Sonoma State University
Sociology
SOCI 498, Senior Seminar: U.S. Housing Policy, Spring 2018

Instructor Contact Information
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Please note: Information below is subject to change.

General Course Information
Prerequisites: Students must successfully complete (grade of C- or better) Sociology 300, Sociology 375, as well as 16 additional units of Sociology, before enrolling in Sociology 498. Students must earn at least a C- in order to get credit for the senior seminar major requirement.

SSU Writing Requirement: Meets WIC/GWAR requirement for students earning a minimum grade of C.

Course Description
Sociology 498 is the “capstone” to the sociology degree at Sonoma State University. In SOCI 498, students will complete an independent research project with an emphasis on a specific course theme selected by the instructor. For this section of senior seminar, the emphasis will be on urban sociology as it relates to housing and social services. Your project will focus on the use of interviews to understand housing, housing policies, affordable housing, homelessness and the link to social services in urban areas.

Specifically, this course will focus on the role of housing in shaping the quality of life in various parts of society. We will examine housing issues in urban areas while also focusing on the broader history and social impact of housing and affordable housing policies. This course will examine past and current housing policies and their influence on American society. Specific topics we will examine include the link between housing stability, health, labor market performance, and educational outcomes; homelessness; housing for persons with disabilities; senior housing; housing for low- and moderate-income households; public housing; and rent control.

We will also spend a significant amount of time discussing proposed policy issues to persistent affordable housing issues as well as strategies that community-based organizations and social movements are using to bring about change. We will use interviews with members from the public sector, private sector, non-profit groups and the community to understand housing problems and address policy solutions.
Course Format and Instructional Methods
The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. These methods will include lecture, student led activities, group discussions and small group work.

Moodle (https://login.sonoma.edu/), your online learning community, will also be used in this course. Within the course Moodle site you will access the learning materials and syllabus; submit assignments; and can engage in online discussion with your classmates. Refer to the course calendar/schedule and assignment instructions for more information.

Required Texts/Readings
There is one required book for the course.

(1) Schwartz, Alex. 2014. Housing Policy in the United States, (Routledge, 3th edition.)

Recommended text
This is available as an ebook through the SSU library which you can read online.

Recommended Text for Writing:
Hacker, Diana. A Writer’s Reference

Other Readings
Additional readings assigned will be provided with access through Moodle, through information on the syllabus or on Reserve at the library.

Course Requirements
Weekly Reading Assignment 20%
Research Project 60%
Oral Presentation 10%
Class Participation/Attendance 10%

100%

Research Project 60%
Research Topic 5%
Annotated Bibliography 5%
Interview Protocol, Consent Form, Interviewee List 5%
Literature Review 10%
Research Paper Outline 5%
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<th>Draft Data Results</th>
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