SOCIOLOGY 794: The Teaching of Undergraduate Sociology

Spring 2019
Bolton 757
T: 3:00-3:50
kredding@uwm.edu

Kent Redding
Bolton 714
Office Hours: M 2:30-4, Th 12:30-2
and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The basic goal of this course is to help you become a good undergraduate instructor. More specifically, the course aims to help you: prepare to teach your own course for the first time; develop and improve your skill at various teaching activities (including leading discussions, lecturing, evaluating, managing a classroom, and motivating students); be sensitive to a number of sociological phenomena that appear in college classrooms; formulate a teaching style and philosophy that you can expand and refine with experience. For sociology doctoral students who will soon be teaching their own courses, we aim to provide you (as a new instructor) with a forum for sharing your experiences with, and obtaining support from, your peers. Course periods will be organized around mini-lectures, student presentations, and discussions of readings and experiences relevant to topic of the day.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Active participation in the seminar. Because, for the most part, each seminar will be organized around discussion, the quality of the course will depend in part on the quality of your participation. I expect you to attend all classes, but accept that something may require you to miss one class. Any absence beyond one will result in a failing grade for the course (except in some extraordinary circumstance).

2. Completion of the reading assignments before class. Most class periods will require that you do some relatively short readings, which will be posted on Canvas. These readings will be geared toward the practical concerns of teaching and will facilitate discussion for the day.

3. One presentation for part of a class meeting. Early in the semester students will choose a topic from the schedule and meet with me to discuss how to present the topic in class. Each presentation can be relatively informal and should take up 20-30 minutes of class time.

4. Construction of a syllabus for the course you expect to teach in the fall or would like to teach some day. By the end of the course, you will be expected to have planned a semester long course, which will be reflected in a complete syllabus for the course.

5. A draft of a teaching statement/philosophy will be due May 11, 2018.

6. Arrange an observation of a class (and related teaching materials) of a class currently taught by a graduate student with a write-up of what you saw in that class and those materials. Details on this will be provided later in class.

The following are additional requirements for Sociology doctoral students who will be teaching their own courses in the fall of 2019. Those not in Sociology are invited but not required to participate in the below.

7. 2-3 workshop meetings over the summer to review final drafts of syllabi and plans for teaching; attendance is required but dates for this are flexible.
8. Arrangement of observation and evaluation of your class by me sometime in early October 2018.

GRADING: Participation 20%; Teaching Statement 20%; Observation 20%; Syllabus 40%.

READINGS

Readings for the course will be relatively brief, practically oriented, and come from articles and chapters posted on the course Canvas site.

TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE

Jan. 22 Starting out:
-What is exciting and daunting about teaching your own course?
-What makes a good instructor? The best and worst teaching techniques?
-Balancing teaching with other duties

Jan. 29 What do we know about how students learn?
-Hammer and Giordano: Active Learning
-Bonwell and Eison: Active Learning: Creating Excitement in the Classroom
-Davidson: How to think about active learning

Feb 5 Methods of instruction: Discussion
-Svinicki and McKeachie: Facilitating Discussion

Feb. 12 NO CLASS, SNOW DAY!

Feb. 19 Methods of instruction: lecture. Rebekah Presents
-readings posted on Canvas

Feb. 26 Methods of Instruction: Evaluating your students. Navada Presents
-Bloom’s taxonomy, determining reasonable expectations of student performance, constructing exams, quizzes, paper assignments, and grading them
-readings posted on Canvas

March 5 Methods of Instruction: Low stakes assessment techniques; Using exercises and technology in the classroom. EJ Presents
-readings posted on Canvas

March 12 Methods of Instruction: Dealing with a range of different types of students and types of learning; the Perry Scheme. Paul Presents
-readings posted on Canvas
-**Observation due**

March 19 SPRING BREAK

March 26 Course design and syllabus construction, part 1
-readings posted on Canvas
April 2  Syllabus construction, part 2
- readings posted on Canvas

April 9  Various issues concerning respect and rapport in the classroom: Caitlin Presents
- Order, problem situations and students, advising students.
- readings posted on Canvas

April 16 Discussion of syllabi drafts.
- **Syllabus draft due, distributed to rest of class by noon, April 15; no readings**

April 23 Discussion of syllabi drafts (cont’d)
- no readings

April 30 Developing a teaching philosophy; teaching styles, ethics, and values in the classroom. Kristen Presents
- readings posted on Canvas

May 7  Diversity in the classroom: Race, Class, Gender, International students. Margaret Presents.
- readings posted on Canvas

- **Final draft of syllabus and teaching philosophy due Friday, May 10 (but I can be flexible on this due date)**

**UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: [https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf](https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.pdf).

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm)

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: [https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/](https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/)

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf)

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: [https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf)

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following:
Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at:
https://www4.uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at:
https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at
https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:
http://www4.uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Book Royalties. In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.

Update 08/2018