

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm (Blair Hall 3103)  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminology, Eastern Illinois University

Professor: Dr. William E. Lovekamp  
Office Phone: 217-581-3123  
E-mail: welovekamp@eiu.edu

Office: Blair Hall 3151  
Office Hours: T, Th 12:30-1:30  
W 10-12

All sociology majors are required to successfully complete this capstone course. This course is designed to serve as your culmination to the sociology major and allow you to exercise your capacity to integrate all you have learned within the discipline.

The content of the course serves several purposes and will be centered on current issues in today's modern world. The current issues within the course will be focused on the career interests of the enrolled student and their research projects. Moreover, these issues will be developed and analyzed according to each student's *sociological imagination*. As a capstone seminar, together, we will examine these various issues in the present-day United States and abroad, especially with their sociological relevance, and use of social theory, research methods and statistics.

The first portion of the course is an exploration in the **sociology of knowledge**, the *philosophical* part of sociology where we will ask questions such as:

- What are social facts?
- What is objectivity?
- What is truth?
- Why is history important to sociology?
- How do we know what we know?

The remainder of the course applies these questions in two ways: analyzing a book-length contemporary sociological study, and through individualized student research projects.

As the capstone course, you begin having your own stock of theoretical, methodological, and statistical knowledge and skills: you would not be in this class had you not completed these core sociology courses. Therefore, *this class aims to draw out what you have previously learned and apply it in this culminating experience.*

### **Course Description & Objectives:**

This course is designed to provide each student with the opportunity to show mastery of each departmental learning objective as it relates to a current social issue. Students should:

1. Demonstrate sociological consciousness/imagination, recognizing the link between individual experiences/issues and larger social forces,
2. Demonstrate a sociological perspective promoting multicultural understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of diversity,
3. Demonstrate the ability to think critically,
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories and application,
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of skills necessary for conducting sociological research, and
6. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of skills necessary for statistical applications and literacy.

### **Required Text:**

Babbie, Earl. 2015. *Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research*. 2nd ed. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc. (e-book) & additional readings available in [D2L Brightspace](#).

### **Course Guidelines:**

1. **Collegiality** – We are a diverse group of people who come from different geographic regions, with different life experiences, from different family environments, with different goals and

aspirations, and important views and perspectives. This is a uniquely wonderful characteristic of college. Therefore, you are expected to listen thoughtfully to others, carefully consider how you expect to be treated, and respect the viewpoints expressed by others in a courteous and polite manner. We are never going to be asked to agree with what others always say, but if you disagree with what someone has said, you are to express your disagreement in a civil, respectful, & polite manner. We will have a classroom environment that is a safe and friendly place to exchange ideas and become better critical thinkers. Failure to comply with these expectations will result in your immediate dismissal from the course.

2. **Attendance/Participation** – I record attendance daily. You are expected to attend every class and participate fully. You will obviously miss critical information if you have excessive absences and this will be reflected in your grades. Also, walking into class late is disrespectful to both your professor & your colleagues & will not be tolerated.

Second, there is a formula for how much time you devote to class. For every one hour you spend in a classroom, you are expected to put in 2 hours outside of the classroom for that course. Since you spend 2 ½ hours per week in our classroom, you are expected to put in 5 hours outside of the classroom per week devoted to this course. That's right! 7.5 hours in this class per week. Now, if you are signed up for 5 classes, then you will devote 37.5 hours per week devoted to your classes. 1/3 of that is actually sitting in the classroom. Enrolling in 15 hours of coursework is equivalent to putting in a 40 hour work week and considered a full time student). If you actually do this, you will be successful.

3. **Readings** – I prepare each class with the expectation that you have completed the assigned readings for that day or week. For much of the course readings, you are also required to annotate the chapter or article in advance of our class discussion. We will use class time to discuss & build on the readings and have conversations about relevant topics. Reading is required to participate in class and for successful completion of this course.
4. **Cell Phones/Texting/Technology** – **I ask that you turn off or silence all cell phones** before entering class & **DO NOT use them for texting** or other non-class activities. If I see someone texting or using a cell phone for non-class related things, the entire class will have a pop quiz. However, I understand that cell phones are now a part of life so I just ask you to be respectful if you need to access your phone and not distract your colleagues or me. We may even use them in class from time to time. Generally speaking, you **may NOT use laptops or tape recorders** in class unless you have approval from Disability Services, but talk to me if you prefer using a laptop to take notes instead of pen and paper.
5. **Academic Integrity** – You are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's [Code of Conduct](#). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Accountability and Support. **You will automatically fail the course if you submit any work that violates these principles.**
6. **Communication** – I am always available to meet with you to discuss grades, lecture, exams or other the course matters. I have opportunities for both in person and virtual office hours. If these office hours or days and times are simply not possible, please email and we will make alternative arrangements. Use the [meeting link](#) or go to my [faculty page](#) and click on 'schedule a meeting' to schedule your appointments. When using email in any situation, remember to be professional and show your best self; Follow standard email guidelines. 1) Put the course # in the subject line (SOC 4900), 2) include greeting (Dr. or Professor Lovekamp), 3) use standard English, write in complete sentences, avoid abbreviations and text slang (TTYL, LOL), 4)) and end with a signature (your full name). And remember, email keeps forever and is the modern form of writing a letter to someone else. You will benefit greatly from writing high quality letters.

