td>Macionis 10 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Global Stratification and Gender Stratification</td>
<td>Macionis 12 and 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity and Families</td>
<td>Macionis 14 and 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Religion and Health and Medicine</td>
<td>Macionis 19 and 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Spring Break 2016</td>
<td>Rest and Relaxation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Population, Urbanization, and Environment and Social Change</td>
<td>Macionis 22 and 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Discussion of Oral Presentations</td>
<td>Talk Like TED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Discussion of Oral Presentations; Discussion of Capstone Project</td>
<td>Talk Like TED; Completed first draft of capstone paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Visual Presentations for researchers</td>
<td>complete ETS Major Field Exam oral presentations of capstone projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Oral presentations by students</td>
<td>complete ETS Major Field Exam oral presentations of capstone projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>April 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
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**Important University Dates This Semester**

- January 19—First day of classes for Spring, 2016 semester
- January 22—Last day to add classes
- March 2—Last Day to apply for degrees to be completed in August, 2016
- March 9—Mid-semester
- March 12—Beginning of spring holidays
- March 21—classes resume following spring holidays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Last day to drop courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the university without WP or WF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Beginning of Easter holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28 (4:00 p.m.)</td>
<td>Classes resume following Easter holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>First day to apply for degrees to be completed in December, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the university</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9-13</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>COMMENCEMENT</td>
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