

Writing in Sociology
SOCI 2399
3 credit hours
Fall 2017

Class location: CHSS, Room 206
Class meeting time: T/TH 11:00 – 12:20

Instructor: Gene L. Theodori
Office: CHSS, 270-L
Phone: 936-294-4143
Email: glt002@shsu.edu
Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 T/TH and by appointment M/W/F

Course Description

Writing in Sociology is designed to teach students the writing skills needed for advanced courses in Sociology. Topics include: structure and style in writing; citations and American Sociological Association stylebook; how to conduct library and internet research as a basis for research writing; and specialized techniques for quantitative research papers, qualitative research papers, book reviews, compare and contrast papers and essay exams.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of SOCI 2399, students will have demonstrated:

- skills in expressing themselves in writing;
- specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field of sociology;
- the ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Course Readings

Readings (book chapters, journal articles, popular press articles, etc.) will be assigned and supplied by the instructor throughout the course.

Grading

Part of the tradition of higher education is the need to evaluate performance. This is a “W” course, which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will derive from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives. Writing in this course is the primary tool your instructor will use to help you learn course material. Some writing activities will require you to draft and revise your work, with or without instructor feedback. Other assignments may not receive a grade but are designed to assist you in critical reflection of the course material. You should approach writing in this course as a tool to use as part of your learning as well as a tool your instructor will use to assess your level of learning. Each student’s final course grade will be based upon his/her performance on the following requirements:

Class Participation (*in-class writing/discussions/presentations*)

[50 points]

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU (see http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf). Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in this class. Student attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class meeting. In light of the discretion attributed to the instructor by SHSU Academic Policy Statement 800401, students will be penalized -2 points for each hour of unexcused absence above and beyond the allotted 1.5 hours of unexcused absences. Accordingly, active participation is an essential and expected component of this course. Although some material will be presented in traditional lecture format, the course will be primarily conducted as a writing workshop. The focus of the semester's work will be on reading, assimilating, writing about, presenting, and discussing materials on issues related to the discipline of Sociology. Therefore, students must come to class and participate. Students are expected to read all required assignments and actively participate in the writing process during the class meetings for which they are assigned.

Exam

[50 points]

In-class Writing Assignment

[5 points]

Essay 1

[10 points]

Essay 2

[10 points]

Article Critique

[25 points]

Major Writing assignment #1

[100 points]

Major Writing assignment #2

[100 points]

Final Grade

The final grade will be based on a total of 350 points.

Grade	Points
A	315.00 – 350.00
B	280.00 – 314.99
C	245.00 – 279.99
D	210.00 – 239.99
F	209.99 and below

Instructor Evaluations

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

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

Dean of Student's Office

The SHSU Academic Policy Statement 810213 – Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty – will be enforced (see <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>). **Plagiarized work will not be accepted or tolerated. Students who violate the policy and/or submit plagiarized work will earn a course grade of 'F' and be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Dean of Students.**

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

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 I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused

under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

</dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Instructor Evaluations

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

Classroom Rules of Conduct

A classroom serves as a backdrop for interaction between instructor and student and between/among students. Facts and opinions rooted in knowledge are exchanged in a classroom; opinions rooted in ignorance should not be shared. Students are expected to act professionally at all times in the classroom. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>

a. Use of Cellular Telephones (per SHSU Academic Policy Statement 100728 – Use of Telephones and Text Messengers in Academic Classrooms and Facilities
– <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/6d35c9c9-e3e9-4695-a1a1-11951b88bc63.pdf>)

The use of cell phones and other communication devices in the classroom is PROHIBITED at all times unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All such devices must be turned off or put in silent mode and must not be visible during class. At no time will students answer or make a call, page, surf the Web, or text message during class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the following action: first offence – the student's final grade will be dropped by one full letter grade; second offence – see first offence and repeat; third offence – student will fail the course.

b. Use of Laptop Computers

The use of laptop computers is permitted for note-taking purposes only. At no time should students check and/or send email messages or surf the Web. Students wishing to use a laptop computer will be instructed to sit in 'laptop row.' Failure to comply with this policy will result in the following action: first offence – the student's final grade will be dropped by one full letter grade; second offence – see first offence and repeat; third offence – student will fail the course.

NOTE: This syllabus does not constitute a contract between student and instructor. It may be necessary to change the sequence of topics and/or due dates. Any changes will be repeatedly announced in class.