

## Sociology H190B

# *SENIOR HONORS THESIS SEMINAR*

University of California, Berkeley  
Spring 2020

Mary Kelsey, Ph.D.

Tuesday 12-2pm (78 Barrows)

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The honors seminar is structured to guide you in the design, research, and writing of a senior honors thesis. Last semester, you formulated and designed your project and took steps to begin your research. This semester you will complete the **data collection** and **analysis**, explore the **sociological implications** of your findings, and write your **thesis**.

Your thesis should be between 35 to 50 pages inclusive of front/back material. Occasionally a thesis may be longer, but under no circumstances should it exceed 80 pages. In order to facilitate your progress, you will complete **five written assignments**: a revised prospectus; a research/writing schedule with updated annotated bibliography; preliminary data analysis; revised data analysis; and a thesis draft.

In the second half of the semester, students will make **oral presentations** summarizing their thesis research (March 10<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>). The two thesis sections will meet jointly in Barrows 420 for these presentations. For each meeting, 4-5 students will present their findings to the entire senior thesis class.

**The first complete draft of the entire thesis is due on April 19<sup>th</sup>.** You will have about 3 weeks to improve it. **The final thesis is due on May 12<sup>th</sup>.** There are no incompletes or extensions allowed for this course, except in truly extenuating circumstances. Whatever you have written by May 12<sup>th</sup> will stand as the final version of your thesis. Last semester you received an IP (In Progress). This semester you will receive a grade for the entire year based on both the quality of your final thesis and your performance throughout the year (quality of submitted assignments, accountability to deadlines; seminar participation, etc.). Your thesis will also receive a designation (noted on your transcript) of honors, high honors, or (in exceptional cases) highest honors.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week 1 (January 21): Planning for the Semester and Update on Progress

- Check in & updates on progress
- Discuss our plan for the spring semester
- Discuss PSA & ASA Meetings
- Discuss first assignment due January 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Week 2 (January 28): Data collection**

Workshopping plans for data collection: Come prepared to share your research question and your plan for gathering the data you need to answer it (bring your interview questions, list of primary documents, or any other components of your proposed methodology).

### **Assignment #1: Revised Prospectus (Due 1/28)**

Revise your prospectus aiming to incorporate the feedback you received and any other progress you've made. This should include a complete bibliography listing all the texts you have read.

Bring a hard copy to class for peer review exchange. Also upload to Bcourses.

## **Week 3 (February 4): Revise, Revise, Revise: *The Art of Editing***

**1<sup>st</sup> Hour:** Peer review of revised prospectus.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hour:** Reconvene in section classrooms. Introduce your partner's project and discuss editing process.

**Assigned Reading:** Howard Becker, "Freshman English" - Read BEFORE peer review

### **Assignment #2: Research/Writing Schedule (Due 2/11 – 2/18)**

Draft a research and writing schedule for the semester, setting specific target dates for your progress. Also attach an annotated bibliography with entries for at least 4 new sources.

Submit a hard copy to me during our scheduled individual meeting. Also upload to bCourses.

## **Week 4 (February 11): Individual meetings**

## **Week 5 (February 18): Individual meetings**

## **Week 6 (February 25): Presenting Preliminary Findings & Troubleshooting**

Prepare a 5 minute statement on your preliminary findings, including any challenges you have encountered (or anticipate).

### **Assignment #3: First Draft of Data Analysis (Due 2/25)**

Present empirical evidence gathered to date (5-7 pages). This assignment serves as the first step towards drafting your data analysis. Submit hard copy in class and upload to bCourses.

**Week 7 (March 3): Presenting Preliminary Findings & Troubleshooting**

Presentation of Preliminary Findings & Troubleshooting continued.

**Assigned Reading:** Emerson et al. "Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing"

**Week 8 (March 10): Formal Presentations** (Joint session in 420 Barrows)

Formal presentations of projects (10 minutes) followed by questions and discussion.

**Week 9 (March 17): Formal Presentations** (Joint session in 420 Barrows)

**\*\*\* Pacific Sociological Association Conference (3/26-3/29)\*\*\***

**Week 10 (March 31): Formal Presentations** (Joint session in 420 Barrows)

**Assignment #4: Revised Data Analysis** (Due 3/31)

Submit a revised draft of your data analysis (7-12 pages), including a discussion of the sociological implications of your findings. Submit hard copy in class and upload to bCourses.

**Week 11 (April 7): Formal Presentations** (Joint session in 420 Barrows)

**Week 12 (April 14): Formal Presentations** (Joint session in 420 Barrows)

**Assignment #5: Complete Draft of Thesis** (Due by Sunday 4/19)

Submit a complete draft of thesis (20-25 pages). Upload to bCourses.

**Week 13 (April 21): Individual consultations**

**Week 14 (April 28): Individual consultations (1<sup>st</sup> hour) and PARTY in 420 Barrows!!!**

**FINAL THESIS due MAY 12**

Turn in a copy of your completed thesis to the assignment section on b-course as well as an email attachment to me ([mkelsey@berkeley.edu](mailto:mkelsey@berkeley.edu)) and to Cristina Rojas ([cmrojas@berkeley.edu](mailto:cmrojas@berkeley.edu)) for Sociology Department records.