Social Science 495
Capstone Seminar in Social Science
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Office is in Trinity 142
Office Hours: TTh 1 to 2:15

Catalog Description:

Analysis of the basic philosophical foundations of the social sciences, focusing on the nature of humans, the nature of society, social science as a science, and the role of the social scientist. Various paradigms, which deal with these issues, will be studied. Required for all Social Science majors. This is an approved Writing Proficiency course; a grade of C or better certifies writing proficiency for majors.

Course Description and Goals:

This course will examine major theoretical and methodological approaches related to the content of social science and its application to various intellectual and social issues. Class writing assignments, tests, research papers, and oral presentations will assess the learning objectives. In this course, students will demonstrate foundational understandings, concepts and values of the social sciences. They will also synthesize information from varied sources and apply knowledge from multiple disciplines to understand real-world situations. They will organize, write and deliver effective presentations using appropriate academic discourse and technologies.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Written Communication: Students can express ideas in concise, coherent and grammatically correct prose.
2. Oral Communication: Students can deliver effective presentations using appropriate academic discourse and technologies.
3. Quantitative Reasoning: Students can interpret, analyze, and display quantitative information.
4. Diversity: Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural, ethnic, and social groups.
5. Information Literacy: Students can locate, evaluate and use needed information and sources in an ethical and legal manner.
6. Critical Thinking: Students can apply theories to real world situations in a reasoned and reflective manner by utilizing evidenced based methods from multiple disciplines.
INFORMATION ABOUT REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

*Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. Purchase any edition.


*Being There* by Jerzy Kosinski.

INFORMATION ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS:

**ESSAY ABOUT TWO SONGS.**

- Write an essay about two songs that are meaningful to you.
- This short, fun assignment is worth 20 points.
- The due date for this assignment is September 15 at 11:59 P.M.
- This assignment is important because SOSC 495 is a writing proficiency class. The essay will be returned to you with comments for improving your writing style and techniques. If your grade is 15 or lower you will be given one week to resubmit your essay with the suggested revisions. Your essay is an opportunity for me to evaluate your writing style and abilities, and to gage your improvement over the course of the semester. The essay is also a good way for me to meet you.

**CRITICAL READING AND WRITING EXERCISES.**

Over the course of the semester you will be taking part in six writing exercises. Each essay will be about a specific section from your reading or about a related article.

Local people you will write your essays during class time. No exceptions. You cannot bring your essay to class, hand it in, then leave. Part of the logic behind these exercises is to help you refine your ability to write an essay under pressure in a short amount of time. Please bring the required reading material to class on the specified date. All required materials are under the Assignments and Tests link. You will be given about twenty minutes to finish each essay.
Distance people you will find drop boxes for each individual essay under the Assignments and Tests link along with helpful instructions. All you need to do is to write your essay and drop it into the appropriate drop box. Distance people please do not take more than 20 minutes for each essay. Time yourself and stop when time is up.

Specific information about reading material and due dates is on your class schedule. Essays will be evaluated for spelling, sentence structure, cohesion of paragraphs, and relationship of ideas. Essays will be returned to you at the next class meeting with suggestions for revision. You will not be marked down if you do not finish. I want to see a good effort. If revisions are requested you will be given one week to make them. Each essay is worth 5 points.

E-PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT 10 Points

For your e-portfolio assignment you will set up an e-portfolio site. On the site you will post your resume, an example of a project or paper that you completed while attending CSU-Chico, and an elevator speech.

OUT OF CLASS EXPERIENCE (FLIPPED CLASS) 10 points each for a total of 20 points.

This semester we will be doing two “flipped classes.” On “flipped class” day we will not be meeting in the classroom. Instead, you will be doing a course related activity outside of class, and then writing a short essay about your experience.

TWO TESTS. The tests will cover reading and material presented in class. 100 points for each test.

- For each test you will be given 8 to 9 questions. You will select 4 to 5 questions to answer. The tests are take home. Your answers should be well written and be in short essay form. Each answer should be about 1 to 2 pages long. If you use a quote, reference it using MLA, APA, or any other style that you prefer.

- Please be aware that the tests are not just about the books. The tests are also about your ability to merge ideas from the books, and to apply theories from multiple disciplines in the social sciences to your reading and to real world situations. We will be discussing many theories in class. It will be interesting to see how you connect theories that we study to the reading material, and to life.

PAPER AND PRESENTATION 75 POINTS TOTAL
35 points for the paper.

Writing this paper is an opportunity to fine tune your talent as a writer and to delve deeply into an area that has sparked your imagination while attending college. This is your capstone paper. It must be excellent. If you plan to attend graduate school, consider writing about a topic that might be developed into a thesis. If your plans include finding a job after graduation, select a topic that is related to your career interests. The paper should be carefully written in the format that is appropriate for your area of emphasis. It should be three to five carefully focused pages. You should refer to sources, but should also express your own ideas.

35 points for the presentation.

Designing this presentation is an opportunity to showcase your creative abilities, and to share your research with your colleagues in the class. The presentation should be carefully designed in an engaging format. Most people use PowerPoint. Your individual grade for your presentation will be based on organization, clarity, presentation skills, thoroughness, use of supporting evidence, and responding to questions from your colleagues. Please refer to the presentation rubric for additional information.

I have broken down the process for your presentation and paper into specific tasks with definite deadlines. Please pay close attention to the deadlines.

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<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share your ideas with the class</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due date for paper</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>March 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present to class</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Select a date between March 7 and April 25.</td>
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**Local people** sign up to present your work to the class on a date of your choice between March 7 and April 25. Present early to make the end of the semester less stressful.

**Distance people** please post your presentation on the Discussion Board between March 7 and April 25. Everyone in the class will read the presentations and comment on two. Please respond to all colleagues who comment on your presentation. Thanks

**All students have the opportunity to add their paper to their e-Portfolio.

**The final will include questions about all four books and the various theories we covered. You will also be asked to describe a few of the presentations by your colleagues in the class.

Information about your final grade.
I have been asked to require attendance so I will be taking roll each time that class meets. You can miss four classes. After that I will deduct one point from your final grade for each class that you miss. Local people, missing class and attending online is no longer an option. The classes are archived for distance people. Local people can use archived material to review for tests, but must attend class in person when it meets.

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<td>95 to 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 to 94.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87 to 89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83 to 86.9</td>
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I wish you all a successful semester.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASS

❖ If you contact me with a reasonable excuse, I will give you extra time to complete an assignment.
❖ Please contact me if you need ADA assistance. I will accommodate all requests.
❖ Please do not plagiarize. It is not fair to you or to your colleagues in the class. It also tends to irritate me. I am getting very proficient at finding work that is
plagiarized. If I discover that your work is not your own, the work in question will get a 0. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the professionals in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

❖ **I do not give Incompletes.** If it is not a good time for you to take the class, drop it and try again later.

❖ Please use appropriate language for all or your written work.

❖ Please respect your classmates. During class discussions do not make any comments or use words that people might find offensive.

❖ I look forward to working with you this semester.