7. **Reading Annotations** (3 points each \* 15 = 45 Total Points): You will read and annotate (make notations) of every class reading using Perusall Annotation platform within [D2L Brightspace](#). This is an electronic version of marking up a reading with highlights, underlines, and comments in the margins. These are not graded assignments, but participation activities to help you prepare you for class. If you complete them, you earn the points. If you do not, then you do not earn the points. (See [D2L Brightspace](#) for more specific instructions).
8. **Annotated Bibliography Reports** (5 points each \* 15 assignments = 75 Total Points): You will complete 15 annotated bibliography assignments. (See [D2L Brightspace](#) for more specific instructions).
9. **Applied Research Papers and Presentation** (180 Total Points): See below for detailed instructions and due dates. (See [D2L Brightspace](#) for more specific instructions).

Applied Paper #1 – Career & Issue	(30 Points)
Applied Paper #2 – Theory	(30 Points)
Applied Paper #3 – Methods	(40 Points)
Applied Paper #4 – Synthesis	(60 Points)
Applied Paper – Presentation	(20 Points)
Reading Annotations	45 pts.
Annotated Bibliographies	75 pts.
<u>Applied Papers</u>	<u>180 pts.</u>
TOTAL	300 pts.
	A=(100-90%) 300-270
	B= (89-80%) 269-240
	C= (79-70%) 239-210
	D= (69-60%) 209-180
	F= (0-59%) 179 or below

10. **Writing Standards** – Good writing is essential to the point that it communicates your voice. This is not a writing course, but a course with a tremendous amount of writing. I am interested in your ideas, not your punctuation. I provide guidelines for page format and length, font size, and other best practices as parameters in which I look forward to reading your prose.

**Students with Disabilities Statement:** If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact Student Disability Services ([OSDS](#)). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**Medical Emergency Statement:** For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. Be sure to state the floor & room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If emergency is on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

**Tornado Statement:** In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

**Building Fire Statement:** In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the North & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair & Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away

from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

**COVID-19 Practices & Expectations on EIU's Campus:** The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. EIU's COVID-19 [campus practices](#) require that all students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class. You may sit in any classroom seat where you are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. You should not attend class if you are ill and should consult the student health clinic if you have any COVID-19-like symptoms. Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services ([OSDS](#) 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to [IGP #43](#). To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit EIU's COVID-19 [campus practices](#) page.

LECTURE SCHEDULE		ASSIGNMENTS	
TOPIC	READINGS	PAPERS & BIBLIOGRAPHIES	ANNOTATIONS
August 23 & 25 1. Introduction	EB 1 - Closed Answers and Open Questions		EB 1 Annotations (Due 8/25)
August 30 & September 1 2. Sociology	Berger "Invitation to Sociology"	<b>Applied Paper 1</b> (Due 9/2)	Berger Annotations (Due 8/30)
September 6 & 8 3. Questions & Answers	Durkheim "Rules of the Sociological Method"		Durkheim Annotations (Due 9/6)
September 13 & 15 4. Truth & Objectivity	EB 2 - Truth, Objectivity, and Agreement	Annotated Bib 1 (Due 9/16)	EB 2 Annotations (Due 9/13)
September 20 & 22 5. History & Action	Weber "Methodological Foundations of Sociology" & Marx "Materialist Method"	Annotated Bib 2 & 3 (Due 9/23)	Weber & Marx Annotations (Due 9/20)
September 27 & 29 6. Paradigms	EB 3 - Paradigms EB 4 - Determinism vs. Freedom	Annotated Bib 4 & 5 (Due 9/30)	EB 3 & 4 Annotations (Due 9/27)
October 4 & 6 7. Research		<b>Applied Paper 2</b> (Due 10/7)	
October 11 & 13 8. Distinctions	Mills "Sociological Imagination"	Annotated Bib 6 (Due 10/14)	Mills Annotations (Due 10/11)
October 18 & 20 9. Research Indicators	EB 5 - Indicators of Reality EB 6 - Making Distinctions	Annotated Bib 7 & 8 (Due 10/21)	EB 5 & 6 Annotations (Due 10/18)
October 25 & 27 10. Socl Constructionism	Best Chapters 1 & 2	Annotated Bib 9 & 10 (Due 10/28)	Best 1 & 2 Annotations (Due 10/25)
November 1 & 3 11. Research		<b>Applied Paper 3</b> (Due 11/4)	
November 8 & 10 12. People Like Us	11/8 NO CLASS Charon - "What Does it Mean to be Human?"	Annotated Bib 11 & 12 (Due 11/11)	Charon Annotations (Due 11/10)
November 15 & 17 13. Self-Reflection	EB 13 - Scientific Close Mindedness	Annotated Bib 13 & 14 (Due 11/18)	EB 13 Annotations (Due 11/15)
November 29 & Dec 1 14. Research		Annotated Bib 15 (Due 12/2)	
December 6 & 8 15. Swan Songs	Applied Paper Presentations	<b>Applied Paper 4</b> (Due 12/5)	

- a) 9/2/22 deadline to withdraw from course w/ no grade; 11/4/22 deadline to withdraw from with a W.
- b) This syllabus serves as a contract between the student & professor. You are responsible for all information contained within this syllabus. Any changes the professor makes will be announced in advance.
- c) Holidays: Labor Day 9/5; Fall Break 10/7; Election Day 11/8; Thanksgiving Break 11/21-25.