FACULTY MEMBER: **TERM:**

COURSE TITLE: Research, Writing, and Information Literacy in the Behavioral Sciences

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 331

This class is writing intensive. The purpose of this course is to help you become a critical thinker and learn to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate information. You will be asked to write about what you read, and submit a short writing assignment almost every week. Please plan your time accordingly. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this class is not to teach you how to write.

Each assignment is graded according to a rubric. Please read the rubric <u>before</u> you begin work on your assignment.

OFFICE HOURS/ METHOD OF CONTACT:

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course addresses the information literacy, research methods, and academic journals used in the Behavioral Sciences, and the writing requirements demanded of Behavioral Sciences professionals. Students will be introduced to various research methods used in the Behavioral Science field and instructed in the writing requirements of Behavioral Science programs, and the field in general. In addition, students will be oriented to information literacy of Behavioral Science-related materials on the Internet.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 101 or SOC 101 and ENG 121 and ENG 122

II. COURSE RATIONALE:

Students in the Behavioral Sciences, because of the type of career employment they seek, are expected to be knowledgeable in their field, use critical thinking in making decisions, and communicate ideas in written reports. This requires knowledge in evaluating information, differentiating between scholarly and popular works, interpreting research data, and understanding the writing requirements of various formats of written assignments.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Students will develop information literacy skills within the behavioral sciences. They will develop a proficiency at using behavioral science databases (i.e. PSYCHINFO, EBSCOHOST, PROQUEST,

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

E-1 Conduct an in-depth literature review on a specific topic using appropriate academic literature
E-2 Identify questions the literature seeks to answer
E-3 Critically appraise subject-specific literature for use in conducting a literature review
E-4 Write a literature review in accordance with APA style

GOAL F:
Students will explore writing tasks and research efforts required of Behavioral Science professionals in workplace settings:

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

F-1 Explore research and writing requirements of career professionals
F-2 Locate types of report writing required in the field
F-3 Make the connection between field notes, research writing, and scholarly journals
F-4 Articulate the ethical requirements of writing in the field

GOAL G:
Students will demonstrate the ability to write with clarity and precision using standard American English grammar and usage that will exhibit competence in writing for specific purposes, diverse audiences, and genres.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

G-1 Demonstrate appropriate sentence and paragraph construction for multiple audiences, purposes, and genres
G-2 Choose appropriate vocabulary for specific audiTO Tc 0ee8i.so5,

- **The Writing Process**:

  - Writing good papers takes time and effort. You will not be able to write a good paper in front of your favorite TV show one night and submit it the next day and get an A, unless you're a genius!
  - For this course, you need to set aside time to read every day and time to write every day. <mark>The important thing is to develop a habit of reading and writing.</mark> *The more you read, the better writer you will be.*
  - Please do not ask me to re-grade after I have already reviewed and graded your assignment. Reading your papers and making detailed comments takes a great deal of time and is labor intensive. The comments are provided to you as <u>feedback</u>, and you are expected to <u>learn from these mistakes and improve your next writing assignment</u>.
  - Typically, the *process* of writing a paper looks like this:
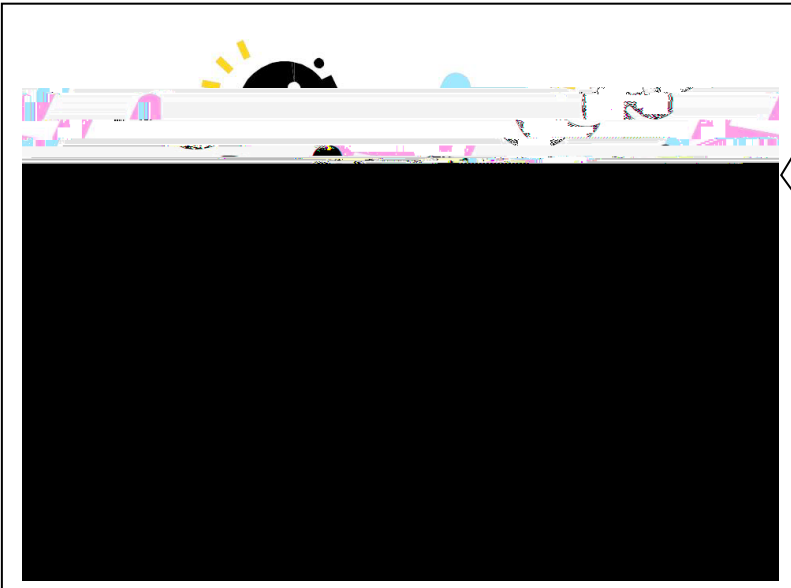
You can see that this process takes time, and you should leave at least 1 day between writing the first draft and revising the paper because you need to approach revising with a fresh mind. This will require <u>planning</u> on your part so that you can dedicate the time.

VI.   SELECTING YOUR TOPIC: <mark>Please note that you will select a topic for this course, and the same topic will be used throughout this course for all your writing assignments.</mark> Note that your topic **must** be approved by the instructor.

Please check with your instructor as to what topics <u>are not allowed</u>. For instance, stay away from topics dealing with health-related topics and most medical literature. *The topic you select must stay within your field or major.*

One other thing to consider: students often choose research topics that are very personal to them. Please avoid this because every time you work on that topic, you have the potential to retraumatize yourself. If you plan to take SOC 340, there is a strong possibility that you will continue to work with the topic you chose in SOC 331. As you are choosing your topic, think about how you will feel if you have to work with a very personal topic for up to 14 weeks.

are based on the text and assigned readings. *Once you open the quiz, you must complete it.*

The quiz is timed. The time allowed for each quiz is posted in the quiz instructions. You will have enough time if you have read the material. If you plan to search for the answers as you are taking the quiz, you will not do well and may run out of time.

NOTE: ***The quizzes are based on the text and information on the course Canvas site.***

VIII. ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/ WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW:

A. COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS are **NOT** acceptable excuses for late work.
Students are urged to arrange alternate computer option for technical computer problems. Save all

Syllabus is Sole Property of Wilmington University

submitted to Canvas and I cannot open it, it is considered late until an assignment I can open is submitted. I will not convert any document to a format compatible with Canvas since that is your responsibility.

D. <u>Written assignments</u>:

-