

Instructor: Joseph Wallerstein, jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu

Office hours: By appointment

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

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

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, 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 please 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 every class.

Data analysis assistance

The quantitative advisor for Fall 2018 is Roland Neil (neil@g.harvard.edu). His office hours are Mondays 12 – 5 and by appointment in WJH 453. The qualitative advisor for Fall 2018 is Joseph Wallerstein (jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu). His office hours are Tuesdays 10 – 1, Wednesdays 12 – 2, and by appointment in WJH 543.

Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form	Friday, October 5 th , 2018
Chapter due to advisor	Tuesday, December 4 th , 2018
Progress report and signed recommendation	Monday, December 10 th , 2018
Thesis due date	Tuesday, March 12 th , 2019

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

Schedule

September 7 (Friday): Introduction

12pm – 2pm, WJH 450

- Guest speaker: Jocelyn Viterna
- Introduce the thesis process and this class

September 14 (Friday): Research questions and the prospectus

12pm – 1 pm, WJH 450

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

September 25 (Tuesday): Coding

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Guest speaker: Roland Neil, Quantitative Advisor, Sociology
- Discuss coding and software

October 2 (Tuesday): Writing the thesis

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Guest speaker: Linda Zhao, Departmental Writing Fellow, Sociology
- Discuss the process of writing the thesis

➔ Deadline: Thesis Prospectus & Prospectus Approval Form, Friday, October 5th

Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm

Advisor signature required

October 16 (Tuesday): Graduate student panel

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

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

October 23 (Tuesday): Group catch-up

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Project updates

November 6 (Tuesday): Audiences

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Discuss who we're writing for and how to tailor theses to our audience(s)

November 13 (Tuesday): Group workshop and writing support

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Workshop each other's writing

November 27 (Tuesday): Group catch-up

1:30pm – 2:45pm, Memorial Hall 029 (Fisher Room)

- Project updates
- Discuss next steps

➔ **Deadline: Chapter to advisor, Tuesday, December 4th**
Due to advisor by 1 pm

➔ **Deadline: Progress Report & Progress Recommendation, Monday, December 10th**
Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm
Advisor signature required

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

➔ **Deadline: Completed thesis, Tuesday, March 12th, 2019**
Two bound copies of your completed thesis due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm