



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Course Prefix, Number and Title: SOC 430 Seminar in Sociology

Course CRN # and Section: CRN 20347 (01)

Semester Taught (including year): Spring 2019

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: N/A

Course Time (if applicable): TR 1230-1345

Building and Room Number (if applicable): Admin 300

Professor: Dr. Tracy Luff

Office Location: Marsh Hall, A209

**Office Hours: MW 11-12, T 2-4
TH 3-4**

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**College/Department Website:
www.concord.edu/sws**

Course Description/Rationale:

This course is intended as a capstone course for sociology majors. Capstone courses should provide students with a “culminating experience in which [they] synthesize subject-matter knowledge..., integrate cross-disciplinary knowledge, and connect theory and application in preparation for entry into a career.” (Kerka, 2001) Students will complete an independent sociological research project.

Course Management System:

A Blackboard site will be used to supplement this course. Handouts, readings and other course materials will be available on Blackboard; most assignments will be submitted on Blackboard and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

Hardware/Software Needed:

You must have access to a computer with software that allows you to type documents and access the internet. You must have access to Blackboard.

Text requirements:

Ansari, Aziz and Eric Klinenberg. 2015. Modern Romance. New York: Penguin Press.

Other readings may be posted on Blackboard

Concord University Educational Goal(s):

1. Skill 1: Effective inter-communication skills and literacy adapted as needed for the demands of various kinds of discourse
2. Skill 3: An ability to employ appropriate methods and technologies for conducting empirical and scholarly research, to interpret research findings, and to use insights gained from such research as a basis for informed decision making
3. Skill 4: An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information and ideas

National Standards: N/A

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Develop skills in conducting research and writing research reports

- Conduct an independent research project
- Produce a written research report conforming to professional standards
- Present research in a professional setting

Course Requirements:

Teaching Method: This is an applied seminar class and will, therefore, be different from most of the classes you have taken during your undergraduate career. I will rarely lecture and there will be no exams. Our class meetings will involve students presenting and discussing their assignments with each other, discussing readings and applying them to the class research project, and gathering, entering and analyzing data from the research project. During the research phase of the course I may schedule individual meetings with students rather than meeting as a class.

Requirements and Grading:

Requirement	Points	Percentage
Attendance	50	11%
Assignments (14 x 10 points each)	140	33%
Annotated Bibliography	50	11%
URD Poster	50	11%
URD Participation	50	11%
Research Paper	100	23%
TOTAL	440	100%

Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work:

Grading:

A = 394 and above

D = 260-305

B = 350-393

F = 259 or less

C = 306-349

Attendance: will be taken at the start of each class meeting. It is IMPERATIVE that you attend class as much of the work you do this semester will be presented, done, or revised during class time.

Assignments: You will complete a number of short assignments on blackboard. These include chapter summaries, researching grad schools and jobs, and doing parts of your research paper. Up until Spring Break, you will have at least one assignment per week. See the schedule of classes for due dates and Blackboard for detailed instructions. I will try to remind you when these are due, but since they are laid out in the syllabus and on Blackboard, you are ultimately responsible for keeping up with due dates.

Research Paper: The theme of this year's Seminar is "Modern Romance." You will choose a topic related to the research presented in Ansari's *Modern Romance* and create an independent research project. Once you've chosen your topic, we will work to create a research question, and a plan to gather and analyze data to help answer your question or test your hypothesis. Your paper must be written in ASA Style, and should have all sections of a traditional research paper. The body of your research paper (not counting title page, abstract and references) should be 7-10 pages long. Detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class. The paper is due on Sunday April 21st.

Annotated Bibliography: You will turn in an annotated bibliography of the sources you will use in your research paper. This will form the basis of the literature review section of your research paper. Your annotated bibliography should include 10-20 sources.

Undergraduate Research Day: You will prepare a poster based on your research and participate in the University's annual Undergraduate Research Day on Thursday April 18th.

Late Work and Make-Up Policy: All late work will be deducted 5% of the point value per day and will not be accepted more than one week past the due date. If you miss your presentation at Undergraduate Research Day, you can **NOT** make it up.

