

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
SOC 391/491: Junior and Senior Seminars, 2014-15

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office hours: Tuesday, 9:15-12:00; Wednesday, 11:15-1:00; Friday, 10:15-12:00

office: Annex 112A

A seminar is an intimate, collaborative environment in which scholars support and enrich each other's research and writing.

Required Reading: C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*.

Evaluation (391: 3 credits, graded/491: no credit, Pass or Fail)

391 students:

- 40 points from participation (this includes in-class participation and Moodle posts to other students)
- 40 points for written work – due March 1 (15-20 page essay on thesis topic)
- 10 points for professional development – CV writing, scholarship applications, locating graduate school, REB tutorial
- 10 points for oral presentation of thesis proposal (January)

491 students:

- presentation of proposal to class (responses from class)
- discussion of proposal writing/locating a supervisor (mentoring 391 students)
- professional development – CV writing, scholarship applications, locating graduate school, REB tutorial, student research day
- presentation of first 2 chapters to class
- See “important dates” sheet on moodle

Participation

Participation is critical to this course. It is an advanced seminar that prepares only the most serious students for graduate school (in sociology and other fields).

Collegial participation is of note for any letters of reference based on this course.

How do you participate?

Take an interest in the research being done by the other students. Bring to class (or, better, post to Moodle) notes, ideas, newspaper clippings, references to articles, books, etc. Think outside the box. Include poems, chapters from novels, video clips,

etc. Each student in the class will have their own Moodle forum, so that posts and responses relate to her or his work only. You will also participate by presenting your own work to the class. This will include informal discussions of your work and the circulation of parts of your writing to the class.

What will we do in this class?

- meet and discuss our writing
- distribute drafts of writing
- read Mills, The Sociological Imagination through the year
- discuss/make REB applications
- discuss graduate school applications/scholarships
- discuss preparing a CV
- practice oral presentations
- discuss any other issues and concerns raised by students