

**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOC 391/491: Junior and Senior Seminars, 2013-14**

Dr. P. Cormack

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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 will get 40 points toward their grade from participation/60 points for written work – due March 1. Your written work will take the form of a “literature review” in preparation for your thesis.)

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. (For credit in SOC491 see “important dates sheet”.)

*How do you participate?*

Take an interest in the research being done by the other students. Bring to class notes, ideas, newspaper clippings, references to articles, books, etc. Think outside the box. Bring poems, chapters from novels, etc. Keep a section in your binder for each student in the class and use it for in-class notes and your feedback to bring to class. 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. This binder will be submitted to me for review at the end of the course.

*What will we do in this class?*

- meet and discuss our writing (491 writes proposal)
- 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 thesis presentations
- discuss any other issues and concerns raised by students