Sociology Senior Seminar
Spring 2015

SOCY494101
3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
CUSHING HALL 208

Gustavo Morello sj.
Office hours by appointment: morellog@bc.edu

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
Wright Mills, C (1959) The sociological imagination, Oxford University Press.

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.
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?

The methodology:
- A personal project
- A team research project.
- Use methodology courses you’ve already taken.
- Writing Fellow Program:
  The paper will be written through the ‘Writing Fellows’ program. The BC Writing Fellows Program is a writing initiative on campus. As part of this final paper assignment, you will be working with Writing Fellows from the English department (the Fellows will not take part in the grading process). This is an exciting opportunity as students rarely have the chance to really work on their writing as part of their coursework. Since writing is so critical to anything that you might pursue, this class will place a great deal of emphasis on it. Thus, the paper is broken down into three sets of tasks, each of which will be reviewed by a Writing Fellow. **Meetings with the Writing Fellows are required.**

The schedule:
- February 2, you have to submit a project. Electronic. A field in which you’re interested to work (2 pages) and an organization in the field (2 pages).
- February 23, an interview with someone working in the field/organization. Electronic.
- March 23, your final draft. Electronic.
- April 27, final submission. Bring a hard copy to the class if a paper, or the exhibit if you chose the media option.

The outcome:
Chose one, paper or media exhibit.

The paper:
- An intro explaining what you are going to do in the paper.
• An exploration of the field in which you’re interested: what is it about, who are the main players, what are the restrictions and regulations.
• Field work: Do research on both, an organization working in the field and a person (can be from a different organization) related with the field.
• A conclusion: sum up what you have done and your main findings.
• References, APA style.

The Media exhibit.
• We encourage you to incorporate the creative side. There is a ‘Art and Social Justice’ program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 12</th>
<th>January 26</th>
<th>February 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life before BC</td>
<td>A College education</td>
<td>Visit to the Career Center</td>
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<tr>
<th>February 9</th>
<th>February 16</th>
<th>February 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Class, “People like us”</td>
<td>Majoring in Sociology / What now?</td>
<td>Looking for a Job</td>
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<th>March 9</th>
<th>March 16</th>
<th>March 23</th>
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<tr>
<td>The sociological imagination</td>
<td>Sociologists in action</td>
<td>The social construction of reality</td>
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<th>March 30</th>
<th>April 13</th>
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<td>Inequality for all / Hayes, C (2012) <em>Twilight of the elites.</em></td>
<td>John Kerry Commencement</td>
<td>Where do you want to go</td>
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