

**Sociology 99: Senior Thesis Seminar**

2017-2018

Instructor: Meghan Zacher, mzacher01@g.harvard.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Course website: <http://socthesis.fas.harvard.edu>

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Course description

This course is designed to be a resource to you, our sociology thesis writers, as you progress through the research and writing process. We will meet throughout the fall and the beginning of the spring semesters to provide support, feedback, and tips and tricks. The course also features guest speakers who will share with you their advice, as well as stories of their own research-related setbacks and struggles. Research and writing is our collective challenge; the goal of this course is to aid you in conquering it.

Attendance policy

Attendance for Sociology 99 is mandatory. Your attendance is crucial to the success of your thesis project and it is expected that students attend each class session. The class day and time will be set by the Instructor in the beginning of the semester based on a poll of student schedules and it is expected that you will arrange your schedule around it. Absences will be excused for medical reasons or for religious observance. In these cases you must email the Instructor in advance unless there is a medical emergency, in which case you should contact the Instructor within 24 hours.

Grading

Sociology 99 is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To receive a passing grade for the Fall semester, you must submit a chapter of your thesis to your advisor and a progress report to the Undergraduate Office by the dates indicated below. You are also expected to attend and to participate in class.

Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Chapter due to advisor

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Progress report

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Thesis due date

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

For more information: <http://sociology.fas.harvard.edu/pages/writing-senior-thesis>

# FINAL

## Schedule

### September 1 (Friday): Introduction

12pm – 1:30pm, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Rachel Meyer, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Introduce the thesis process and this class

### September 8 (Friday): Research questions & the prospectus

12pm – 2pm, WJH 501

- Workshop research topics and questions
- Discuss the prospectus and go through examples

### September 19 (Tuesday): Writing lesson with the Departmental Writing Fellow

9am-10am, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Charlotte Lloyd, Departmental Writing Fellow, Sociology
- Discuss researching and writing the literature review

### September 22 (Friday): The nuts and bolts of qualitative research

12:30pm-2:00pm, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Mario Small, Professor of Sociology
- Discuss the process of designing a qualitative research project

### September 29 (Friday): Coding and analyzing qualitative data

12pm-2pm, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Jocelyn Viterna, Professor of Sociology
- Discuss the ins and outs of coding and analyzing qualitative data

**➔ Deadline: Thesis Prospectus & Prospectus Approval Form, Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm

Form must be signed by advisor

### October 6 (Friday): Group catch-up

1pm-2pm, WJH 501

- Project updates

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October 13 (Friday): The writing process and time management  
12pm-1:30pm, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Sheila Reindl, Associate Director, Bureau of Study Counsel
- Discuss tips and tricks for getting through the thesis

October 27 (Friday): Graduate student panel  
1pm-2pm, WJH 501

- Guest speakers: Sociology graduate students
- Discuss first experiences with independent research

October 31 (Tuesday): Writing lesson with the Departmental Writing Fellow  
9am-10am, WJH 501

- Guest speaker: Charlotte Lloyd, Departmental Writing Fellow, Sociology
- Discuss tips and tricks for writing the senior thesis

November 17 (Friday): Group catch-up  
12pm-1:30pm, WJH 501

- Project updates
- Discuss next steps

➔ **Deadline: Chapter to advisor, Thursday, November 30**  
Due to advisor by 1 pm

➔ **Deadline: Progress Report & signed Progress Recommendation, Friday, December 8**  
Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm  
Progress report must be signed by advisor

Late January/Early February: Group catch-up and writing support  
Dates and times TBD

➔ **Deadline: Completed thesis due, Tuesday, March 6**  
Two bound copies of your completed thesis due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm