

Soc196B
Winter 2012
Mondays 11-1:50 , SSB 414

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Sociology Honors Seminar, Part II

During the second quarter of the Honors Program, the main tasks will involve finishing your data collection (conducting and transcribing interviews, administering surveys and tabulating the results, collecting statistical data, etc.), analysing it with reference to your research question, and writing and rewriting drafts of the thesis as a whole. The main milestones are week 4 (when I ask for a revised version of the sections you drafted in the fall quarter), week 6 (when I ask for a draft of the thesis as a whole - the major additions being your Results and Conclusion), and the end of the quarter (when the final draft is due).

In contrast to the first quarter, we'll be meeting more towards the end of the winter quarter than during the beginning. For the first 4 weeks or so, you should be engaged in intensive data collection and preliminary analysis, in regular consultation with me and with your adviser. We'll meet together week 4 to talk about preliminary results.. Later in the quarter we'll be reading and discussing one another's work. At the very end, there will be a mini-research conference at which you'll present your work.

Reminder about grades: You received an "In Progress" (IP) grade for the fall quarter. At the end of the winter quarter, I will award a grade for both quarters. This will be based primarily on the quality of the thesis, with your faculty adviser adding his or her assessment to mine. I will also take into account seminar participation and completion of assignments on time. Students who receive an "A-" for the seminar graduate with distinction; an "A" means graduation with high distinction, and an "A+," highest distinction.

Required reading for the quarter:

Writing Empirical Research Reports, ch. 10-11 and 13, on analysis and discussion sections
A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers, ch. 2 and 4, on writing and revising

Recommended:

Another good source of advice on organizing, writing, and revising is Wayne Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, ch. 12-16 (on reserve at the main library).

And if you've never done so, or haven't since middle school, read the old classic by Strunk and White, *Elements of Style*. Their rules of thumb for clear writing (mainly in the last part of the book) hold up very well.

Schedule

January 9

Meeting: Reports on all we got done over the holiday break. Schedule appointments for week 2 or 3.

January 16, 23

No group meetings. You should be in regular contact with me and with your adviser(s) about your data collection -- how it's going, problems that come up and how to handle them, what the results appear to show, is more data needed, etc.

January 30

Meeting: Another informal round of reporting, this time focused on your preliminary results. What are the general patterns in people's responses to surveys or interviews, in archival records you examined, in your sample of visual materials, etc.? And what, accordingly, does it look like your answers are to your research question?

Revised (and knit together) Introduction, Lit Review, & Methods sections due (doc file preferred over hard copy)

February 6, 13

No group meetings

February 20 (Presidents' Day)

No group meeting. **Full draft of thesis due** (doc file preferred)

February 27, March 5

Meetings: For these two meetings, I will circulate 6 thesis drafts (the version submitted week 6) and assign everyone (including those who are presenting) two theses to read. That works out to each of you getting comments from 4 peers. The six presenters will then do give a brief overview of the study and its findings, and the rest of us will contribute comments and constructive suggestions. *Everyone should also send a written-up version of their comments (at least a long paragraph) to the students whose drafts they read, with a cc: to me.*

I'll arrange the schedule of who goes which week in consultation with you all.

March 12

Meeting. Honors mini-conference: 12 minute presentations of your research to a (somewhat) wider audience. Light refreshments!

MARCH 17 (Monday of finals week): FINAL DRAFT OF THESIS DUE BY 4 PM. (doc file is fine for meeting the deadline, and that's what I'll read, but please print out a copy for the department.)