

## Sociology 99: Senior Thesis Seminar

2019 – 20

Instructor: Joseph Wallerstein, [jwallerstein@g.harvard.edu](mailto:jwallerstein@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 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 2019 is Olenka Mitukiewicz ([amitukiewicz@g.harvard.edu](mailto:amitukiewicz@g.harvard.edu)). Office hours: Wednesdays, 2pm – 4pm, WJH 624 and by appointment. The qualitative advisor for Fall 2019 is Amy Tsang ([amyltsang@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:amyltsang@fas.harvard.edu)). Office hours: by appointment. Amy is also the Departmental Writing Fellow; sign up for appointments on the DWF scheduling website at <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/sociologydwf/appointments>.

### Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form	Friday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Chapter and progress report due to advisor	Monday, December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Thesis due date	Tuesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020

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

## Schedule

### **September 6 (Friday): Introduction**

12pm – 2pm, WJH 450

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

### **September 16 (Monday): Research questions and the prospectus**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

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

### **September 23 (Monday): Coding and Reference Management**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

- Discuss coding and reference management software
- Guest speaker: Olenka Mitukiewicz, Quantitative Advisor, Sociology

➔ **Deadline: Thesis Prospectus & Prospectus Approval Form, Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
Due in Undergraduate Office by 1:30 pm  
*\*\*Advisor signature required\*\**

### **October 7 (Monday): Writing the thesis**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

- Discuss the process of writing the thesis
- Amy Tsang, Qualitative Advisor and Departmental Writing Fellow, Sociology

### **October 21 (Monday): Graduate student panel**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

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

### **October 28 (Monday): Group catch-up**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

- Project updates

**November 11 (Monday): Audiences**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

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

**November 18 (Monday): Group workshop and writing support**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

- Workshop each other's writing

**December 2 (Monday): Group catch-up**

9am – 10:15 am, WJH 501

- Project updates
- Discuss next steps

**➔ Deadline: Chapter and progress report due to advisor, Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
Due to advisor by 1:30 pm

**Late January/Early February 2020: Group catch-up and writing support**

Dates and times TBD

**➔ Deadline: Completed thesis, Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
Two bound copies of your completed thesis due in Undergraduate Office by 1:30 pm