Frank J. Page, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology

University of Utah

October 10,2023

Personal Statement

Over the years I have taught numerous courses, including Research Methods, Criminology, Social Problems, Rural Sociology, Deviance, Marriage and Family, Introduction to Sociology, Social Inequality (Race, Class and Gender), and Medical Sociology. Currently, I am teaching Social Theory, Social Psychology, Sociology of Religion, and Sociology through Film. I also teach Social Psychology in the School of Business. All of my classes have large enrollments usually from 50 to 80 students. My combined enrollment per semester is usually around 180 to 200 students and currently all of my classes are online. I began teaching telecourses in the 90s and actually pioneered some of the first University of Utah courses televised on KUED that soon evolved into online courses.

I attend all faculty meetings, and I serve on the Undergraduate Committee. In the past, I also attended faculty meetings in the Religious Studies Department, where I was on the original steering committee that helped establish a major and minor in Religious Studies. I have written numerous letters of recommendation for students applying to graduate school and for various scholarships, and I have mentored a number of students, assisting them in gaining admittance to graduate schools. I recently sat on two doctoral committees, one in Sociology and one in Political Science. Currently, I am on committee for a student defending a Master’s thesis in Human Development and Social Policy in the Department of Family and Consumer Studies. My students can contact me by email or phone, and I have office hours two days a week and by appointment. If they are having difficulties with the class or personal problems, they can stop by my office anytime. Specific information regarding available counseling at the University of Utah is posted on all of my syllabi, and I have referred a number of students to counseling.

In my classes I typically have one or two objective midterms and a final exam. I assign extra credit papers in all of my classes, and most of my students take advantage of them. They include A variety of writing projects that students can choose from. I post my criteria for grading in my syllabi and evaluate papers in terms of the student's ability to grasp and apply sociological concepts and research to real life events and issues. I also give weight to creativity and authenticity and the diverse backgrounds of my students. In my online courses, I offer extra credit for participation on the discussion board where I post commentary, relevant articles, news items and current events that students can respond to. Some of these posts contain comics and jokes which provoke considerable enlightened discussion. Students can also post their own articles, thoughts, and responses to other students, all of which enhances participation.

With regard to my teaching philosophy and goals, I am a generalist interested in studying and communicating basic concepts and ideas that illuminate the nature of society and its relationship with and effect upon the individual. Social psychology and social theory are my two primary areas of specialization. These fields complement one another in that social theory is very useful at the macro-level while social psychology has many micro-level applications and illuminates important macro-micro linkages. Together they provide a sound conceptual framework that avoids reductionism and contextualizes the complexity of human experience.

In my classes, I use a variety of textbooks, readings, videos, and other materials. Essentially, I take a classical, theoretical, and historical approach that draws on theory and research and eclectic material taken from many different fields. In doing this, I underscore the way in which social science can be used to illuminate social forces and factors associated with many social, moral, and political issues and problems. Of these, racism, sexism, speciesism, inequality, conflict, alienation, and environmental degradation get considerable attention. In my application of theory, I address causation in terms of different yet interacting levels of analysis that include, biological, psychological, developmental, social psychological, sociological, historical, and even existential paradigms. At the sociological level, I emphasize economic, political, religious, and familial institutions, while emphasizing the role, use, and misuse of socialization, social control, ideology, authority, and power. Class and stratification also get considerable attention. To underscore the relevance of sociological analysis to real-life experience, I complement theory and research with an eclectic mix of works drawn from philosophy, art, literature, and poetry. Accordingly, in some of my classes, students will be exposed to writings by Wendell Berry, Carl Sandburg, Gabor Mate, George Orwell, James Baldwin, Frederick Douglass, and others. Most importantly, I always underscore the importance of sound reasoning, empirical analysis, the scientific method, and sympathetic introspection.

To help students formulate and express their views clearly in their papers, I give them a variety of topics and qualitative and quantitative methods from which to choose. These include formal research papers, surveys, experiments, content analysis, ethnography, participant observation studies, beaching experiments, role playing experiments, and historical and biographical analysis. My syllabi also contain a suggested book list and a list of suggested documentaries and movies that they can write about. In grading papers, in addition to evaluating their understanding and application of key concepts, I also address issues of grammar and organization and the student's ability to make sound arguments and express themselves clearly. In that many students come from different backgrounds and have different levels of ability, I give considerable weight to the insight, effort, creativity, and authenticity I see in their papers.

The goals and values that guide my teaching and research are traditional enlightenment ideals that propose that reason, knowledge, and creativity can be used to promote and preserve freedom, morality, and human well-being. Much of my inspiration comes from C. Wright Mills and his conception of “The Sociological Imagination” and his basic assertion that sociologists should study and illuminate the relationship between society and personal well-being and put forth a clear model and concepts that people can understand. As noted by Mills, this entails addressing the malaise and identifying the extent to which personal problems are often rooted in exploitive or unfair social conditions and then promoting changes in the social order that will enhance human well-being. Essentially, this requires making human interdependence and the influence of the social order and other social forces more obvious and understandable. My assumption is that this knowledge will help individuals, policy makers, parents, and voters make better decisions. My hope is that it will allow people to be more objective in their analysis of human problems and more compassionate and understanding in their judgment of others. Moreover, I think that democracy and the survival of the planet requires an enlightened public.

In April of this year I presented a paper at the Pacific Sociological Association entitled “Weber’s Iron Cage of Rationality and Milgram’s Agentic State: Why Good People Sometimes Do Bad Things and Sometimes Not.” Recently *Lexington Press* contacted me regarding expanding the paper into a short book and any other work I would like to put into book form. In response, I proposed a book project that is based on a paper I presented at the 2018 *National Communication Conference* in Salt Lake City. The paper is entitled “On the Theoretical and Pragmatic Significance of Charles Cooley’s Conception of Self, Sentiment, and Society,” much of which is taken from my Dissertation. Lexington Books tentatively accepted the project, and I am currently working on it. I also plan on submitting both papers to journals this fall. A complete list of my publications, presentations, awards, and memberships can be found below and in my curriculum vitae.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Page, F. J. (2014). *Fiver and the psychology of rabbits*. Seattle, WA: CreateSpace Publishing.

Page, F. J. (2014). William James. In *Blackwell American Sociological Association Encyclopedia of Sociology*, G. Ritzer (Ed.).

Page, F. J. (1996). Stars and stripes and other signs of life. *Journal of Creative Social Discourse*.

Page, F. J. (1996). Dancing at the North Yard Cafe. *Journal of Creative Social Discourse*.

Page, F. J. (1994). Morality and the mediation of machines: Star Trek as icon. Published by *The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery* (SISSI). Golden, Colorado.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS / PANEL DISCUSSIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

Page, F. J. (2023) Weber’s Iron Cage of Rationality and Milgram’s Agentic State: Why Good People Sometimes Do Bad Things and Sometimes Not. Pacific Sociological Association Conference, April 2023.

Page, F. J. (2018). On the Theoretical and Pragmatic Significance of Charles Cooley's Conception of Sentiment, Self, and Society. National Communication Association Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, Nov. 10, 2018.

Page, F. J. (2015). Modern Religion Symposium, Panelist, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Park City, UT.

Page, F. J. (2009). Religion as a Total Institution. Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Convention, San Diego, CA.

Page, F. J. (2008). How Does Religion Fit in the Classroom? Presented at the Teaching Symposium, Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, August 2008.

Page, F. J. (2006). American Pragmatist Conceptions of Sentiment and their Absence in Contemporary Symbolic Interactionist Theory. Presented at the Midwestern Sociological Society Convention, Omaha, NE.

Page, F. J. (2005). William James on Consciousness, Conduct, and Sentiment. Presented at the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

Page, F. J. (2005). Self as Sentiment. Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Convention, Portland, OR.

Page, F. J. (2004). Charles Peirce on Sign, Sentiment, and Self. Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association Convention, San Francisco, CA.

Page, F. J. (2000). A Reinterpretation of American Pragmatism and its Influence on Symbolic Interactionism. Presented at the American Sociological Association Convention, Washington, D. C.

Page, F. J. (2000). A Reinterpretation of Cooley’s Conception of Self and the Social Order. (2000). Presented at the American Sociological Association Convention, Washington, D.C.

Page, F. J. (1996). On the Sociological Imagination, Methods, and Morals. Guest speaker on methodology and modernity, Dr. Mary Riddick's Graduate seminar in library science, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

Page, F. J. (1995). The Meaning and Value of Sociological Insight. Presented at the Utah Women's Studies Group, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

Page, F. J. (1994). Morality and the Mediation of Machines: Star Trek as Icon. Presented at the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery (SISSI) Convention, Golden, CO.

Page, F. J. (1993). Sociology in Film. Presented at the Pacific Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.

Page, F. J. (1992). Population, Property, and the Violent Language of Denial: A Study in the Mechanics of Speciesism and Racism. Presented at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Wildlife in Ogden, UT.

Page, F. J. (1992). Censorship and the Fear of Obscenity as a Denial of Death. Presented at the Mid-Western Sociological Association Convention, Saint Paul, MN.

**PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS**

Published Interview, *Utah Author, Fiver and the Psychology of Rabbits*, Utah Stories, Dec. 2021.

ABC News, *Storage Sheds and Conspicuous Consumption*. Interview, Feb. 2017.

Documentary on the *Importance of Expanding Media Coverage*, April 2016.

Documentary Interview, *Chasing Death*, KRCL Video Production, Released Nov. 2014.

Radio Interview, *Sociology of Religion, Modern Trends*, KRCL Radio, May, 2011

Radio Interview, National Public Radio, *Modern Paganism*, Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 2009.

Published Interview, *Baby Boomers and Aging*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 2006.

Televised Interview, *Language of War*, Channel Five, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 15, 2003.

Televised Speech, *Speciesism,* Channel Four, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 1997.

**BOOK & ARTICLE REVIEWS**

*Journal of Social Thought and Research.*  (June 28, 2011). Department of Sociology, University of Kansas. Reviewed Journal Article.

*Social Problems Prospectus Review*. (Summer 2004). Wadsworth Publishing.

*Understanding Social Problems* (4th ed.). (Fall 2003). Wadsworth Publishing.

*Self and Society*. (Spring 1994). Hewitt, J. Allyn and Bacon Press.

**WORKSHOPS / SYMPOSIUMS**

C.O.D.E. Conference on Diversity and Excellence, University of Utah, April, 2016.

Modern Religion Symposium, Panelist, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Park City, Utah, Nov. 2015.

World Parliament of Religions Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct, 2015.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, Panel Moderator, March 20, 2003.

Teaching Telecourses Symposium, University of Utah, Department of Continuing Education, Salt Lake City, Utah, Summer 1994.

**MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society

American Sociological Association

Pacific Sociological Association

Writers Guild of America

**AWARDS**

Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Social and Behavioral Science, 2023.

Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Social and Behavioral Science, 2020.

Appreciation of Service Award for George Herbert Mead Lecture, National Communication Association Conference, Nov. 2018.

Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Social and Behavioral Science, 2016.

Adjunct Professor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of Sociology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, April 2011.

Sociology Student Advisory Committee Professor of the Year Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of Sociology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, April 2009.