

Sociology 336—INVESTIGATIVE SOCIOLOGY — Spring 2017

Service Learning— Social Justice, Human Rights and Social Activism in Sonoma County

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Learning Objectives

1. Student will achieve a full working knowledge of and contribute new information to a key Sonoma County issues on Human Rights, Social Justice or Social Activism.
2. Student will learn to do action research in cooperation with community-based organizations and advisors in Sonoma County.
3. Students will learn to work in research teams on selected human social justice issues.
4. Student teams will learn to use qualitative Interviewing and data collection.
5. Student will learn observation techniques and field notes processes for data collection on community issues.
6. Public records requests and governmental data collections will be a significant part of the course.
7. Students will learn to publish reports, and media releases as a collaborative team on key issues within the Sonoma County.
8. Students will learn to write letters to the editor or op-eds on key issues for publication in Sonoma County newspapers and news websites.
9. Student teams will publish their report at the end of the semester in either print or on-line in a public forum.

Course Goal: Development of critical thinking and research skills regarding local community social justice issues

Required Textbook: Students teams will build a reader on the selected topic for their research. Recommended: Sociological Methods Text from your Sociology 300 class or related textbook

Investigative Sociology

Investigative Sociology is a course designed to give students hands-on experience in community action research and meets the sociological experience requirement for the major. Investigative Sociology is approved as a service-learning course by Sonoma State University. The course is in the tradition of Liberation Sociology that seeks to use social science research to support human rights and social betterment. Addressing issues of social justice is a value officially endorsed by the Sociology Department of Sonoma State University.

Course Evaluation:

Research Journal	40%
Published Letter	10%
Public Presentation of Results	20%
Class Participation/Final Paper	20%

Research Journal: Students will maintain a daily log/journal of all activities and research done for the class and commentary on the weekly readings. The Journal will be turned in as a midterm and as the final exam. For the final exam, students will report on how they met the learning objectives of the course as their ending entry into their journals.

Students will complete and publish a team research study on their selected topics.
(Minimum 12 pages)

Students will write and publish a 200-500 word letter to the editor or op-ed on your research issue in a newspaper, or on a website.

This is a highly participatory class designed to familiarize students with seminar type classes held in graduate school and research assignments in government and business.

All work in the course must be completed in order to receive a grade.

The class will be divided into three research teams. Research teams will select a topic to begin building a literature review collection for all team members to read. Literature review material will be compiled into a reader and a copy turned in on February 17. Possible topics for Spring 2016 are: Social Activism in Sonoma County, Law Enforcement Related Deaths, Housing Resources/costs, Race and Gender Discrimination, Unemployment, Living Wages, Inequality/Poverty,