

SEMINAR IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
Bluefield State College
SOSC 490—SPRING 2020
CRN: 20924
Sections: 001
WEMDL & MOODLE

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.

Class: M 4:00 p.m.-6:50 p.m. [16:00 – 18:50]

Office Hours: TBA

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512-924-2364 (M)

The capstone course for social science majors assesses competence in social science Core courses and in the area of specialization through a variety of assignments such as book critique, research paper, and content exam. PR: Social Science major and senior standing.

Grading Policy: 20% for Attendance for completing Online Chapter Quizzes (10%) and for actual Class Attendance (10%); 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for participation in the Soliya Connect Program, including submitting a reflection paper [NOTE: Students taking INST 492 “Soliya Connect Program” for one credit must submit a copy of their reflection paper to me in addition to attending their discussion sessions]; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be posted outlining the requirements for your Research Paper.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

Soliya Connect Program: Students are eligible to sign up for INST 492 “Soliya Connect Program” which is an eight-week international cross-cultural exchange program for one additional hour of course credit. Information on the program will be handed out in class. If you do not sign up for INST 492, then you must participate in the Soliya Connect Program for 20% of your course grade.

Netiquette: When sending me an email, **ALWAYS** put the course number (e.g. SOSC 490) in the **Subject Heading** line on your message, as I teach many courses and have many students; consequently, with no reference to which course you are referring to, it is difficult to look it up.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]

Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]

Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]

Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]

Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.

PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.

PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.

PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences. PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of SOSC 490, students should:

CLO1: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;

CLO2: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;

CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;

CLO4: understand the difference between epistemology and ontology;

CLO5: be able to differentiate between social science and natural sciences and humanities;

CLO6: be familiar with essays, both pro and con, regarding various theoretical perspectives and methodologies of the social sciences;

CLO7: be able to differentiate between scientific knowledge and unscientific, pseudoscientific, revelatory, theological, or spiritual knowledge;

CLO8: be able to differentiate between positivist and interpretivist social scientific methods;

CLO9: understand the necessity for valid systematically gathered measurable evidence and plausibility of claims subject to specific principles of reasoning;

CLO10: be able to differentiate between logical, semantic, systemic, and empirical knowledge;

CLO11: understand the difference between the *what, where and when* of empirical versus the *how and why* of qualitative research and testing;

CLO12: be able to propose hypotheses as explanations of phenomena and design experimental studies to test such hypotheses based upon prior predictions derived from them;

CLO13: be able to document, archive, and make available all data and methodology(ies) to be scrutinized by others in order to test validity and reproduce claimed results;

CLO14: understand the differences between secular and theistic forms of living;

CLO15: understand the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities, the horrendous tragedies as well as numerous accomplishments of human social formations, empathize with the plight of all who have struggled to overcome adversity in their quest for liberation, understand the effects of race, gender, class and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional and legal provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions;

CLO16: be able to envision a defensible explanation of reality;

CLO17: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to the social sciences.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught fully online utilizing Moodle software. Individual work is required, such as submitting the Mandatory Name Assignment, completing online chapter quizzes, answering chapter discussion questions, submitting a research paper, and completing the online midterm and final exams, on the dates indicated.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a **commitment** to purchase the required texts, keep up with the chapter readings, complete your online chapter quizzes, attend your weekly Soliya discussion sessions, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments are submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in class is mandatory. For an online course, this means that you must **regularly (i.e. at least once each week)** login to the online course page, submit answers to each chapter discussion question, complete chapter quizzes and exams, and submit your research paper, etc., on the dates indicated.

Mandatory Name Assignment: All of you should first complete the Mandatory Name Assignment by the end of the first week of class. Read the instructions below for the first assignment which requires you to send me your name in Microsoft Word format as an attachment. Yes, your name must be in a file sent as an attachment, so **do NOT send me your name in an email message and think that you have completed this assignment.** Send the attachment to my BSC email address, i.e. ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu. Once I receive it, you will have a “completed” noted on your grade sheet on the course Moodle page under “Mandatory Name Assignment”. The reason for this exercise is that you need to know how to send a Microsoft Word attachment, because later in the course you will each have to upload and submit a copy of your research papers formatted in Microsoft Word to the Turnitin website as well as sending me a copy to my BSC email. Remember: **use Microsoft Word** and **not** Microsoft Works as an editor. Also note that the Research Paper Guidelines have been updated and will tell you all you need to know to complete the Research Paper.

Online Class Discussion Policy: The Chapter Discussion Questions will be posted on the class Discussion board at the beginning of each week. At the bottom of the chapter question, there is a hyperlink “Reply” button. Simply click this “Reply” button and submit your answer to the chapter question. **Each student must make at least one entry per each Chapter Class Discussion question.** Make sure you **simply hit the reply button on the Discussion Question which is posted to submit your answer**, so that the Subject Heading is the same as the Discussion Question, in order to get credit for that Chapter’s Discussion Question. Note that each student **MUST** provide their own answer to each question. **DO NOT SUBMIT ATTACHED ANSWERS.** YOU MUST TYPE YOUR REPLY IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION SO THAT ALL CAN READ IT WITHOUT OPENING UP AN ATTACHMENT. **Copying from any other student’s answer or simply repeating what other students have written constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with harshly.** Also, you will not be able to view other students’ responses until you have submitted one of your own first. Note that, like the quizzes, you must complete all chapter discussion questions by the **Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** in order to receive 12.5% credit (i.e. half of 25% for the Quizzes and 12.5% for the Discussion Questions).

