**SO 453 & PJ 400: Senior Seminar**

**Saint Anselm College**

**Spring 2022**

**Mondays from 6:00-8:30 in Alumni 6B**

Instructor: Kevin Doran, Ph.D.

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Office: 5 Bradley House

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00am; Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm; and by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course serves as a capstone course for the completion of your sociology or P&J degree. Each student will incorporate the knowledge acquired during their previous sociology (P&J) courses and experience to design and conduct an individual research project of their own choosing. This course will serve as a workshop where Sociology and Peace & Justice students will intellectually share the process, as well as the results of their research.

**Course Goals:**

The course provides the opportunity to do the following:

* Apply your sociological imagination or Peace & Justice framework to a research problem.
* Learn and reflect on ethical and other professional issues in the discipline of Sociology or Peace & Justice studies.
* Improve critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills.
* Engage in a scholarly research project from conception to completion.
* Collaborate on scholarly inquiry with your peers and instructor.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to do the following:

* Construct a logical and reasonable sociological research question
* Apply a sociological paradigm, theory or framework to the research question. [P&J students—*Theories of Peace & Justice*]
* Analyze ethical and other professional issues in the discipline of Sociology or Peace & Justice studies.
* Design a research study and write a research proposal.
* Carry out an actual research project.
* Write a paper reporting all aspects of the research project.
* Give a coherent, concise, and professional oral presentation of your research project.
* Actively assist yourself and others in learning and doing the skills of the course.

**Required Readings:**

1. Davies, Martin Brett. 2007. *Doing a Successful Research Project.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Selected readings—to be handed out in class or posted on Canvas.

**Suggested Readings:**

1. American Sociological Association. 2019. *ASA Style Guide,* 6th Edition*.* Washington, DC: ASA. (Available as on Kindle at: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07Y1Z3WGL>; online abbreviated versions also available for free)
2. Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. 2017. *The Little Seagull Handbook.* New York, NY: W. W. Norton Company.

**Course Requirements:**

1. ***Final Thesis—***Your final thesis will demonstrate your ability to successfully use the sociological perspective, theory, and methods to conduct and report original research. The final thesis should be approximately **20 pages** in length and will be due on **Monday May 16th.** A more detailed description (including the required parts and format) of your thesis will be handed out during seminar and will be made available on Canvas.
2. ***Drafts and Parts—***In order to ensure the successful completion of your thesis, I will require you to turn in different parts of and preparation for your thesis on specific days. These parts include: research question/topic, annotated bibliography, literature review, proposal, thesis outline, and first draft of thesis. More detailed descriptions of the parts will be handed out in class and will be available on Canvas. Please refer to the schedule for due dates. The due dates for many of these parts will be so that we can do peer review in class. You will have time to implement those peer reviews and resubmit an updated version for my feedback later in the week.

1. ***Peer Review and Participation—***Much of the seminar will be meeting and discussing the progress of you research projects. During this time we will discuss your projects as a seminar group and at other times, more informally in pairs. Occasionally you will be asked to do you a written evaluation of one another’s work, which I will credit you for. In addition, you will also receive a grade for you participation in the seminar.
2. ***Formal Presentation—***You will all be required to present your final thesis to your peers and the sociology department. Presentations will be approximately 15-20 minutes in length. The date is yet to be determined, however I would propose that they take place Wednesday May 4th.

**Evaluation:**

Your final grade will be based upon the following:

 Final Thesis 50%

 Drafts and Parts 15%

 Peer Review and Participation 15%

 Formal Presentation 20%

**Grades:**

Letter grading is calculated on the following scale:

 A (93-100%) A- (90-92.9%)

 B+ (87-89.9%) B (83-86.9%) B- (80-82.9%)

 C+ (77-79.9%) C (73-76.9%) C- (70-72.9%)

 D (60-69.9%)

 F (less than 60)

**Academic Honesty:**

“Since the assignments, papers, computer programs, tests and discussions of college course work are the core of the educational process, the College demands the strictest honesty of students in their various academic tasks. To ensure that the standards of honesty essential to meaningful accomplishment in the classroom are maintained, the College sets forth the following clarification of academic dishonesty and sanctioning procedures” (from the *St. Anselm College Catalogue 2018-2019).*

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All assignments you submit MUST be your own. If you use someone else’s ideas or a quotation, they must be cited properly using ASA/ASR format. Using someone else’s work as your own or plagiarizing will result in failure of the course as well as possible sanctions by the college.

Please refer to the college policy and procedures regarding academic integrity here:

<http://www.anselm.edu/Library/Research-Help/Research-Tutorials/Academic-Integrity.htm>

**Special Needs:**

If there is any student in this class who requires additional accommodations in the classroom, assistance with course work outside the classroom, special test taking procedures, or writing assistance, please notify me. If you need help during the course of the semester, please see me during office hours or after class.

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) also offers writing assistance and peer tutoring. Please to contact the center at x7017 to schedule an appointment or stop by the office located on the lower level of the Cushing Center. To request a peer tutor, complete the online form @ <http://www.anselm.edu/arc>  Writing assistance is available mornings, afternoons, and evenings at the ARC Writing Center at no charge.  Hours are posted online @ <http://www.anselm.edu/wap>

**Tentative Schedule**

**Week One (Jan 24)—**

* Classes begin on the 26th, so we will not meet. Provide Kevin with your proposed research question and method by the end of the day on Friday the 28th.

**Week Two (Jan 31)—**

* **Introduction, course overview, syllabus, what have you heard?**
* Discuss developing research topics/questions

**Week Three (Feb 07)**

* Library Research overview with Hannah Lindquist (Zoom link coming)

Read: Davies--chapters 1 & 2

 \*\*Cuba -- Chapter 2

\*\**The Sociology Writing Group*—“annotated bibliography” (pg. 47-48)

 \*\**The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual* “annotated bibliographies” (pg. 188-193)

**Week Four (Feb 14)—**

* Look over past projects/theses
* Discuss developing research topics/questions

Read: \*\* *The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual* chapters 5

 \*\**The Sociology Writing Group* chapter 1

Davies—chapter 3

***Due:*** Research question/topic

**Week Five (Feb 21)—**

* Literature reviews

Read: \*\*Pan—chapters 1, 2, 5 &6

\*\**The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual* “literature reviews” (pg. 182-187) & “annotated bibliographies” (pg. 188-193)

\*\*Cuba—chapter 3 (pg. 68-74)

***Due:*** Annotated Bibliography

**Week Six (Feb 28)—**

* Review/discuss theory & methods

Read: Davies—Part 2 & 3 (pay attention to the methodology you want to use)

 \*\* *The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual--* chapters 11 & 12

* Discussion of projects/research proposals

Read: \*\**The Sociology Writing Group* chapters 6 & 7

***Due:*** Literature review

**Week Seven (March 07)—**

* Finalize research proposal
* Discuss collecting data
* Peer review of methods

***Due:*** Proposal [conceptual framework (theory) and research plan (methods)]

**Week Eight (March 14)—*data collection***

* Check-in day

**Week Nine (March 21)— *data collection***

* Check-in day

**Week Ten (March 28)—*data collection/analysis***

**Week Eleven (April 04)—*data collection/analysis***

Read: \*\*Cuba – chapter 4

***Due:*** Outline for final thesis

**Week Twelve (April 11)—*data collection/analysis***

* Discuss findings & how to report findings
* Thesis format and citations

Read: Davies—chapter 16

\*\*Cuba – chapter 7 & consult ASA Style Guide

**To work on**: New citations and updates to theory based on findings/feedback

**Week Thirteen (April 18)—**

Easter Break – Continue working on updates to literature review and theory/outline of presentation

**Week Fourteen (April 25)—**

* Overview and practice for formal presentations/poster session
* Watch presentation from previous semester

Read: \*\**The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual—*chapters 2-4

**Week Fifteen (May 02)—**

* Review, feedback, and peer review

Read: *The Sociology Writing Group* part III

***Due:*** First draft of final thesis (*bring two copies*)

**Week Sixteen (May 09)—**

* Work on revisions

**Monday May 16th – Final Draft Due**