

2/17/2012

**California University of Pennsylvania
Department of Justice, Law & Society
Sociology Division
Fall 2011**

SOC 420-01, 40891

Duda 312

MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.

3 credits

Office Hours: 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. Friday, and by appointment.

Dr. Elizabeth Larsen

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Applied Sociology

Overview

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to explore the practice of sociology in the university or local community, and to apply sociological concepts, theories, and research methodologies to the surrounding social laboratory. In particular, the goal of this seminar is to enhance your sociological imagination, that is to say, to help you see the promise and potential of a sociological perspective that links an individual's everyday experiences with greater social and historical forces. Through this process you will be able to move beyond the discussion of individuals' troubles to an analysis of social organizations and social problems, including analyses of the social structure, social policies, and social change.

We will examine topics such as these: applied sociology vs. basic/pure sociology [or, what is applied sociology?], ethics and values, using sociological theory in applied sociology, problem solving at the macro and micro levels, analyzing and altering organizational environments, public policy, and research ethics.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Illustrate how sociological theories and research methods can be used with clients whether they are individuals, organizations, communities, states, or nations.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of individual, group, and/or organizational processes within and outside workplaces.
3. Adhere to professional norms and demonstrate appropriate behavior with regard to work assignments.
4. Identify personal value orientations and perceptions about individuals and groups, and issues that applied and clinical sociologists bring to their work environment.
5. Demonstrate an ability to function as a working member of a work-site team.

The Project

We will apply sociology through service learning. You will get to choose, on a first-come, first-served basis, one of five local organizations in which to carry out your on-site service. These are the organizations and the impact areas each serves:

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1. Politics/Advocacy – TRIPIL (Washington County)
2. Environmental – River Towns (California, PA)
3. Senior Care – Center in the Woods (Brownsville, PA)
4. Art/Culture – Jozarts Studios (California, PA)
5. Hunger and Homelessness – Washington County Food Bank

You will spend a minimum of 20 documented hours on site over the course of the semester. You may carry out your site visits according to what best suits your schedule and your particular project, but you must spend a minimum of 2 hours each visit on site in order to fully immerse yourself in the experience of those who work for the organization and those who utilize its services.

You must make a minimum of 5 separate visits to the organization in order to complete your reflection assignments. You are welcome and encouraged to make more visits and spend more time if you would like to do so.

You must make your initial visit to the organization no later than September 12, 2011 in order to begin completely the mid-course reflections on a regular basis; you may do them in any order.

If you do not have a car, please note that Center in the Woods is located a short distance from the university on the bus line. Also, the university offers Zip Car service <http://www.calu.edu/parking/reserve-zipcar/index.htm>

The purpose of this course is service learning, a fusion of service and learning. One can simple do service alone; likewise, one can simply learn. Here we will do both, to maximize our learning and the depth of our understanding. In the classroom you will learn about sociological concepts and theories, and then you will apply these to your service experiences.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Desire 2 Learn: We will be making extensive use of D2L in this course. Make sure that you know how to use this system. And make sure that your email address is up to date. If you do not use your Cal U account to read your email, make sure that your Cal U account is set to forward your email to the account that you are using now. I will place important course announcements, assignments, and other information in D2L and you are responsible for checking it regularly.

<http://vip.calu.edu/>

Required Texts

1.
 - TITLE:Doing Sociology
 - AUTHOR:Price
 - EDITION:
 - COPYRIGHT YEAR:2009
 - PUBLISHER:Lexington Books

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- ISBN:9780739133941
- NEW:\$70.00
- USED:\$52.50

2. <http://www.aacc.edu/socgeo/solutioncentered.cfm>

Online Text: Solution-Centered Sociology

These chapters were formerly in *Solution-Centered Sociology: Addressing Problems through Applied Sociology* by Steele, Scarisbrick-Hauser and Hauser, Sage, 1999. The copyright has been relinquished to Steele, Scarisbrick-Hauser and Hauser and they post these chapters for general enlightenment as well as academic use. A copy may be made free of charge for this use.

- [A World of Problems](#)
- [When Structure Is the Problem](#)
- [When Process Is the Problem](#)
- [Organizing the Group](#)
- [Leading the Pack](#)
- [Maneuvering the Multicultural Minefield](#)
- [Understanding and Organizing Change](#)
- [Deviating from the Norm](#)
- [Making Sense out of the Unexpected](#)
- [Responding to Demographic Challenges](#)
- [Ethics](#)

The first text is available at the bookstore and on reserve at Manderino Library. The second text is available online for free.

