

**SOC 400: SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGY**  
**ON-LINE COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**FALL 2020**

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

The Sociology Writing Group. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers. (6<sup>th</sup> edition)*. (ISBN: 0-7167-7626-X).

Your old sociological theory textbook

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to write three standard research papers in the field of sociology. Students will also gain experience in writing research papers that critically evaluate current research projects about topical issues in sociology.

Feminist scholars, including bell hooks influence how I teach this class. I use a dialectical method, which requires for us to learn some about each other. Within this educational paradigm, I, as your instructor, am not the purveyor of all knowledge; we teach each other. First, you must provide a discussion of your interests and consider how the different sociological theories and research projects that frame the discussion about the topics that interest you. Whether you have well-defined interests and job goals or are just beginning to consider what interests you, the social research and theories that you will consider in this class will be used to help you develop your academic and professional skills, your understanding of the major theoretical paradigms within sociology, your understanding of how the social world operates, and your voice (an important concept for feminist scholars).

**EVALUATION:**

Your final grades will be determined by the quality of your work on three 10 page (or longer) research papers.

You should choose your topics for each of your three papers early in the semester. Please contact me for approval of the subjects and advice before starting on the papers. In general, the papers should focus on a particular sociological aspect of a social problem such as divorce, child abuse, alcoholism, poverty, environmental degradation, etc from one or two particular sociological paradigms. You are encouraged to use the most current research and data available and provide a thorough review of the literature in the particular area of study. The body of the papers should be at least 10 pages. The papers should also include a title page and notes citing all relevant sources. Each of these papers should include at least 10 sources from reputable sociological books or peer reviewed journals. It is highly recommended that you use the citation style found in the *Guide to Writing Sociology Papers* text.

**GRADING:**

Three Papers: 100% (33 1/3% each)

The cutoff for grades is as follows:

A 93-100  
A- 90-92  
B+ 87-89  
B 83-86  
B- 80-82  
C+ 77-79  
C 73-76  
C- 70-72  
D+ 67-69  
D 63-66  
D- 60-62

**Accessibility Services:**

Any student with documented accessibility needs who feels they may need academic accommodations while taking this course, should first contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost ([cusher@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cusher@marybaldwin.edu), 540-887-7064) or [Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu).

The Academic Resource Center: The ARC is your one-stop-shop for writing, math, and all other subject and studentship tutoring. Residential students can meet with tutors virtually or face-to-face in the Center for Student Success, on the first floor of Grafton Library. Online and remote students can work virtually with tutors on papers, assignments, and test-taking strategies. Appointments are scheduled through TutorTrac ([tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu](http://tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu)). For more information, contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost ([cusher@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cusher@marybaldwin.edu), 540-887-7064) or [ARC@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:ARC@marybaldwin.edu).

**Honor Code Policy:**

**The MBU Honor Code Policy concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly followed.**

**Mary Baldwin students pledge to uphold the Honor Code. They pledge to refrain from cheating on assignments, papers and tests, to refrain from plagiarism, and always to be honest in their dealings with faculty, staff and other students. To maintain the integrity of the system, students, faculty and staff who witness Honor Code infractions are expected to report them.**

**Should I become aware of an Honor Code offense in this course, I will encourage the student(s) to self-report by e-mailing the Honor Council chairwoman or by filing an incident report at <https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?MaryBaldwinCollege>. If the student(s) does not self-report within 24 hours, I will submit the report myself.**

***If the Honor Code offense is related to a course assignment, the assignment will not receive an official grade until the Honor Council investigation (and, if necessary, hearing) is complete. I will not assess a grade penalty for an Honor Code infraction unless a student is found responsible by (or admits responsibility to) the Honor Council. Any assignment will receive***

**an automatic “0” (zero) and an “F” will be recorded for the course grade should a student be found plagiarizing. This type of offense demonstrates a disregard for the very foundations of academic thought and the learning process itself**

This course meets the “M” Major Learning Outcome Requirement.

**COURSE SCHEDULING:**

It is highly advised that you turn in work consistently throughout the semester. I have a list of suggested course deadlines below. My feedback from work turned in early in the semester will be valuable for letting you know if you are including what I expect in your essays. Also, I will allow you to revise and resubmit any of your work that is submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester. I am here to read rough drafts and to help you develop topic ideas and introductory paragraphs, etc. Please do not hesitate to ask me questions sooner rather than later. I am willing to help you along every stage of this process, so use me as a resource and send work to me as soon as possible. You are only evaluated and graded on the final product of the class, not in the early work that you submit.

**DEADLINES:**

**Post to discussion board of topic ideas: August 31st**

**First draft of Paper One: September 25th**

**First draft of Paper Two: October 23rd**

**First draft of Paper Three: November 20th**

**Final Drafts of all papers: December 4th**

**GETTING STARTED:**

Please send an email to me from your Mary Baldwin email account after you have signed up for the class and have reviewed this syllabus. This way we can become acquainted, and I can answer your initial questions. Also, if you ever have a question or comment that you want to bring to my attention at any time during the semester, please do not hesitate to do so. I will be glad to answer any questions that come up for you while you trek through the readings and assignments for this course. You can expect that I will respond to your emails within a couple of days and that I will return comments to your papers within one to two weeks.

**I also want to stress that you should contact me if you have not heard back from me within a week of when you submit an assignment or within 2 days if it is a simple question about some aspect of the class. There is a good chance I have missed your email, so please be persistent.**

**Policy on “Extensions”:**

Should a student find that he or she cannot complete all of the work for the course, the student may take an **ET** for the course ***ONLY IF the student has a documented medical emergency and/or submitted drafts of at least two papers by the ADP deadline for all semester coursework.***