

**Instructor:** Nicolette Bardele, [nbardele@g.harvard.edu](mailto:nbardele@g.harvard.edu)

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Thursdays at 3:00-4:15pm in 501 WJH

**Office Hours Time and Location:** Thursdays at 4:30-5:50pm in 460 WJH (Nicolette's office); sign up at <https://calendly.com/nicolettebardele/>

**Course Website:** <http://socthesis.fas.harvard.edu> (for resources) and course Canvas page (for latest updates)

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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 are our collective challenges; the goal of this course is to aid you in conquering them.

### Attendance Policy and Class Meeting Times

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

### Grading and Participation

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 in the Deadlines section below. You are also expected to attend and participate in every class. I will aim to structure activities/discussions in a variety of ways throughout the semester in an effort to ensure that this is a comfortable environment in which everyone can participate. If participation in class is challenging for you, please meet with me, and I am happy to talk through possible solutions with you.

### Accessible Education

Any student needing academic adjustments or accommodations should register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO). Please also feel free to speak with the instructor (ideally by the end of the second week of the term) about your academic accommodations. All

discussions will remain confidential, although AEO may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation.

### Data Analysis Assistance

Role	Name	Email Address
Departmental Writing Fellow (2022-2023)  For more info: <a href="https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/sociologydwf/departmental-writing-fellow">https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/sociologydwf/departmental-writing-fellow</a>	Joey Wallerstein	<a href="mailto:jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu">jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu</a>
Qualitative Advisor (2022-2023)	TBD	TBD
Quantitative Advisor (2022-2023)	TBD	TBD

### Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form	Friday, September 30, 2022
Chapter due to advisor	Friday, December 2, 2022
Progress report and signed recommendation due	Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Thesis due date	Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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

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### Schedule

#### **Session 1: Introduction September 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest speaker: Danilo Mandić, Associate Senior Lecturer on Sociology
- Introduce the thesis process and this class
- Building and managing relationships with advisors

#### **Session 2: Getting started—research questions & design; the prospectus September 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Workshop research topics, questions, and design
- Discuss the prospectus and go through examples
- Brief overview of thesis chapter organization

**Session 3: Recruitment and sampling; writing the literature review  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Recruitment and sampling tips
- Discuss structure and scope of literature review

**Session 4: Data analysis; group catch-up  
September 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Discuss and practice coding and analyzing data (mostly qualitative)
- Project updates
- Workshop ideas and brainstorm questions/concerns together

**→ Deadline: Thesis Prospectus and Completed Approval Form, Friday, September 30, 2022**  
*\*\*Advisor signature required\*\**

**Session 5: Finding literature/sources  
October 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest speaker: Kathleen Sheehan, Research Librarian
- Discuss searching for/accessing materials and using reference management software (organizing sources/notes)

**Session 6: Time management  
October 13<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest speaker: Khaleem Ali, Academic Coach at the Academic Resource Center (ARC)
- Discuss strategies for structuring time (and avoiding procrastination)

**Session 7: Writing the thesis  
October 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Guest speaker: Joey Wallerstein, Departmental Writing Fellow
- Discuss tips and tricks for writing the thesis
- Review chapter organization/how each component fits together

**Session 8: Panel of former senior thesis writers on navigating the process  
October 27<sup>th</sup> (Note: this session will be held over Zoom)**

- Guest speakers: Harvard sociology class of 2022 alums
- Discuss experiences with writing the thesis (and advice)

**Session 9: Tailoring the thesis to your desired audience  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Discuss identifying an audience—and how to tailor thesis accordingly

**Session 10: Group catch-up  
November 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Project updates
- Discuss next steps

**→ Deadlines: Chapter Due to Advisor, Friday, December 2, 2022  
Progress Report/Signed Recommendation Due, Wed., December 7, 2022**

**Session 11 (in late January/early February 2023): Group catch-up**

- Project updates
- Workshop ideas and brainstorm questions/concerns together

**→ Deadline: Completed Thesis, Tuesday, March 7, 2023**