

COURSE TITLE: Military Sociology
COURSE NUMBER: 75608
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW1600-1730

INSTRUCTOR: Roberto Cancio

CORE AREA: N/A
FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS: This course uses a sociological approach to the study of armed forces and their relation to society. We will use sociological theories, concepts, empirical research, as well as documentary films, personal accounts and other cultural artifacts to investigate the military as a social institution where people, other institutions, societies, and cultures intersect. These intersections and the tensions and conflict that often arise from them are the basis of this course. Active participation in the course themes through in-class discussions and online writing is required and there will be a good deal of work involved in this upper-level course. Although the subject of the military is at the forefront of current events, this course examines past events and policies as well as current ones to help us understand the forces shaping the contemporary military, and anticipate its likely future. The overarching goal of this course is that you gain a balanced understanding of the military in terms of who serves and why, under what conditions, and with what consequence to themselves, their families, and society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To understand and explain the relationship between armed forces and society in the past and present, and to suggest possible forms of these relationships in the future.
2. To use sociological ideas and principles to analyze current challenges facing military organizations and populations.
3. To have a working knowledge of the military structures in the U.S so that you may be an informed citizen and/or leader.
4. Communicate effectively the above in writing and discussion by doing the following:
 - a. ANALYZE problems using sociological concepts
 - b. EVALUATE the strengths and weaknesses of various arguments
 - c. HYPOTHESIZE the consequences of a major change in military organization or policy on the basis of concepts and prior evidence.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS: N/A

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: N/A

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Social Work

COURSE NUMBER: 75610

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T, 1830-2130

INSTRUCTOR: Andrea Plate

CORE AREA: Sociology Department (Social Work)

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

Drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, sexual assault, veterans' rights, mental illness...this is what social work, and this course, is about. The central theme: How do social workers help America's disadvantaged populations overcome societal ills and lead productive lives? The course, based on the professor's 15 years of practice as a licensed clinical social worker at the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs working with homeless, drug addicted and chronically ill wounded warriors (Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam), will invite discussion of social justice themes centered around real-world case studies and solutions, practice models and ethical versus institutional clashes. In addition, students will learn: What, exactly, do social workers do? How does a career in social work differ from other helping professions such as psychology?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To develop a social science, social work perspective for examining societal ills (homelessness; drug and alcohol addiction; mental health; vocational rehabilitation, etc.).

To enhance empathic understanding of the underprivileged and how to better serve them.

To enhance critical thinking skills by working through case studies based on real-world social work situations.

To gain a fuller understanding as to the differences between social work and other areas of mental health work, such as psychology and marriage/family therapy, as well as an understanding of various career paths.

To instill key social service concepts and verbiage of the so-called "helping professions."

To learn how political administrations and systems affect social work practice and policy, whether budget cuts, Republican versus Democratic strategies, etc.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS: Madness: In the Trenches of America's Troubled Department of Veterans Affairs (instructor/author will distribute copies of her book).

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

ALL TAKE-HOME, NON-PROCTORED ASSIGNMENTS:

Short, **ungraded** "Reflections" on subjects of the student's choice related to the field of social work and/or class discussion (used to track attendance and to figure into participation grade)

Take-home midterm, short answer

Take-home final, short answer

One paper, maximum length four pages double-spaced, based on an interview with someone with real-world experience in social work-anyone who has served in the military, worked in social services, an academic expert in social work/human rights, individuals who have accessed professional help in the areas of social work (drug/alcohol addiction; housing/homelessness; mental illness; etc.).