Sociology 407
SOCIOLOGY SEMINAR: ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH
Winter 2018
Fridays 12:00-1:00
Cramer 271

Instructor: Julius McGee
Email: cjulius@pdx.edu
Office: Cramer 2170
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This one credit course examines contemporary sociological research on a variety of topics, such as work/occupations, family, education, criminology, immigration, health/medicine, urban sociology, gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and class. For this course, students will attend sociology research presentations at PSU as well as watch and discuss TED talks on sociological topics. All research presentation will occur during class time at the location mentioned in the course outline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Response papers (10 points each): You will complete a 600-word (minimum) response paper for each research presentation we attend. If you miss a response paper, you have the option of completing an extra credit assignment to make up the points.

POLICIES
D2L: The instructor will post the syllabus on D2L. Students will submit response papers via D2L. The instructor will also post comments on response papers and grades for all assignments on D2L.

Email: The instructor regularly communicates with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving my emails. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to the instructor, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. The instructor will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

Academic honesty: You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

Plagiarism: If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

Cancelled classes: In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, they will email
the class as soon as possible. If the instructor has not arrived to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day.

*Late assignments:* Response papers will be penalized at 10% per weekday late and late assignments will not be accepted after 5 weekdays. No assignments will be accepted after 5:00pm Tuesday of finals week.

*Access and inclusion for students with disabilities:* If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the DRC to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, http://www.pdx.edu/drc. If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodations.

*Title IX reporting:* As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672..
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 January 12th
Brown Bag presentation: Dr. Terrance Hill Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Arizona
Topic: Religious Involvement and Health in Later Life
Location: CH 371

Week 2 January 19th
Ted Talk / Class discussion

Week 3 January 26th
Brown Bag presentation: Dr. David Barnard Emeritus Professor of Professionalism and Comfort Care, Center for Ethics in Health Care Oregon Health & Science University
Location CH 371

Week 4 February 2nd
Ted Talk/Class discussion

Week 5 February 9th
Brown Bag presentation: Dr. Dara Shifrer Assistant Professor of Sociology at Portland State University
Location: CH 371

Week 6 February 16th
Ted Talk/Class discussion

Week 7 February 23rd
Ted Talk/Class discussion

Week 8 March 2nd
Ted Talk/ Class discussion

Week 9 March 9th
Brown Bag presentation: Dr. Brian McCabe Associate Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University
Location CH 371

Week 10 March 16th
Ted Talk/ Class discussion

*** Disclaimer***

Syllabus is subject to change.
RESPONSE PAPER GUIDELINES

The task of the response paper is to provide critical analysis of the research presentation. Each response paper must be at least 600 words.

For your response paper, the only source is the research presentation. You may draw on outside sources in addition to the reading selection; however, drawing on outside sources is strongly discouraged. You should only incorporate additional sources if it enhances your analysis. Any sources that you consult should be cited. You must include a references section at the end of the response paper only if you use sources other than the course readings.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

. Each week’s response paper must be at least 600 words.

Summary: This should be accomplished in one short paragraph. You may return to an analysis of these points in the following paragraphs. Include the following elements, as appropriate:

- The title of the presentation
- The last name(s) of the authors and the year
- The main argument the speaker/author is making.
- A very brief summary of either the evidence and main findings used to support the main argument.
- If the research design is discussed, include a very brief discussion of the research methods (research question, method, and sample)
- If sociological theory is discussed, identify the theoretical framework and/or define any key theoretical concepts
Analysis: The majority of the response paper should focus on analysis. The primary purpose of the response paper is to provide an original and critical response rather than just a summary of the presentation. Use examples and quotes to support the points of your analysis (in this short paper, limit your use of quotes and use only short quotes). Note that your personal feelings, responses, or experiences are not appropriate for a sociological analysis. You may choose to answer some of the following questions (do not attempt to address all of these questions in this short response paper):

- What are the strengths and, more importantly, what are the weaknesses (but be sure you are not simply summarizing points from the text)?
- Do you agree or disagree with the main argument the author is making? Provide evidence for your view.
- To what degree does this scholarship take an intersectional perspective? If it does not take an intersectional perspective, what else might we learn if we applied an intersectional lens?
- How does the research design shape the findings? What else might we learn if we used a different research method or a different sample of participants?
- To what degree does the scholar engage in reflection on their role as a researcher in producing knowledge? If they do not engage in this type of reflection, speculate about how the researchers’ identities might shape the research process.
- What questions does the research raise that might be addressed by future studies?
- What are the policy implications of this scholarship?

Assignments should show clear and concise writing and appropriate proofreading; assignments will not receive full credit if they show significant problems with grammar, spelling, word use, typos, awkward sentences and/or improper formatting. See sample student response paper on D2L.

DUE DATES

Response papers are due by 5pm the Wednesday after the research presentation.

Response papers must be submitted via D2L. Submit your assignment in the appropriate folder (indicated by the week #).