

**SOCIOLOGY 4996 CRN # 11982; Section 001/ CRN # 13476; Section 501 (Honors)
CAPSTONE COURSE**

FALL 2015

0217 STATE HALL

Monday: 04:30PM - 08:50PM

09/02/15 - 12/22/15

Dr. Khari Brown

OFFICE: 2245 FACULTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (FAB), 656 W. KIRBY

TELEPHONE: (734) 239-4300

Email: kharib@wayne.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday noon -2:00p.m.

HOW TO CONTACT ME: I am always in during office hours. If I have to cancel my office hours, I will announce alternative hours for that week in class. The most reliable way to reach me is to email me at kharib@wayne.edu. I also have a mailbox in the Department of Sociology, Room 2245 F/AB.

Amanda will assist me with grading all of the assignments. She and I will consult on the grading of all assignments. However, I have the final responsibility for determining your grade. If you have questions concerning grading, please consult me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course assesses the knowledge of sociology majors and represents a “capstone” in sociological training. Students will choose a specific, researchable topic that relates to the discipline and explore possible theoretical approaches. In addition, students will develop a research paper related to the topic. Students will participate in a class-based research project using survey methodology. Each student will select questions from an existing survey, analyze the results, and write a paper that describes the aim, previous studies, theoretical framework, methods, data analysis, results, and conclusion. The paper will be article-length (15-20 pages) and modeled after manuscripts published in sociological journals. You must earn at least a “C” in this course to complete the requirements for sociology majors.

This course fulfills the university writing intensive requirement: “All students must demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with specialized or professional audiences by completing successfully the writing requirements (courses incorporating major writing assignments) specified by the departments.” Writing is a critical part of the course requirements. Remember that the University has a great resource, the Writing Center, located on the second floor of the Adamancy Undergraduate Library in room 2310. You can make an appointment at the Writing Center by calling 313-577-2544.

This course is a four-credit course but meets for three hours every week. The additional hour is arranged. Students will make up this hour by completing the research activities.

COURSE GOALS

1. This is a writing intensive course, so the final product is a sociological paper based on original research. You will learn to write well as a sociologist.
2. As part of the course and writing the paper, you will learn how to:
 - a. develop a specific aim for a research project
 - b. locates relevant sociological literature on a topic, read the material, and write a literature review
 - c. develop hypotheses related to your research topic
 - d. interpret data, including tables showing descriptive statistics, frequency, distribution and percentages, means, zero-order correlations, and t-tests
 - e. is able to read and understand sociological research
 - f. write up the research paper per the attached guidelines
 - g. complete Responsible Conduct in Research Training
 - h. does an oral presentation of your research findings using power point
3. You will learn what you can do with a B.A. degree in sociology
4. You will learn about graduate programs in sociology

Suggested but not Required Text:

Becker, Howard S. 1986. *Writing for Social Scientists: Second Edition*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

- Assignments
- FINAL PAPER
- CLASS PRESENTATION ON FINAL PAPER

2. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL: We will keep track of your attendance. If you do poorly on assignments and you rarely attend class, and attempt to meet w/ and/or email us your questions on lectures / assignments that you have difficulty understanding, we will have little sympathy for you

3. Assignments: For all assignments, you will ONLY receive CREDIT for completing your assignment on the DATE on which they are DUE. You must email me (kharib@wayne.edu) and Amanda D. (ay8209@wayne.edu) your homework assignments by 4:30pm on the date on which they are due. If you email us your assignment after 4:30pm on the date in which they are due, you will not receive credit for your assignment.

4 FINAL PAPER: You will receive feedback on each segment of your final paper throughout the semester. You will then integrate all the parts and put them into the final paper.

5. In CLASS PRESENTATION: Your in class presentation is based upon your final paper.

4. Late / Plagiarized Assignments: You will not receive credit for late and/or plagiarized assignments, which includes the final paper.

5. No Incompletes: If you do not complete the final paper by the end of the term or if your final paper is not passable, you will receive a failing grade.

6. Extra Credit: If, at the end of the term, you are in between grades, your attendance at an academic talk will grant you the higher grade in the course. See the schedule of talks listed on the calendar and in the extra credit folder on blackboard.

Course Calendar

| Date | Assignment Due Today | Readings /In Class Topics |
|---|---|--|
| 9-14 Room Change: Faculty/Administration Building, Room 2308 | Nothing is Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions & Course requirements • Specific Aim & Picking a Topic • Univariate & Bivariate Analyses |
| 9-21 Room Change: Undergraduate Library: Room 3150 (Lab C-3 rd floor) | Bivariate Analyses Homework is due | Multivariate Analyses |
| 9-28: Room change: Faculty/Administration Building, Room 2308 Class goes from 6- 9pm | | |
| 10-5 Room Change: Undergraduate Library: Room 3150 (Lab C-3 rd floor) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific Aim is Due 2. Multivariate Analyses Homework is due | Dummy Variables, recoding, & Preliminary Analyses |
| 10-12 Room Change: Undergraduate Library: Room 3150 (Lab C-3 rd floor) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Analyses: Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recoding Variables ○ Data Analyses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Analyses |
| 10-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Analyses: Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interpreting Data Analyses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction |
| 10-26 | No Class | No Class |
| 11-2 | Introduction is Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Review |
| 11-9 | No Class | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class |
| 11-16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Review is Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotheses/Research Question • Sample • Measures • Data Analyses Methods • Results • Tables |
| 11-23 | No class | Thanksgiving |

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| 11-30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotheses – Tables are Due | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Presentation |
| 12-7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion is Due | No Class |
| 12-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Presentations | In Class Presentations |
| 12-22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL PAPER IS DUE BY 11:59 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS: FINAL PAPER IS DUE BY 11:59PM |

Grade Summary

| Item | Proportion of Grade |
|---|---------------------|
| Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific aim• Analyses I - III • Introduction• Literature Review• Hypotheses/Research Question• Sample• Measures• Data Analyses Methods• Results• Discussion | 10% |
| Final Paper | 80% |
| In class presentation | 10% |