

SENIOR SEMINAR: STRATIFICATION AND INEQUALITY

SOCIOLOGY 410 S

Fall 2015

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:40-2:10 AH 17

Professor Danielle Kane

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Office hours: F 1:30-3:30

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The senior seminar represents the culmination of your work in sociology at DePauw, and its primary goal is to support you in conducting an independent piece of empirical research and defending it. This experience will prepare you to speak knowledgeably and concretely about research design; data collection and analysis; and a literature in which you develop some expertise and may make a contribution. While most graduation requirements relate to time spent in class (ie credit hours), the senior seminar provides an important opportunity to develop a product that you can use to showcase your skills to potential employers or graduate school admissions committees and mentors.

For all of these reasons, the seminar is organized around conducting your senior thesis, which is also a requirement for the major. I have designed assignments to support your work this semester as you make the transition to an independent researcher.

Seminar Objectives

1. To refine your ability to develop an interesting, informed research question
2. To develop your ability to design a study that will address that research question
3. To gain more expertise in data collection
4. To develop your ability to interpret these data, particularly with respect to how they bear on your research question
5. To practice the skill of presenting and defending your work
6. To practice the skill of providing feedback to others
7. To write up your study in such a way that others could replicate it

Two Special Features of This Seminar:

1. This seminar fulfills the S requirement. As such, you will be presenting your work publicly as well as responding to others, which will help sharpen your speaking and listening skills. To be certified "S" competent you are required to do "C-" or better work on S assignments. Please note that "S" certification and your letter grade for the class are two distinct assessments. It is possible to pass the course, but not be "S" certified.

2. The most efficient, effective way of developing research and writing skills is to get feedback from others; learning to give this feedback is an important, advanced skill in its own right. We will accomplish both of these aims through class workshops, peer review, and presentations, as well as one-on-one consultations with me. **In other words, all of your work for this class will be shared.**

Assignments*

S-related Assignments

Front-end presentation	10
Journal article presentation	10
Final presentation	10
Class facilitation	5
Annotated bib and updated proposal	10
Front-end paper	15
Peer review letters	10
Final draft of thesis	30
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	100

*For work that is ungraded (e.g., first-day-of-class assignment; Silva assignment), failure to complete the work on time will result in a one percent deduction from your final grade.

****Note that due to the fast pace of this class, I cannot accept late work!!!****

Attendance and participation: Because of the intensive nature of our work, which relies heavily on collaboration, it is crucial that you attend every class and be proactive in providing feedback to colleagues. You are allowed to miss one class for an emergency. After one missed class, you will lose one percentage point of your final grade for each missed class.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Senior Symposium. Each Spring, all sociology and anthropology seniors present their senior thesis to the wider DePauw community, families, and friends. Please mark your calendars for this celebratory event and have your family do the same! The event is set up like a mini-conference with concurrent sessions organized by theme. Each presenter will have 10 minutes, followed by Q&A. Your presentation should be professional and polished. A trip to the S-Center as preparation is highly recommended. Everyone is invited to a short awards ceremony afterwards.

Senior comprehensive requirement. Fulfilling the senior comprehensive requirement in Sociology or Sociology/Anthropology involves writing a 25-35 page senior thesis of satisfactory (C- or higher) quality. A thesis of unsatisfactory quality

will need to be redone in order to graduate and will lower your overall course grade.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS (Subject to Revision)

1. **1. Bold text means something graded is due!!**
2. Start collecting data as soon as you get IRB approval. In general, everyone should be collecting data Weeks 7-11. (These weeks are shaded in the table below.)
3. Please use ASA style for all assignments. (See the link on Moodle.)
4. Details of assignments are on Moodle.

Week	Due Sunday 5 pm	Tues	Thursday
1			8/28 Introduction Proposal and annot bib due
2		9/1 Library Session Make sure to have your laptop!	9/3 <u>read Silva and complete worksheet (moodle)</u> In-class: identifying research questions
3		9/8 3 things are due in class: 1. annotated bibliography with 12 sources (inc. your original three) 2. a revised proposal 3. article in which you like use of theoretical framework –be prepared to discuss In-class: identifying theoretical framework and hypotheses	9/10 <u>due in class: draft of your methods section</u> in-class: study design troubleshooting exercise; who’s in and who’s out? in-class: pre-writing front-end pres
4		9/15 front end presentation all are due today!	9/17 front-end presentation
5		9/22 front-end presentation	9/24 IRB workshop Due in class: draft of IRB materials (2 hard copies)*
6		9/29 JA Presentations due!	10/1 JA Presentation
7	10/4	10/6	10/8

	Due: Draft of front-end to Moodle	due in class: peer review letters	due in class: peer review letters
8		10/13 due in class: peer review letters	10/15 due in class: peer review letters
9		FALL	BREAK
10		10/27 Due: Final draft of front-end emailed data collection discussion	10/29 data collection discussion
11		11/3 coding and interpretation	11/5 Reading TBA
12	11/8 Due: F&D draft to Moodle**	11/10 due in class: peer review letters	11/12 due in class: peer review letters
13		11/17 due in class: peer review letters	11/19 Due in class: final presentations for papers workshopped 11/10
14		11/24 Due in class: final presentations for papers workshopped 11/12	11/26 THANKSGIVING
15		12/1 Due in class: final presentations for papers workshopped 11/17	12/3 TBA
16		12/8 THESIS DUE! (2 copies: 1 electronic, 1 paper)	12/10 TBA

* IRB project description, informed consent, instrument, and any other necessary materials

**Note that your Findings and Discussion draft will not receive a grade but will be workshopped.

Honor Code. As with all courses at DePauw University, you are bound by the policy on academic integrity. I highly encourage you to reread the policy if you have not reread it this semester:

<http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/student/acadlife/app/aip/dishonesty/>

Special Accommodations. According to Pamela Roberts, Coordinator of Academic Success and Student Disability Services, “DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and University administered activities and reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments (ADAAA). Accommodations are determined on a case by case basis. Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or learning challenge is strongly encouraged to contact Pamela Roberts, Coordinator of Academic Success and Student Disability Services for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Academic Success and Student Disability Services is located at 101 E. Seminary St., [765-658-6267](tel:765-658-6267). It is the responsibility of the student to share the letter of accommodation with faculty and staff members. Accommodations will not be implemented until the faculty or staff member has received the official letter. Accommodations are not retroactive. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss implementation of accommodations with each faculty and staff member receiving the letter.”