

# SOAN 232: Saints, Sects, and Society

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## Grading Rubric: “Congregation Visits”

### From the Syllabus:

- Visit religious services at TWO different local congregations, one relatively denominational and the other relatively sectarian. While there, use your sociological eye to see what is going on.
- For each congregation, write a short (4-page; 1000-word) summary of your visit, using at least **5** of the concepts presented in your textbook, other course readings, and in class to illuminate what you saw. Do not use these comparisons mechanically. Instead, use them as tools to help your readers understand the congregations better.
- Be ready to present a clear, concise 3-minute summary of your observations to the class. I shall call on some class members to present their observations.

These assignments are graded on an “A-B-C-D-F” basis. I translate these grades into points, using the scheme noted on the syllabus. Thus even an “F” can earn some points, though not many. Not turning in the assignment or turning in something that bears no relationship to the assignment earns 0. Grades are scored as follows:

- A : A thorough, thoughtful, and well-written observation report that ably describes the congregational visit, while simultaneously using all five sociological concepts to gain deeper insight into what you have seen. A paper written at this level uses these concepts flexibly, communicating to the reader both a sense of what this congregation is like and illuminating its sociological distinctiveness. The paper is well-grounded in the course readings and in the material covered in class.
- B : A reasonably complete, thoughtful, and decently written observation report ably describes your congregational visit, while simultaneously using four or five sociological concepts to gain deeper insight into what you have seen. A paper written at this level uses these concepts somewhat mechanically without mistaking their meaning. It communicates well with the reader, though it does not present as complete a picture of your visit as does a paper written at the level above. The paper makes reference to and shows a reasonable understanding of the course readings and the material covered in class.
- C : A less complete but still somewhat thoughtful observation report that describes aspects of your congregational visit, using at least two sociological concepts to gain deeper insight into what you have seen. A paper written at this level uses these concepts somewhat mechanically and occasionally mistakes their meaning. As a piece of writing, it is halting and/or fails to hold audience interest. It makes reference to some of the course readings and/or the materials covered in class, without showing much understanding of them.
- D : A very incomplete and unclear observation report that fails to communicate major aspects of your congregational visit. It does not use any sociological concepts to gain

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deeper insight into the visit; indeed, it does not contain much depth. Poorly written, with little or no reference to the course readings and/or the materials covered in class.

- F : A mostly incoherent observation report. The reader knows you went somewhere, without being able to tell much about where that “somewhere” was, what exactly you saw, and/or what it has to do with the course topic. If the paper uses sociological concepts, the reader cannot tell what they are. Poorly written.

B+, B-, C+, C-, etc indicate presentations that stand somewhere between these major scores.