

Instructor: Nicolette Bardele, nbardele@g.harvard.edu

Class Meeting Time and Location: Wednesdays at 4:30-5:45pm in 601 WJH

Office Hours Time and Location: Wednesdays at 3:00-4:20pm, outdoors at Science Center Plaza (or in WJH if raining); sign up at <https://calendly.com/nicolettebardele>

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

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 is requested to present their letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with the instructor by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although AEO may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation.

Data Analysis Assistance

Role	Name	Email Address
Departmental Writing Fellow (2021-2022) For more info: https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/sociologydwf/departmental-writing-fellow	Mo Torres	motorres@g.harvard.edu
Quantitative Advisor (2021-2022)	Adam Travis	astravis@g.harvard.edu
Qualitative Advisor (Fall 2021)	Leah Gose	gose@g.harvard.edu
Qualitative Advisor (Spring 2022)	Joey Wallerstein	jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu

Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form	Friday, October 1, 2021
Chapter due to advisor	Friday, December 3, 2021
Progress report and signed recommendation due	Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Thesis due date	Tuesday, March 8, 2022

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

Schedule

Session 1: Introduction September 8th

- Introduce the thesis process and this class
- Brief overview of thesis chapter organization
- Building and managing relationships with advisors

Session 2: Getting started—research questions & design; the prospectus September 15th

- Guest speaker: Shai Dromi, Sociology Lecturer and Academic Advisor
- Workshop research topics, questions, and design
- Discuss the prospectus and go through examples

Session 3: Recruitment and sampling; writing the literature review
September 22nd

- Guest speaker: Leah Gose, Sociology Qualitative Advisor
- Recruitment and sampling tips
- Discuss structure and scope of literature review

Session 4: Finding literature/sources; data analysis
September 29th

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

→ Deadline: Thesis Prospectus and Completed Approval Form, Friday, October 1, 2021
****Advisor signature required****

Session 5: Group catch-up
October 6th

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

Session 6: Time management
October 13th

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

Session 7: Writing the thesis
October 20th

- Guest speaker: Mo Torres, Sociology 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 27th (Note: this session will be held over Zoom at 5:15-6:30pm ET)

- Guest speakers: Harvard sociology class of 2021 alums
- Discuss experiences with writing the thesis (and advice)

**Session 9: Tailoring the thesis to your desired audience
November 3rd**

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

**Session 10: Group catch-up
November 10th**

- Project updates
- Discuss next steps

**→ Deadlines: Chapter Due to Advisor, Friday, December 3, 2021
Progress Report/Signed Recommendation Due, Wed., December 8, 2021**

Session 11 (in late January/early February 2022): Group catch-up

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

→ Deadline: Completed Thesis, Tuesday, March 8, 2022