

San José State University, Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Science SOC 181B, Senior Capstone Course, Spring 2020

Instructor: Preston Rudy, PhD

Class meeting: T/Th 9am in DMH 164; Tuesdays 6pm in DMH 356

Must be graduating senior to register for this course

Course Description

From the SJSU Catalog: Capstone course to expand undergraduate senior opportunities and options. Analyzes trends in sociology; explores employment and careers, reflection and assessment of learning in the major.

General Course Information and Background: Sociology 181B is the department's capstone course designed to "expand undergraduate senior opportunities and options" and to explore employment and careers, as well as to reflect and assess learning in the major. This new course focuses primarily on the transition from student to a career. For this course we will organize our reflection and our discussion around four foci: **Self-Knowledge, Sociological Imagination, Community Engagement, and Professional Development.**

Associated with these foci, the course is organized around four themes of transformation that many students go through as they complete their degree and move into a new life. These transformations include finding a career, becoming an engaged participant in our democracy, pursuing more education, and balancing family and work life. By thinking about and reflecting upon these transformations, you will expand your opportunities and options for your career and life.

This capstone course is designed to help you integrate the knowledge from your sociology coursework (theory, methods, research, writing, quantitative and informational literacy) and to prepare you for your work after you are awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree. Thus, it will help you reflect on your career as a sociology student, to develop knowledge about possible careers for which your sociology prepares you, and to prepare for future careers by learning what sociology can tell us about work, careers and being successful with your college degree.

Required Readings

1. *Spartan Daily* and *San Jose Mercury News*
2. Lambert, Stephen. (2009, 3rd edition) *Great Jobs for Sociology Majors*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
3. Sallaz, Jeffrey J. (2013) *Labor, Economy and Society* Malden, MA: Polity Press.
4. *21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology* (2nd Edition). 2013. American Sociological Association. (In class handout)

Assignments and Grading Policy

1. Short Assignments

- A. An analysis of the neighborhood/county where your parents live;
- B. An Interview with your Parent about their education and career;

C. Self-Assessment & Occupational/Career Investigation Report;

D. Resume and Cover Letter:

- A draft resume and cover letter will be due early in the semester and then returned to you with comments (not graded) and giving you an opportunity to revise for success;

-A Final one-page resumé you will use for a specific job and;

-Writing a final cover letter.

E. Short quizzes on readings and each chapter of Sallaz;

F. Constructing Interview Questions for Career Informational interview and then conducting an interview, followed by a written report of what you discovered;

G. How I became a Sociologist: An educational life history.)

2. **Presentation on the readings:** Each student will present twice during the semester with a group of other students. **One** presentation from every student about one chapter in Lambert, and a **second** presentation about one chapter from Sallaz's book.

3. **Research Project Work: Observation, Interviews, preliminary research:**

Reading news accounts and government documents from the Department of Labor for statistical data about occupations.

Complete two observations of a restaurant; Conduct one interview and transcribe the interview.

4. **Research Project Final Report:** Analysis using concepts from course readings of your research, observations and interviews of 2 employees in restaurants and food service occupations..

5. **Class Participation:** Your class participation will be evaluated, though you are not required to attend. Like a work situation however, your enthusiasm and contributions to the success of the class will become the basis your participation. Students who participate in readings, discussion, and show their preparation for class will receive full credit.

Grading

A plus = 500 to 485 points

A = 484 to 470 points

A minus = 469 to 450 points

B plus = 449 to 435 points

B = 434 to 420 points

B minus = 419 to 400 points

C plus = 399 to 385 points

C = 384 to 370 points

C minus = 369 to 350 points

D plus = 349 to 335 points

D = 334 to 320 points

D minus = 333 to 300 points

F = 299 points or lower

SOCI 181B / Senior Capstone, Spring 2020, Schedule

Week	Date	Topics
1	23 January Thursday	Introduction, Course Outline, Expectations, plan for semester Read Lambert introduction and Chapter 1 Self-Assessment worksheet, Lambert p. 5-6
2	28 January Tuesday ----- 30 January Thursday	Researching Employment: The Example of ROC United Read report Behind The Kitchen Door Bay Area Restaurants ----- Class, Education, and Occupations Read Jean Anyon: "Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work" On Canvas
3	4 February Tuesday ----- 6 February Thursday	Looking for work, examining cost of living, developing relationships Read Chapter 3 Lambert "Researching careers and networking" and Erickson "Social Networks" ----- Qualitative research, interviewing Panel on Qualitative Research methods and interviewing
4	11 February Tuesday ----- 13 February Thursday	Resumes: workshop and practice writing our resumes Read Lambert Chapter 2 on resumes Lambert Chapter 4 "Interviewing and Job Offer Considerations" ----- Teaching and Graduate school degrees First presentation on Lambert Chap 5 Teaching and Graduate school degrees
5	18 February Tuesday ----- 20 February Thursday	Mapping Local food services and restaurants Panel interview on food service work ----- Social Service agencies Second presentation on Lambert Chap 6 Social Service agencies
6	25 February Tuesday ----- 27 February Thurs.	Human Resources Management Third presentation on Lambert Chap 7 "Human Resources Management" ----- Public Employment Fourth Presentation on Lambert Chap 8 "Public Employment"
7	3 March Tues. ----- 5 March Thursday	Public Employment – Law Enforcement Fifth presentation on Lambert Chap 8 Public Employment – Law Enforcement ----- Social research and data analysis Sixth presentation on Lambert Chap 9 Social research and data analysis
8	10 March Tuesday ----- 12 March Thursday	Presentation on LinkedIn by Career Center ----- Employment, the Economy and Society Read Sallaz Chap 1 "What good is work?"
9	17 March Tuesday ----- 19 March	The History of work and Employment Read Sallaz Chapter 2 "The Great Transformation of Work" pp. 17-40 ----- Paid work and Culture

Week	Date	Topics
	Thursday	Sallaz chapter 3 “Classifying Labor” pp. 41-51
10	24 March Tuesday ----- 26 March Thursday	Paid work and Culture. Read: Sallaz chapter 3 “Classifying Labor” pp. 52-65 Emeka “Where Race Matters Most” ----- Commodification of our work = Paid work Read Sallaz chapter 4 pp. 66-76
11	30 March – 3 April	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
12	7 April Tuesday ----- 9 April Thursday	Commodification of our work = Paid work Read Sallaz chapter 4 pp. 76-87 ----- Finding work and hiring employees Read Sallaz chapter 5 pp. 88-98
13	14 April Tuesday ----- 16 April Thursday	Employers looking for skills/attributes or willing to train? Read Sallaz chapter 5 pp. 98-109 and “Cool Store Bad Jobs” ----- Control and Contesting what counts as work Read Sallaz chapter 6 pp. 110-122
14	21 April Tuesday ----- 23 April Thursday	Control and Contesting what counts as work Read Sallaz chapter 6 pp. 122-133 ----- Business associations and worker associations Read Sallaz chapter 7 pp. 134-145
15	28 April Tuesday ----- 30 April Thursday	Business associations and worker associations Read Sallaz chapter 7 pp. 145-156 ----- Conclusions about work and Employment Read Sallaz Chapter 8
16	5 & 7 May	Oral Report on Employment in Food Service Occupations