Sociology Senior Seminar  
Fall 2015

SOCY494101  
Tuesdays 12:00 – 2:30 pm  
McGuinn 415

Gustavo Morello s.j.  
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%

Class attendance, participation and punctuality: 20%
Drafts submissions, final presentation: 20%
Final paper: 60%

**On line readings and reserve for SOCY 494101 Sociology Senior Seminar**

**Videos**
‘People like us: Social Class in America’ by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker.
‘Dear white people’ by Justin Simien

**Articles and Book chapters**

   Chapter 1 p, 7-34
Berger, P and Luckman, T (1966) *The social construction of reality. A treatise in the
sociology of knowledge*, Anchor books. Introduction and chapter 1: p 1-46
   Chapters 1,2,5,7 p.3-49;100-118;132-142.
Society of Jesus (2014), *The Promotion of Justice in the Universities of the Society*.
    Promotio Iustitiae 116, 2014:3
Korgen, K; White, J and White, S (2011) *Sociologists in Action. Sociology, Social
   Change and Social Justice*, Sage, London.
   Boston College Seniors’ Post-Graduate Intended Career Paths” Sociology
   Senior Honors Thesis.
   https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/magazine/outcomes/iwg/commencement.
   html
Spalter-Roth, R; Scheuer Senter, M; Stone, P and Wood, M (2010) ’ASA’s Bachelor’s
   and Beyond Survey: Findings and their implications for Students and
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.

The schedule:
- September 22, 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).
- October 6, your exploration of the field, main players, restrictions and requirements, and the organization you’re interested in. Electronic.
- November 17, an interview with someone working on the field.
- December 1, final submission. Bring a hard copy to the class if a paper.

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.
- The final paper should answer a main question about the job market you’re interested in, like: How does it work? Who are your possible paths? Who are the main players, suppliers, and consumers? What do you expect to do?
- When you write, tell that story to someone who doesn’t know the field. Make clear connections and statements. I expect to see the interview you’ve done interwoven in the narration.
- Start with your personal situation, the decisions you’ve already made and the ones that you plan to make.
- A conclusion: sum up what you have done and your main findings.
- For the conclusion, reflect on how do you think your experience at BC (academic, social, personal, spiritual) may help you in the transition.
- References, APA style. Please reference all the material you use: web pages, brochures, corporate magazines, etc.
- Around 8 pages.

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<td>Sep 01</td>
<td>Life before BC</td>
<td>Sep 08</td>
<td>Social Class, “People like us”</td>
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<td>Sep 08</td>
<td>Visit to the Career Center.</td>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>Idea for final paper</td>
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<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>Race, “Dear White Men”</td>
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<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>The sociological imagination</td>
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<td>The social construction of reality</td>
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<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Bauman, What use is Sociology?</td>
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**References:**

- Wright Mills, C (1959) *The sociological imagination*.