

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Sociology
Freshman Seminar: College in the City: Pupils, Places and Politics
Sociology 193 Seminar 001 (55205)
Fall 2007 MW 3:30-4:45 p.m LUB S165

Syllabus

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Course Description, Goals, Requirements and Outline

Course Description:

If you are wondering what college life will be like in a major city, this course is designed just for you. Throughout the semester, you will examine your life and explore the experiences of others in the context of the university as a microcosm of urban society, while developing a sociological perspective.

You will begin your adventure by studying the past. You will discuss the history of childhood and recall the childhood experiences which facilitated your transition to adulthood. You will learn about the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and its predecessor institutions, and you will learn about the city of Milwaukee.

Your exploration will continue as you discover the rich human and physical resources UWM and Milwaukee have available to enhance your educational experience. You will become familiar with your urban and academic environments, and you will begin to develop a network of support which will enrich your college experience and the years beyond.

Finally, while gaining greater understanding of college life and the world in which you live, you will continue your journey into the future. Having uncovered the extent and limits of society's influence on your life, you will further develop your educational plans, solidifying your position in the UWM academic community and preparing yourself for the many career opportunities that are within your grasp.

Goals:

Overall Course Goal:

The overall course goal for this sociology freshman seminar is for you to effectively utilize the classroom, college and city environments to assist you in fulfilling your educational and personal goals.

Discipline Course Goals:

The goals of this sociology course are for you to be able to define sociology, acquire a sociological imagination, develop a sociological perspective on college and urban life, and be able to apply sociological principles to your everyday life in the college and urban environments.

Seminar Course Goals:

The goals of this freshman seminar are for you to become an active learner, who can work in a small group setting and individually, share a common experience in order to become more aware of your interests and the interests of your classmates, become familiar with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Campus and the City of Milwaukee – both past and present, enhance your ability to articulate and defend your position on topics of discussion during class, learn how to obtain scholarly research materials from the library, the Internet, and other sources, make progress toward deciding on a major field of study and a possible future career, report and explain orally and in writing the significance of current research on a topic of interest to you concerning students, the campus and/or the city, and to develop strategies for academic and career success.

Requirements:

Course Work and Grading:

This course will be held in a cooperative learning environment with individual accountability. This environment will emphasize collaborative problem solving, creative and analytical thinking, computer literacy, and written and oral communication. Consequently, course requirements include class participation and written work. Written work is due on the date listed unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. It is expected that all students will do the required reading in preparation for class. In addition to several short assignments, a career and research project are required. All assignments will be discussed further in class.

Class Participation (Attendance, Financial Log, Career (requirements, responsibilities, projected growth, wages), Campus, City, and Candidate Assignments) -**30 points**

Quizzes -20 points

Career Project (Draft Resume (employment history, education, professional affiliations, volunteer activities), Job Announcement, Cover Letter with Final Resume, Elevator Speech) -**25 points**

Research Project (Scholarly Article, Summary, Small Group Work and Presentation with a Visual) -**25 points**

If you require special assistance for any reason, please see me immediately so that we can work together to assure your success in this class. Permission to record this class must be granted by the instructor.

Required Books:

Korgen, Kathleen & White, Jonathan M. 2007. *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Please also obtain the most recent edition of the *State of Wisconsin Blue Book* from one of your state legislators by contacting her/him toll-free at 1-888-534-0018.

Course Outline:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics, Exams and Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
September 3	Labor Day: No Class	
September 5	Course Overview and Introductions Distribute Syllabus, UWM Maps & City Maps Discuss Specific Written Assignments – Career Choice & Resume Identify Library Reserve Section on UWM Map	
September 10	Complete Peer Network Sheet Strategies for Success in College Start Financial Log & Maintain Log	(On Reserve) Stan Bernstein “Getting It Done”
September 12	Discuss “The Promise” Critical Thinking Brief Introduction to Sociology - <i>Nacirema</i> Distribute Completed Peer Network Sheet	(On Reserve) C. Wright Mills, “The Promise” Horace Miner “Body Ritual Among the Nacerima”
September 17	Bring One-Page typewritten Career Description to Class. Historical and Sociological Context of Childhood, Big Brothers Big Sisters	
September 19	Student Presentations - A Brief Personal (Student/Career) History UWM students overall Choose a UWM building	
September 24	Bring One-Page typewritten History/Description of a UWM Building to Class. Historical and Sociological Context of UWM	
September 26	Student Presentations - A Brief UWM Building History Choose a City of Milwaukee building	
October 1	Bring One-Page typewritten History/Description of a City Building to Class. Historical and Sociological Context of Milwaukee	
October 3	Student Presentations - A Brief Milwaukee Building History Choose a Presidential Candidate or other Candidate for Public Office	
October 8	Bring One-Page typewritten Candidate Description and Blue Book to Class. How a Bill Becomes a Law	
October 10	Student Presentations - A Brief Candidate History Mock Election	
October 15 & 17	Bring Your Draft Resume and a Job Announcement to Class. Resume/Cover Letter Discuss Employment Opportunities	
October 22	Discuss Scholarly Journal Articles/Research/Citations <i>The Engaged Sociologist in Action</i> Choose Research Project 12.1 or 12.2 Small Group Work: Write a hypothesis.	Korgen & White, Chapter 12
October 24	Bring Financial Log to Class Discuss Financial Log Financial Planning	

October 29	Career Project Due at the Beginning of Class Work on Elevator Speeches	
October 31	Present taped or live Elevator Speeches.	
November 5	Scholarly Article (2 copies) for Research Project Due at the Beginning of Class <i>The Engaged Sociologist: The Sociological Perspective</i> <i>And the Connections Between Sociology, Democracy,</i> <i>And Civic Engagement</i> <i>Founders and Foundations of Sociology: Theory</i>	Korgen & White, Preface, Chapter 1 Chapter 2
November 7	<i>How Do We Know What We Think We Know?</i> <i>Sociological Methods</i> <i>Creating Civic Engagement Versus Creating Apathy: Culture</i>	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
November 12	Scholarly Article Review Due at the Beginning of Class <i>Learning How to Act in Society: Socialization</i> Small Group Work: Do your articles support your hypothesis? If not, revise. Develop a pilot study (survey or interview) to further test your hypothesis to be completed in class November 28.	Chapter 5
November 14	Bring Blue Book to Class. <i>Social Institutions: Family and Economy (Earth II)</i> <i>Social Institutions, Continued: Education, Government,</i> <i>And Religion (Miracle on 34th Street)</i>	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
November 19	<i>Deviant Behavior and Social Movements</i> <i>Big Money Doesn't Always Win: Stratification</i>	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
November 21	Class in the Community: Small Group Work	
November 26	Bring Career Project to Class <i>Sex, Gender, and Power</i> <i>What Does a "Typical American" Look Like Today?:</i> <i>Race and Ethnicity</i>	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
November 28	Small Group Work: Complete Pilot Study	
December 3 & 5	Small Group Work: Discuss findings. Based on your limited literature review and data collection develop a presentation with a technological visual to encourage civic engagement or social responsibility.	
December 10	Research Project Presentations	
December 12	Bring One-Page typewritten Individual and Group Evaluation Statement to Class Discussion (What was the most meaningful thing you learned? What question remains uppermost in your mind?) Concluding Remarks and Course Evaluation	
December 14	Final Meeting 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. : Please Schedule a Time. I will also be available December 13, if you prefer to meet that day.	