Sonoma State University  
Sociology  
SOCI 498, Senior Seminar: U.S. Housing Policy, Spring 2019

Instructor Contact Information
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General Course Information
Prerequisites: Completion of SOCI 201, SOCI 300, SOCI 375, SOCI 301 or MATH 165, each with a minimum grade of C-, and 12 additional sociology units; sociology major; approved graduation application.

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

Students must earn at least a C- in order to get credit for the senior seminar major requirement.

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. 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.

Various guest speakers are brought in during the semester to discuss the provision of affordable housing and social services from the non-profit and government sectors.

Writing Intensive Curriculum Course
This course has been designated as a WIC (Writing Intensive Curriculum) course for Spring Semester 2019. This means that the course is specifically and especially designed to help you develop writing abilities at the advanced level. You will be doing a lot of writing in the class and receiving substantive and direct instruction during your writing process (e.g., using writing to generate and think through ideas, writing and revising drafts, giving and receiving feedback on writing, editing, etc.). Writing assignments will be carefully crafted to support your ability to engage as a writer in a variety of contexts: civic, disciplinary, professional. Writing will also support your learning of the academic class content.

This course serves as a “WEPT equivalent.” This means that, if passed with a C- or better, the course will exempt you from needing to take the WEPT. IMPORTANT NOTE: to receive WEPT / GWAR certification via taking this course, you need to have achieved junior or higher status at the time you registered for the course. The Graduate Written Assessment Requirement (the CSU requirement that most SSU students meet by passing the WEPT) stipulates that writing proficiency must be assessed in the upper division. Students may certainly take and pass various WIC courses prior to upper division, but those courses will not count for GWAR certification.

If you have achieved junior or higher status, and if you pass this course with a grade of C- or better, your GWAR proficiency will be automatically registered via a certification process in the Common Management System a few weeks after the term is completed.

**Required Texts/Readings**

There are two required books for the course.

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

The Schwartz text is available at the Campus Bookstore and also North Light Books, 550 E. Cotati Ave, (707) 792-4300.

(2) **Required Text for Writing:**


**Recommended text**


This is available as an ebook through the SSU library which you can read online.
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/Writing Assignment 20%
Research Project 60%
Oral Presentation 10%
Class Participation/Attendance 10%

Research Project 60%
Research Topic 5%
Annotated Bibliography 5%
Interview Protocol, Consent Form, Interviewee List 5%
Literature Review 10%
Research Paper Outline 5%
Draft Data Results 5%
Final Research report 25%