



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY SENIOR HONORS THESIS PROGRAM 2019 - 2020

Fall Sociology H190A * Spring Sociology H190B
Professor Mary Kelsey and Professor Laleh Behbehanian

WHAT IS THE HONORS THESIS PROGRAM?

The Sociology Senior Honors Thesis Program provides an opportunity for senior sociology majors who are accepted into the program to write an honors thesis. Honors students enroll in the year-long Senior Honors Seminar, Sociology H190A (4 units) in the fall and H190B (5 units) in the spring.

Each student conducts an independent research project as part of their participation in the seminar, and writes an honors thesis (minimum 35-page paper of acceptable honors quality). One grade is assigned for 9 credits upon completion of H190A & B, based primarily on the thesis paper and participation in the course. Sociology H190A fulfills an elective requirement in the major, and H190B fulfills either a seminar or elective requirement. The only way students can earn honors in the sociology major is by successfully completing these courses and the thesis, while maintaining the required 3.5 GPA in the major and 3.3 cumulative GPA.

ENROLLMENT

Sociology H190A/B is offered as two small sections, limited to 15 students each. The Honors instructors for next year will be Professor Mary Kelsey and Professor Laleh Bebehanian. Both sections will meet on Thursdays from 12-2 pm.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications for the Sociology Senior Honors Program will be accepted from declared sociology majors who have completed at least 75 units and who plan to graduate by or before Fall 2020. Students must have at least a 3.5 major gpa and a 3.3 cumulative gpa at the time of application in order to qualify for admittance to the program. The sociology major gpa needs to include at least **four upper division sociology courses** completed for a letter grade at UC Berkeley toward the major.

SELECTION PROCESS

Admittance into the Senior Honors Thesis Program is determined by a committee, which includes the two instructors. This committee reviews the applications anonymously and decides which students will be admitted to the program. No more than 30 students are admitted into the program per academic year.

The selection process is based on the information provided in the application and proposal. The committee will consider topic areas, possible research methods, degree of preparation, and clarity of expression. The committee will also decide which section/instructor to assign each admitted student to, usually based on the subject and method areas indicated in the proposal.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Sociology Senior Honors Program will be accepted from declared sociology majors during the summer, however students will have the option to submit a draft of their proposal for feedback prior to the deadline. Submitting a draft of the proposal is not required, however it is highly recommended.

The *draft proposals* are due no later than 4 PM **Friday, June 14, 2019**. Applications will be reviewed by the committee in mid-June and students will be notified by email with any feedback prior to the final deadline.

The *final application* deadline will be 4 PM, **Friday July 15, 2019**. If you will be eligible to apply to the Honors Program after taking summer session courses, please specify what courses you are taking during summer session. Applications will be reviewed by the committee and students will be notified via e-mail of their status before the first day of instruction in the fall semester.

ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

In preparation for applying to the Honors Thesis Program, we would highly encourage you to do the following:

1. Review the Sociology Undergraduate Research Workshop slides available online to help inform your proposal writing process.

https://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/undergrads/Forms/SOC_Undergrad_Research_Workshop_SP2019.pdf

2. Begin reading works that are related to your research area – it will show or reflect that you have done preliminary research. Reading works in your proposed area of study will help you understand the current issues and trends relating to your topic.

3. Be mindful when considering your area of study that your research has to be completed and synthesized within a 9 month period.

4. Review the “Proposal Format” and “Resources” sections on The Office of Undergraduate Research Haas Scholars Program web-site about writing a research proposal. For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://hsp.berkeley.edu/proposal-format-and-policies>

5. Some students may find it helpful to review examples of previous Honors Thesis papers. You may come by 424 Barrows Hall during drop in hours M-F 9-12 PM and 1-4 PM to review theses from prior participants in the honors program. Students may not copy or check a thesis out for overnight reading; however students may leave their CallCard and review one thesis at a time within the department.

6. Consider speaking to faculty and/or graduate students about your interest in the honors thesis program. Discussing your potential research project with others, as well as learning how others have identified their own research question, may help you further develop or refine your intended thesis project.



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If you are interested in participating in the Sociology Senior Honors Thesis Program, please complete the following application. Draft applications may be turned in to socadv@berkeley.edu or 424 Barrows Hall no later than **4 PM Friday, June 14, 2019**. Final applications must be submitted by or before 4 PM, **Friday, July 15, 2019**. Electronic submissions will also be accepted by cmrojas@berkeley.edu. Be sure to respond to all questions below to ensure your application is complete.

Name _____ SID# _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

Email Address in June and July (if different): _____

Expected Graduation Term & Year: _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please address the following questions. Your responses should be typed on a single side of the page. Please type *only* your SID# at the top of each page; **you do not need to include your name since applications are read anonymously.**

1) Please explain why you would like to enroll in the Senior Honors Program in Sociology, what role you see the Honors Program playing in your overall program of undergraduate studies, and how you see the Honors Program contributing to your plans for a job or further training after graduation.

2) Please describe two topics and potential research questions that you might pursue as an Honors Thesis project. Describe one in some detail--about one page--and the second one in one or two sentences. [This is not a contract! Many students change their plans or their research question evolves. On the other hand, this exercise will help you focus on the commitment that an Honors Thesis entails.]

3) What types of sociological methods have you thought about using in your research for your thesis?

4) What have you done so far that may help you with a thesis in at least one of your topic areas (i.e. related courses, papers, books you've read, methods classes)?

5) Please include a short bibliography (at least 3 sources) with your application.