

Sociology 99: Senior Thesis Seminar

2016-2017

Instructor: Jonathan J.B. Mijs, mijs@fas.harvard.edu

Office hours: by appointment

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

Note: Some dates and topics are tentative and will depend on the types of projects thesis writers are pursuing. Updated versions of the syllabus will be posted to the course website as they are available so always check the website for the current version.

Course description

This course is designed to be a resource to you, our sociology thesis writers. We will meet throughout the fall and the beginning of the spring to provide you with a source of support, feedback, tips and tricks to aid your writing process. The course features guest speakers who will share with you their advice and their own struggles—for writing does not come easy to anyone. It is my hope that we will in this course make writing our collective challenge, and conquer 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.

Deadlines

Prospectus and completed approval form

Friday, September 30th

Chapter due to advisor

Thursday, December 1st

Progress report

Friday, December 9th

Thesis due date

Tuesday, March 7th

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

Session 1: Introduction

Friday, September 2, 12pm – 1.30pm, WJH 405

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

Session 2: Research Question and Prospectus

Week of September 5

- Workshoping your research questions
- What should be included in your prospectus?

Session 3: Qualitative Methods; how to turn an idea into a qualitative research design?
Week of September 12

- Guest speaker: Mario Small, Professor of Sociology
- More about Mario's research: <http://scholar.harvard.edu/mariosmall/home>

Session 4: The Writing Process and Time Management
Week of September 19

- Guest speaker: Sheila Reindl, Associate Director, Bureau of Study Counsel

Session 5: Quantitative Methods; how to turn an idea into a quantitative research design?
Week of September 26

- Guest speaker: Alexandra Killewald, Professor of Sociology
- More about Sasha's research: <http://scholar.harvard.edu/akillewald/biocv>

➔ **Deadline: Thesis Prospectus and Prospectus Approval Form, September 30th**
➔ Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm
Form must be signed by advisor

Session 6: Writing session I
Week of Oct 3

- Getting started with writing your thesis

Week of Oct 10: No group meeting

- Jonathan available for individual appointments

Session 7: Coding and analyzing your data
Week of Oct 17

- You've collected and organized your data. How to code and analyze it?

Week of Oct 24: No group meeting

- Jonathan available for individual appointments

Session 8: Writing session II
Week of Oct 31

- Writing support

Session 9: Group Study Session

Week of Nov 7

- Group work session to enable discussion of projects, questions, concerns.

Week of November 14: No group meeting

- Jonathan available for individual appointments.

Week of November 21: Thanksgiving holiday

Week of November 28: No group meeting

➔ **Deadline: Chapter due to advisor, December 1**

➔ **Deadline: Progress Report and signed recommendation due, December 9**
Due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm
Progress report must be signed by advisor

Session 10: Check-in and Writing Support

Week of Jan 23

Session 11: Writing session III

Week of Jan 30

➔ **Deadline: Completed thesis due, March 7**
Two bound copies of your completed thesis due in Undergraduate Office by 1 pm