If you prefer a hard copy, I encourage you to seek used copies of the book online. Make certain to purchase the correct edition with the correct ISBN number.

Policies

Cheating and Plagiarism Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. This includes the sharing and copying of answers with/from other students as well as utilizing quizzes and tests from previous years. Any take home quizzes or other assignments are expected to be your work—not group or team assignments unless instructed otherwise. Any student who is aware of a violation of the policy on cheating or plagiarism is expected to report such violation. Failure to make such a report likewise constitutes a violation of the policy. The professor reserves the right to fail the students on the test, quiz, assignment, or the entire course even for a first offense. Moreover, such an offense can have an impact on you for the rest of your career. Please refer to University policies on this topic for further information.

Academic Integrity Truth and honesty are necessary prerequisites for all education, and students who attempt to improve their grades or class standing through any form of academic dishonesty may be penalized by disciplinary action ranging from a verbal reprimand to a failing grade in the course or dismissal from the university. If the situation appears to merit a severe penalty, the professor will refer the matter to the appropriate dean or to the Provost. The student

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may appeal the penalty as outlined above with the Academic Integrity Committee hearing appeals above the level of Dean.

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/policies-forms/academic-integrity/>

Promptness and Staying Entire Class Period You should arrive to class on time. You should stay in class until class is over unless you have made arrangements with me prior to class. Do not get up and leave during a class session unless you are ill and have spoken with me prior to the class meeting.

Absence If you miss a class, find someone in the class from whom you can get the notes and learn about other important information. If there is a handout you didn't get in a missed class, get it from a classmate. Lecture material usually covers both the texts and my own outside materials.

Disruptions –

Side Conversations make it difficult for others to actively listen and learn.

Sleeping Students should make the mature decision to either stay awake and alert in class or go elsewhere and get some sleep.

Inattention Reading books or other materials, or studying for other courses during the class is not permitted.

Cell phones, mp3's, and pagers All communication devices must be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom.

Make sure that friends and family know of your class schedule and do not call or text you during class time.

Evaluation of Learning

Reading quizzes (10 x 1 point each, randomly given in class)	10%
<u>Reflection assignments</u>	
Pre-reflection (2 pages) (Due date 9/12)	10%
Mid-course reflections (5 x 2-page reflections at 10 points each) (Due dates 9/19, 10/10, 10/31, 11/21, and 12/2)	50%
Post-reflection (2 pages) (Due date 12/7)	10%
Letter to the editor or to a politician on behalf of an issue or agency (1-2 pages) (Due date 12/12)	10%
Attendance – Taken starting second week of class	<u>10%</u> 100%

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I do not give “I” or “Incomplete” grades in this course except in extreme circumstances

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Notices of changes will be made in class and via D2L.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	59 and below

Course Schedule

Add/Drop Period 8/29-9/2

Do the readings BEFORE class.

Bold font = a reflection is due today!

Italic font = letter to editor is due today!

We will read the entire Price book except for Chapter 12.

We will read the entire Steele book.

8/29 NO READINGS
8/31 NO READINGS
9/2 NO READINGS

9/5 LABOR DAY, NO CLASSES
9/7 Price, Chapter 1 – An Introduction to Doing Sociology: Applied, Clinical, and Public Sociology
9/9 NO READINGS

9/12 Price, Chapter 2 – Doing Sociology Worldwide
9/14 Steele – A World of Problems
9/16 NO READINGS

9/19 Price, Chapter 3 – The Role of Theory in Sociological Practice
9/21 NO READINGS
9/23 NO READINGS

9/26 Price, Chapter 4 – Clinical Sociology: Changing Meanings, Changing Lives
9/28 Steele – Understanding and Organizing Change
9/30 NO READINGS

10/3 Price, Chapter 5 – If Crime is the Problem, Is Community or Problem Solving Policing the Solution?
10/5 Steele – Deviating from the Norm

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10/7 NO READINGS

10/10 Steele – When Structure is the Problem

10/12 Price, Chapter 6 – Issues in Criminal Justice Evaluation: Evaluating Michigan’s Drug Courts

10/14 NO READINGS

10/17 Price, Chapter 7 – Evaluation in Education: From Goals to Capacity Development

10/19 Steele – When Process is the Problem

10/21 NO READINGS

10/24 Price, Chapter 8 – Community Research Tactics and Social Change: Assessing Needs and Assets in an Inner City Neighborhood

