Sociology Senior Seminar
Spring 2014

SC45501
M 3-5:30
400 McGuinn

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Abstract
In order to address the feeling of ‘disconnection’ between undergraduate sociology training and students’ future lives, this seminar will help students to understand the education they have received and provide direction for their career choices. The goals of the seminar are: a) to help students think through the intellectual, ethical and personal meaning of their sociology studies, and 2) to solidify their sociological knowledge. This course is open to all Senior majors in sociology, but is most appropriate for students who are not completing Honors theses and have not enrolled in another BC capstone course. The course will have three main parts: a) one will focus on readings and seminar style discussion, revisiting the material used in the Sociology courses the students have taken, b) a second part will provide elements for the students to prepare for their lives after graduation, c) a third part will involve work on a ‘Senior Seminar Project’ that can assume the form of a life story, an interview, a short video, a photographic exhibit, and the like. The students will share their projects statements, literature review, data and methods. In doing that, they will apply peer review techniques in assessing each other’s work.

Readings
The course builds on the work all students have already taken in theory and methods, as well as the more particular substantive knowledge they have acquired through other coursework. For that reason, the course depends on the students’ own notes, writings, and readings from already taken classes. However, it is expected the students will read some of the proposed text for the classes.

Academic Honesty
BC academic honesty standards are outlined at [http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html]. In case of either cheating or plagiarism, I am required to contact your academic dean.

Course Grading
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%
F  below 60%

Videos
‘People like us: Social Class in America’ by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker.
‘Living in the times of Interregnum’ Zygmunt Bauman talk at Boston College Clough Center.
‘Twilight of the Elites: Chris Hayes on How the Powerful Rig the System, from Penn State to Wall Street
http://www.democracynow.org/2012/7/17/twilight_of_the_elites_chris_hayes

Articles and Books
Boston College, “A Journey to Adulthood. Understanding Student formation”.
If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

1. Life before BC. 3 weeks

Week 1
What was your life project like when you came to Boston?

Week 2
What’s the sociological idea that most helps you to make sense of your personal story?
Visit to the Career Center. 101 Seminar at the Career Center.

Week 3
Movie
‘People like us: Social Class in America’ by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker.

2. Life at BC. 4 weeks

Week 4
How was your whole experience of College? Institutional expectations versus personal experiences.

Readings
- Boston College, “A Journey to Adulthood. Understanding Student formation”.

Week 5
What values have you built at BC? How has your Major helped you to build your values?

Week 6
Reading and discussion:
Sociologist in Action


**Week 7**
Reading and discussion:

**3. Life after BC. 5 weeks**

**Week 8**
Reading and discussion

**Week 9**
Reading and discussion

**Week 10**
Panel
Alumni Sociology Majors, without a University degree.
Profit/non profit/ government

**Week 11**
Reading and discussion

**Week 12**
Presentation of projects

**Week 13**
Presentation of projects
Senior Seminar Project:

The Topic:
- Interview people you want to know about / people you want to emulate / who work in the field you want to explore / people who love their work.
- If they are doing internships: Where are you working? What’s the story of the place? Where does the people come from?
- An specific topic that interested you during the Major.

The methodology:
- It can be an ongoing project (if you’re double majoring, for example).
- Or from an ‘Independent study’, a summer advanced programs; anyone who is writing a thesis.
- A personal project
- A team research project.
- Use methodology courses you’ve already taken.

The outcome:
- Photo, exhibition, media. We encourage you to incorporate the creative side.
  There are a ‘Art and Social Justice’ program
- A paper

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