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)**Course Overview**

Week 1	Course Overview; Post-graduation plans; Ansari, Intro & ch. 1
Week 2	Ansari, ch. 2 & 3
Week 3	Ansari, ch. 4 & 5; Initial research topic
Week 4	Ansari, ch. 6 & 7; Literature search
Week 5	Ansari, Conclusion; Select topic and Develop Research Plan
Week 6	Develop Research Instrument and HSRB
Week 7	Finding sources & Writing Literature reviews
Week 8	Literature Review & Data Gathering
Week 9	Spring Break
Week 10	Draft Literature Review DUE; Data Analysis
Week 11	Data Analysis
Week 12	Data Analysis; Draft poster DUE
Week 13	Poster Prep
Week 14	Undergraduate Research Day

Week 15 Resumes and Job searching
Week 16 Graduate School

Tentative Schedule of Class Meetings

WEEK ONE

Tues. Jan. 15: Class Overview; Expectations for the research paper; share plans for after graduation
Thurs Jan 17: Modern Romance; Discuss theme and possible topics
Read: Ansari, Introduction & ch. 1
Due: Reading Worksheet

WEEK TWO

Tues. Jan 22: Discuss book/class them3
Read: Ansari, ch. 2
Due: Reading worksheet

Thurs. Jan. 24:
Read: Ansari, ch. 3
Due: Reading worksheet

WEEK THREE

Tues. Jan. 29: Book discussion/initial topic discussion
Read: Ansari, ch. 4
Due: Reading worksheet

Thurs. Jan. 31 Book discussion
Read: Ansari, ch. 5
Due: Reading worksheet

WEEK FOUR

Tues. Feb. 5 Book Discussion
Read: Ansari, ch. 6
Due: Reading worksheet

Thurs. Feb. 7 Book Discussion
Read: Ansari, ch. 7
Due: Reading worksheet

WEEK FIVE

Tues. Feb. 12 Choose topic
Read: Ansari, Conclusion
Due: Topic and Annotation worksheet

Thurs. Feb. 14 Research Plan
Due: Research Plan worksheet

WEEK SIX

Tues. Feb. 19 Develop research Instruments

Thurs. Feb. 21 Complete HSRB applications; CITI Training

WEEK SEVEN

Tues. Feb. 26 Research Paper Expectations
Thurs. Feb. 28 Annotated Bibliographies & Literature Reviews

WEEK EIGHT

Tues. March 5 Gathering data
Thurs. March 7 Gathering data

WEEK NINE

Spring Break

WEEK TEN

Tues. March 19 Research planning
 Due: Annotated Bibliography due
Thurs. March 21 Data Analysis

WEEK ELEVEN

Tues. March 26 Data Analysis
Thurs. March 28 Data Analysis

WEEK TWELVE

Tues. April 2 Data Analysis
Thurs. April 4 Poster Preparation
 Due: Draft poster, Sunday April 7th by midnight

WEEK THIRTEEN

Tues. April 9 Poster preparation
Thurs. April 11 Poster preparation

WEEK FOURTEEN

Tues. April 16 Poster printing
Thurs. April 18 Undergraduate Research Day
 Due: Final research paper, Sunday April 21 by midnight

WEEK FIFTEEN

Tues. April 23 Job searching & resume writing
 Due: Draft resume
Thurs. April 25 Job searching & resume writing
 Due: Job Search Worksheet

WEEK SIXTEEN

Tues. April 30 Graduate school
Thurs. May 2 Graduate school

Due: Graduate School worksheet

List of Assignments, Due Dates and Points

Thurs. Jan. 17	Reading Worksheet 1	(10 points)
Tues. Jan. 22	Reading Worksheet 2	(10 points)
Thurs. Jan. 24	Reading Worksheet 3	(10 points)
Tues. Jan. 29	Reading Worksheet 4	(10 points)
Thurs. Jan. 31	Reading Worksheet 5	(10 points)
Tues. Feb. 5	Reading Worksheet 6	(10 points)
Thurs. Feb. 7	Reading Worksheet 7	(10 points)
Tues. Feb. 12	Topic & One Annotation	(10 points)
Thurs. Feb. 14	Research Plan	(10 points)
Thurs. Feb. 21	CITI Training (online)	(10 points)
Tues. March 19	Annotated Bibliography	(50 points)
Sunday April 7	Draft Poster	(10 points)
Thurs. April 18	URD Attendance	(50 points)
Thurs. April 18	Final URD Poster	(50 points)
Sunday April 21	Research Paper	(100 points)
Tues. April 23	Resume	(10 points)
Thurs. April 25	Job Search Worksheet	(10 points)
Thurs. May 2	Graduate School Worksheet	(10 points)

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."