SOC 4309: Independent Study
“Cults, Clans & Communities”
Summer I: May 30th-July 5th, 2018

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Scholar: Kathia Pando
Topic of Study: Cults, Clans and Communities

Introduction
This is an exciting opportunity for YOU to drive the content. We will work together to develop your expertise in this upper division sociology course that will complement your career and graduate school goals. Because this is YOUR scholarship, I am framing this course as a collaboration between your research and fundamental skills that are critical for professionals and graduate students.

Student Learning Outcomes
- Acquisition of a specialized knowledge on self-chosen topic in sociology.
- Mastery of major scholarship in theory, studies and methods in chosen topic.
- Graduate level preparation in research prospectus, literature review, and grant proposal for area of specialization.
- Development of critical thinking, research, writing and analysis skills at senior undergraduate/beginning graduate student level.
- Communication skills in writing and research in sociological theory, methods and policy.
- Ability to extract theoretical ideas and apply them in analysis of new data.

The Americans with Disabilities Act
Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.
Plagiarism
Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level.

Texts
No textbook is required to purchase. Student and professor will develop reading list and professor will provide articles in PDF form via email and/or course Blackboard site.

Independent Study Assessment and Project

Projects and Assessment
There are three phases in this independent study: research prospectus, annotated bibliography and grant proposal. Basically, this is an iterative process following the process of graduate school in developing an area of research, learning the literature of your chosen area and creating a research project to do the work with external funding (public or private).

I. PROSPECTUS
1-2 PAGE ESSAY ON WHY THIS TOPIC AND WHAT SOURCES YOU HAVE FOUND TO READ (THIS IS YOUR BEGINNING READING LIST. I WILL ADD TO THIS LIST, AFTER I RECEIVE YOUR ESSAY)

POINTS: 50
LENGTH: 1-2 PAGES
DUE: 2-3 PAGES
DUE: JUNE 7, MIDNIGHT CST

 A. PROFESSOR RESPONSE WITH REVISED READING LIST
 DUE: JUNE 11, MIDNIGHT CST (THIS IS MY DEADLINE TO YOU 😎)

II. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
ALL READINGS IN APA FORMAT WITH A 1-2 PARAGRAPH SUMMARY ON EACH READING. THAT WILL INCLUDE THE MAIN IDEA AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK, THE DATA, THE ANALYSIS AND HOW THIS CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS TOPIC IN SOCIOLOGY. THE AB SHOULD INCLUDE 8-12 SOURCES, DEPENDING ON BOOKS V. ARTICLES. EXAMPLES BELOW.

POINTS: 100
LENGTH WITH WORKS CITED: 6-10 PAGES
DUE: JUNE 21, MIDNIGHT CST

EXAMPLES OF APA SOCIOLOGICAL ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY CONTENT AND FORMAT:
• American Sociological Association:
  http://libguides.enc.edu/writing_basics/annotatedbib/asa
• Sociology, California State University:  
  http://www.csun.edu/~tph53095/Writing%20your%20Annotated%20Bibliography.pdf

• Cornell University: https://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/content/how-prepare-annotated-bibliography

III. GRANT PROPOSAL

Using your annotated bibliography as your literature background, develop an original question, methodological approach and projected impacts to the field. You will develop a research proposal, using examples and guidelines determined by professor over consultation. You and the professor will choose the funding agency (NSF, NIH, ASA, etc.) and use those perimeters in your proposal.

Points: 200

Length with works cited: 8-12 pages

Due: July 5, Midnight CST

Examples of Grant Proposals

• Sociology Graduate Student NSF Fellowship Record, University of Notre Dame: https://sociology.nd.edu/news/sociology-graduate-students-build-winning-fellowship-record/

• National Science Foundation (NSF): https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pqm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5369

• Example of successful and unsuccessful NSF Grant*: https://jabunce.wordpress.com/sample-nsf-proposals/

*You can see how the panel (professors from other universities) reviewed this candidate’s work and the suggestions made.

**Your very own professor had a success NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG). We will apply my experience to helping you! 😊

• Examples for NIH and NIAID: https://www.niaid.nih.gov/GRANTS-CONTRACTS/SAMPLE-APPLICATIONS

IV. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

STAYING ORGANIZED AND IN-TOUCH WITH THE PROFESSOR. THIS CAN BE EMAIL AND/OR FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN ALPINE, IF NEEDED.

POINTS: 50

Final Grade Tally
375-400 points: A
350-374 points: B
325-349 points: C
300-324 points: D
Below: Failing Grade

Citations
Here is an online guide for APA in every possible source (websites, blogs, interviews, articles, books, etc.). It is important when you make an argument or analysis to share your sources.

APA Formatting and Style Guide. Purdue Online Writing Lab: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/