10/26 MISSION DAY, NO CLASSES 8AM TO 4PM, NO READINGS

10/28 Steele – Organizing the Group

10/31 Steele – Responding to Demographic Challenges

11/2 Price, Chapter 9 – Free-Range Humans: Sociology’s Role in Shaping the Future of the Built Environment for an Aging World

11/4 NO READINGS

11/7 Steele – Maneuvering the Multicultural Minefield

11/9 Price, Chapter 10 – Communal Living: Intentionally Resisting Global White Supremacist Capitalism

11/11 NO READINGS

11/14 Steele – Leading the Pack

11/16 Price, Chapter 11 – Blending Sociology with Federal Funding: The Example of the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovative Research Program

11/18 NO READINGS

11/21 Steele – Making Sense of the Unexpected

11/23 THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASSES

11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASSES

11/28 Price, Chapter 13 – Surveying Health Care Providers: Strategies to Achieve High Response Rates

11/30 Steele -- Ethics

12/2 Price, Chapter 14 – Ethics and Values in Sociological Practice

12/5 NO READINGS

12/7 NO READINGS

12/12 *Letter to editor due*

READING DAY IS 12/9

SENIOR GRADES DUE 12/12

EXAM WEEK IS 12/12 – 12-16

1. DISABILITIES

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities:

Reserve the right to decide when to self-identify and when to request accommodations.

Will register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) each semester to receive accommodations.

Might be required to communicate with faculty for accommodations which specifically involve the faculty.

Will present the OSD Accommodation Approval Notice to faculty when requesting accommodations that involve the faculty.

Office for Students with Disabilities

Requests for approval for reasonable accommodations should be directed to the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Approved accommodations will be recorded on the OSD Accommodation Approval notice and provided to the student. Students are expected to adhere to OSD procedures for self-identifying, providing documentation and requesting accommodations in a timely manner.

Contact Information:

Location: Azorsky Hall – Room 105

Phone: (724) 938-5781

Fax: (724) 938-4599

Email: osdmail@calu.edu

Web Site: <http://www.calu.edu/current-students/student-services/disability/index.htm>

2. THE COUNSELING CENTER

About the Counseling Center

At times during a student's life, concerns about making the best personal, social, psychological and career choices become paramount. Students may wish to resolve problems that interfere with their success and effective educational performance while at the University. Being aware of current lifestyle issues, such as maintaining health and fitness while under pressure and dealing with unwanted consequences of using alcohol and substances are real concerns. Therapists can

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assist students for whom challenges are relevant and pressing.

Location and Hours

The Counseling Center is located on the ground floor of Carter Hall and is staffed by three therapists. Psychological services are available during evening hours by special appointment. The center is staffed from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday by three therapists.

How to reach the Counseling Center

- 724-938-4056 .
- After-hours support during a crisis: Public Safety, 724-938-4347 (HELP), or 9-1-1
- Health Center, 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week at 724-938-4232 . The nurse will put you in touch with a therapist or with a crisis hotline.

We're Here to Help YOU!

The Counseling Center faculty aims to help students overcome personal issues and stressful situations such as:

- Relationship distress
- Academic difficulties
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Alcohol and/or drug use
- Trauma

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/health-services/counseling/index.htm>

3. THE WRITING CENTER

Writing Help for Everyone

The Writing Center provides free writing assistance to all members of the Cal U community-students, staff and faculty. We work with people of all skill levels at all stages of the writing process. The center provides individual conferences with trained writing consultants, group workshops and the Writer's Hotline. We can help you:

- Get started or get past writer's block
- Brainstorm ideas for assignments
- Develop a rough draft
- Learn to write for a specific audience

- Form a thesis
- Develop points, examples and supportive details
- Work on transitions, introductions and conclusions
- Revise for content, structure and mechanics
- Cite sources for research papers
- Prepare application documents and letters
- Learn to self-edit for mechanical and spelling errors

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/academic-resources/writing-center/index.htm>

4. TUTORING

Patricia Johnson is director of the Tutoring Center. A faculty member in the Department of Academic Development Services, she also teaches a 3-credit course titled Critical Thinking and Reading. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a Master of Education degree in reading. She is currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Johnson has tutored students from second grade through college. She is an avid skier, loves the outdoors and enjoys working with diverse groups of people.

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/academic-resources/tutoring-center/meet-the-tutoring-center/index.htm>