Quiz and Test Policy: You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until **the Last Day of Classes by 11:55 p.m.** to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the date indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam.** If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates.** The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-8. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 9-16. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes: Each Chapter Quiz contains at least thirty questions and, sometimes, more. However, do not be discouraged by this, because **you will NOT be graded on how many**

answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes but, rather, you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once. Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 10% credit (i.e. half for the Quizzes and 10% for actual class attendance, for a total of 20% for Attendance) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the “Submit” button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that Moodle notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Cell Phone Policy: TURN OFF all cell phones during class or place on silent vibrate. If you must answer a phone call, then quietly leave the room to take your call. DO NOT play, utilize, or otherwise interact with your cell phone or any other electronic device during class. If caught in so doing, you will be expelled from the class session.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

ADA Accommodation: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097 in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Services for Disabled Students: Based on documentation and recommendation of services from physicians and therapists, the following services can be provided to students with disabilities:

- extended test time
- proctored tests
- adaptive software
- note-takers
- sign-language interpreters
- and more (depending on the recommendation of therapist and/or physician).

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

Required Text:

Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander. 2017. *Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society, 16th Edition*. New York & London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, [ISBN: 9781138654266] 468 pages.

Recommended Text:

Donovan, Todd and Kenneth Hoover. 2014. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking, Eleventh Edition*. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Boston, MA. [ISBN-10: 1-133-60767-5; ISBN-13: 978-1-133-60767-0], 208 pages.

*****This class is web-enhanced and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC Moodle website*****

Part I Introduction

Jan. 13 [Monday] [Week One]: First Day of Classes; Introduction to Seminar in Social Sciences: Main Themes; Ch. 1 Social Science and Its Methods

Mandatory Name Assignment: Log on to the course webpage and familiarize yourself with the course content, icons, syllabus, Moodle links, etc. Each student **must** send me an attachment to my **BSC email at ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu** a document **spelling out your complete name**. This document **MUST** be composed in Microsoft Word and **SENT AS AN ATTACHMENT**. As your research paper at the end of the semester **must be composed in Microsoft Word** and sent as an attachment, you must master this task at the beginning of the semester. Remember to send your Mandatory Name Assignment as a Microsoft WORD file and NOT a Microsoft WORKS file.

Main Themes: Nature of the social sciences, various methodologies

Explain Syllabus: Go over class requirements, required text, chapter quizzes, Soliya Connect Program participation, research paper, midterm and final exams.

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 1 Social Science and Its Methods

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter One.

January 20 [Monday]: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

Jan. 21 [Week Two]: Human Origins [Complete readings for Ch. 2 even though we do not have class on Monday, January 20, 2020.]

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 2 Human Origins

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Two.

Jan. 27 [Week Three]: Ch. 3 Origins of Western Society

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 3 Origins of Western Society

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Three.

Part II Culture and the Individual

Feb. 3 [Week Four]: Ch. 4 Society, Culture, and Cultural Change

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 4 Society, Culture, and Cultural Change

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Four.

Feb. 10 [Week Five]: Ch. 5 Geography, Demography, Ecology, and Society

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 5 Geography, Demography, Ecology, and Society

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Five.

Feb. 17 [Week Six]: Ch. 6 Technology and Society

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 6 Technology and Society

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Six.

Feb. 24 [Week Seven]: Ch. 7 Psychology, Society, and Culture

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 7 Psychology, Society, and Culture

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Chapter Seven.

Feb. 29-Mar. 5 [Week Eight]: Midterm Exam Online [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on March 5, 2020.]

Mar. 6 [Friday]: Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar

Mar. 9-13 [Week Nine]: Spring Break (no classes; college closed)

Mar. 16-20 [Week Ten]: [Extended Spring Break due to COVID-19 Pandemic]

Part III Institutions and Society

Mar. 23-27 [Week Eleven]: Ch. 8 Deviance, Crime, and Society & Ch. 9 The Family

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Chs. 8 & 9

Assignment: Complete Quizzes for Chs. 8 & 9 and answer Chs. 8 & 9 Class Discussion Questions.

Mar. 30-Apr. 3 [Week Twelve]: Ch. 10 Religion

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 10 Religion

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Ch. 10 and answer Ch. 10 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 3 [Friday]: Last Day to Drop a class and receive a grade of “W”

Apr. 6-10 [Week Thirteen]: Ch. 11 Education

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 11 Education

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Ch. 11 and answer Ch. 11 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 13-17 [Week Fourteen]: Ch. 12 Social and Economic Stratification

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 12 Social and Economic Stratification

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Ch. 12 and answer Ch. 12 Class Discussion Question.

Apr. 20-24 [Week Fifteen]: Ch. 13 Stratification, Minorities, and Discrimination

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 13 Stratification, Minorities, and Discrimination

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Ch. 13 and answer Ch. 13 Class Discussion Question.

April 26 [Sunday]: [Research Papers Due]

Assignment: Research Papers Due today. Submit a copy of your Research Papers to Turnitin. Click on the Turnitin button on the course Moodle page for submission instructions. Also, send an electronic copy to me by email as a Microsoft Word attachment to ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu.

Part IV Politics and Society

Apr. 27-May 1 [Week Sixteen]: Ch. 14 The Functions and Forms of Government

Readings: Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander, 2017, Ch. 14 The Functions and Forms of Government

Assignment: Complete Quiz for Ch. 14 and answer Ch. 14 Class Discussion Question.

May 1 [Friday]: [Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed and submitted by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.]

Assignment: Complete all readings, quizzes, and chapter discussion questions.

May 2-10 [Week Seventeen]: Final Exam [Click on Quizzes and then on “Final Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on May 10, 2020.]

May 12 [Tuesday]: Final grades due in Faculty Web-Self Serve or to the Registrar electronically.