GWCC OER presentation

Dawn Cathey – Sociology 101
Background

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

- For the past few years I have struggled with how best to incorporate the sociology text into my course, assignments and grading. The challenge was that the textbook (with, and without, an online component) was changing each year and students could not purchase a “used” copy. I was concerned with the price of the text even though the price was actually dropping, it was still close to $100.

- For the past few years I have been somewhat “creative” in what I allowed my students to use as a textbook. I encouraged them to buy the text if they could afford it, or read the text in the library if they could not afford it. I also shared OER sites with my students in case both of these options were barriers to their success in my class. I also allowed then to purchase or borrow older editions of the text. I posted the table of contents so that students could follow along with the topics and chapters so that they could keep up with the appropriate readings from the first week of class.

- I held students accountable for the readings by using class time to work in groups to discuss the readings that they had for homework. This seemed to work and students appreciated the diversity of information from different textbooks. I encouraged them to search the internet for different ways to supplement the classroom conversations. This complimented my inquiry based style of teaching.
The needs I hope to address by using OER

It simply is not true that everything is now on the Internet, but it is true that the digital resources available through the Internet have enormous potential for education and even for self-empowerment of individuals. Robert Darnton

1. To offer a cost-saving option that allows for immediate access (day one) to online resources.
2. To inspire students to engage in the inquiry process by seeking out and utilizing different resources available to cover specific and timely class content.
3. To see themselves as a part of a larger group of academics/scholars on an evolving journey to learn about sociology.
4. To offer students an alternative style of a "common intellectual experience."
5. To encourage students to use multiple sites/types of course material found online, showing that the process of lifelong learning can be developed without the historical barriers to quality information.
6. To alleviate the challenge of the data-driven connection between the timely purchase of the textbook and the final grade for the course. Specifically, to support success and retention.
7. To help develop a classroom climate of commitment to the common intellectual experience (assigned readings) that create quality classroom conversations.
8. To finally be able to address the financial hardship many of my students have of purchasing expensive textbooks for multiple classes. Truth be told, recently, I have tried to find ways to offer an alternative (open access) sites for the content of my course. I have also encouraged my students to share information that they find helpful in learning about assigned topics.
9. I am finally able to address the moral and ethical concerns I have for students who struggle to afford a college education, by utilizing quality and free resources available to educators today.
My goals for the semester:

- Encourage the use of library resources, including computer access, journals (and other paid subscriptions) and printing. Going to the library to do homework for class also addresses the time management challenge many of my students struggle with. Addressing the "habits of learning" will save time while supporting overall retention and successful completion of a college degree, or at least a college class. The biggest "cost" of college is an unfinished degree.

- I gave graded (pass/ fail) in class open notebook assignments/activities that require reading assigned resources.

- I used reflective writing assignments that encouraged students to document and share their use of OER's.

- I kept specific notes documenting any changes in student engagement, attitudes and behaviors that indicate progress toward the commitment to our common intellectual experiences (reading the assigned OER's.)

- I will also create and collect weekly individual self-assessments of the completed homework. (did not accomplish) Would like to create a "reading log."
OER textbooks used for class:

- Introduction to SOCIOLOGY  Ron Hammond, Paul Cheney, Raewyn Parsey
  [http://www.freesociologybooks.com/Introduction_To_Sociology/01_History_and_Introduction.php](http://www.freesociologybooks.com/Introduction_To_Sociology/01_History_and_Introduction.php) (I also had the link for the PDF version)

- Introduction to Sociology – Open stax
  [https://cnx.org/content/r-QzKsl_@10.1:KZMdiUko@10/Preface-to-Introduction-to-Sociology](https://cnx.org/content/r-QzKsl_@10.1:KZMdiUko@10/Preface-to-Introduction-to-Sociology)
Online sources

- WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED ONLINE VIDEOS LISTED IBLACK BOARD – COURSE CONTENT

Required Texts:
- Free, online, open access text:

- Introduction to sociology
  - http://freesociologybooks.com/Introduction_To_Sociology/01_History_and_Introduction.php

- The Sociological Cinema
  - https://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/
  - https://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/blog

- Sociological Images
  - https://thesocietypages.org/socimages/
Online sources

- Ways of Thinking
- http://sociologysal.blogspot.com/
- Helpful Web sites:
  - Everyday sociology blog
  - http://nortonbooks.typepad.com/everydaysociology/
  - https://www.khanacademy.org/
  - https://thecrashcourse.com/courses/sociology
  - https://www.ted.com/topics/sociology
  - https://www.sociologicalscience.com/
  - https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/sociology NY TIMES
  - https://www.npr.org/ NPR
  - http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jos/current Journal of Sociology
  - http://www.asanet.org/topics - ASA
Learning is least useful when it is private and hidden; it most powerful when it becomes public and communal. Learning flourishes when we take what we think we know and offer it as community property among fellow learners so that it can be tested, examined, challenged, and improved before we internalize it.

-Lee Shulman

- For each assigned chapter, reading or video, note taking should include the formulation of “good” questions, typed or in your notebooks. What are your favorite, words, sentences and phrases in each reading or video?
- Explain your connections to your choices. (4-6 for each video / article / chapter)
- What did you learn that you didn’t know before?
- How do the theories, perspectives, ideas and key terms apply to your own life or to the lives of people that you know?
- What questions do you have? (2-3 for each chapter)

Students tend to be more engaged, more interested, in the subject at hand; “when ideas begin to flow in the form of questions.” – Warren Berger
Online resources from GWCC library

- GWCC library
  https://lum-prod.ec.commnet.edu/web/home-community/gateway-community-college-library

- Kahn Academy.

- YouTube
  https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sociology%2Ccreativecommons

- Ted.com
  https://www.ted.com/search?q=sociology
Assignment: Find online resources to supplement the assigned reading and share in discussion board.

   This link only works when you are on gateway website and you are in the library portal (Peer Reviewed Article)

2. Exploring society introduction to Sociology, Deviance and Social Control explains how society defines and control deviance. Published on Sept. 22, 2015. (Documentary YouTube)

3. https://www.ted.com/talks/shaka_senghor_why_your_worst_deeds_don_t_define_you
   Ted Talk.com Speaker ex-felon Shaka Senghor

   Think religion makes society less violent? Think again. (Article)
Assignment: Find online resources to supplement the assigned reading and share in discussion board.

Hanane Lagrange

RE: chapter 7 - Deviance, crime and social control

Hi class;

I found this article interesting. It is about hate crime

the link to the article is: https://eric-ed-gov.gcc.idm.oclc.org/?id=ED368994


Ted talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne_barakat_islamophobia_killed_my_brother_let_s_end_the_425186

https://www.ted.com/talks/sally_kohn_what_we_can_do_about_the_culture_of_hate#t-582400
Assessment of student use of OER textbook

GOOGLE SURVEY ADMINISTERED ON NOVEMBER 17\textsuperscript{th} 2018

(13 of 17 students responded)
Are you a full-time or part-time student?

13 responses

- Full-time: 53.8%
- Part-time: 46.2%
How many books have you purchased from the book store this semester?

13 responses

- 38.5%: 1-2 books
- 30.8%: 3-4 books
- 23.1%: 5 or more books
- None: 0%
How many books have you rented from the book store this semester?

13 responses

- 92.3%: None
- 7.7%: 1-2 books
How many books have you bought online using sights such as Chegg or Amazon this semester?

13 responses

- 53.8%: None
- 38.5%: 1-2 books
- Other options: 3-4 books, 5 or more books
How many books have you rented online using sights such as Chegg or Amazon this semester?

13 responses

- 84.6% None
- 15.4% 1-2 books
How many books have you purchased/rented but did not use this semester?

12 responses

- 66.7%: 1-2 books
- 25%: 3-4 books
- 8.3%: 5 or more books
- Green: I used all of my books
Have you ever used the reference section of the library to read a text for a class?

13 responses

- Yes: 69.2%
- No: 30.8%
Do any of your other classes use OER free textbooks?

13 responses

84.6% Yes
15.4% No
Do you enjoy using the OER textbook for this Sociology class?

13 responses

- 92.3% I enjoy using OER a lot
- 7.7% I somewhat enjoy using OER
Did you find the chapters in the OER textbook interesting?

13 responses

- 100% Very interesting

- Not interesting
- Somewhat interesting
- Neutral
Did you keep up with the weekly readings?

13 responses

- 76.9% I read every week
- 23.1% I somewhat kept up with the readings
- 0% I did not read the textbook
Would you prefer to use an OER or an actual textbook?

13 responses
Is purchasing textbooks a financial hardship for you?

13 responses

- Yes: 92.3%
- No: 7.7%
Is the only benefit to using an OER over a physical textbook the cost difference?

13 responses

- Yes: 53.8%
- No: 46.2%
If you answered no to the previous question, what other benefits are there to using an OER?

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<th>Response</th>
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<tr>
<td>not carrying around a heavy textbook, accessing an OER is so much easier when out and about.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can use it anywhere without having to carry it around.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not having to carry it around, not worrying about losing it, won't get damages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can read anywhere.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy to access and find the chapter I want</td>
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<td>Easy to use</td>
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How do your other professors encourage you to use the textbook assigned for that class?

12 responses

- My professors usually teach from a power point presentation so I don't find out until after I've purchased or rented the book that is wasn't necessary. My psych professor this semester told us the text was mandatory and we've only used it once, bummer.
- As a resource, not the sole source of information.
- They don't, I haven't been assigned a single reading out of the books for my other classes.
- We have to buy books no matter how much cost. we often do not use it. we study from the power point that the instructor used in the class or from printers that instructors gave to us during the class.
- We have to buy books no matter how much cost. we often do not use it. we study from the power point that the instructor used in the class or from printers that instructors gave to us during the class.
- They tell us to read it to get the information. If you don't read it you won't have the information to past the test.
- They give quizzes.
- They do not..they just expect you to read the assigned notes for next class.
Many of our students use financial aid to help support households, pay for childcare, and for transportation to and from school.

With OER textbooks students will have access to the free textbook at the start of the semester, rather than two weeks into the semester (after they receive financial aid refund.)

Future inquiry:
- Would using a free OER textbook make a course more appealing?
- Has your grade ever suffered because you could not afford / purchase a textbook in a timely manner?
- Does the cost of textbooks affect the amount of classes you register for?

Next semester: I plan to work collaboratively with the librarian early in the semester. I will invite the librarian to my class to teach students about researching sociology topics and supplementing classroom conversations and assigned readings with other free resources.