

Department of Sociology

Required Senior Project Research Proposal

Goal

To maximize the time that students have to fine tune and carry out their senior project research.

Background

In the past students sometimes spent several weeks of the senior project class trying to identify a topic of interest and getting started with the research planning. Valuable time was lost in the topic decision process leaving students with far too little time to carry out their plans.

Proposal Process and Course Enrollment

In the semester before enrolling in Senior Project, Sociology Majors (whether doing a traditional project, an internship, or a non-traditional project), are required to develop a research proposal that details the Senior Project plan. If a student is planning an internship as part of the Senior Project, it must be secured and approved in the semester prior to enrollment in senior project.

Students should submit their proposals to the instructor scheduled to teach their senior project class. The senior project instructor will then provide the registration access code needed by the student to register for the class. The instructor will provide the student with feedback on the proposal during the first week of senior project. If a student plans to begin his or her research prior to the start of the semester (i.e. during summer), he or she should request feedback on his or her proposal prior to beginning work.

Note: The proposal submitted should evidence reasonable effort at framing a feasible project. While it is expected that the proposal will need fine tuning and revision, proposals that show little effort may result in a student being denied access to senior project.

Due Dates and Planning Timeline

The proposal must be submitted to the Moodle website "Soc 1000" by May 1st for Fall enrollment and December 1 for Spring enrollment.

Contents of Proposal:

Your proposal should be **1- 2 typed pages** and incorporate the following components:

1. Introduction & Research Question

Introduce the topic, discuss the importance of studying the topic and state your research question (1-2 paragraphs). If you are doing an internship, please specify the same things in relation to your internship experience, and describe your internship goals. Provide the name of an internship supervisor and supervisor contact information as evidence that an internship has been secured.

2. Theoretical Framework

Discuss the theory that you will use to focus your research. If appropriate, list the hypotheses generated by the theory (1-2 paragraphs). If a student is basing his/her senior project on an internship experience, in this section the student will introduce the sociological theory that informs a chosen aspect of that experience; for example,

the literature on processes of leaving a battering relationship may inform the work a student may undertake at a women's shelter.

3. Methods

This section is not required for those choosing to conduct an extensive literature reviews, internship experiences and some nontraditional projects.

Description of Sample/Participants

From whom will you collect data? If you are using an unobtrusive method such as content analysis, describe the process through which you will compile your sample of artifacts to analyze. If using an existing dataset, indicate the name and location of the dataset (1 paragraph or less).

Data Collection Methods

How will you go about collecting data for your study? Will you administer a survey? Conduct face-to-face interviews? If using an existing dataset, describe how the other researchers collected the data (1 paragraph or less).

If you're doing an internship, discuss the approximate number of weeks you will work at the site (including hours per week), and how you will be tracking your observations, and gathering data (as appropriate).

5. Describe if the Project builds on your past work. (this part can be incorporated wherever it fits best into your paper).

If the project does draw on past work, describe how you specifically will expand on that work to earn an additional 4 units of research credit in the major; for example, "expand literature review to include 20 additional sources, revise and re-administer instrument to X participants based on pilot and produce 3 revisions of paper."

(If you are building on past work, then attach the past paper to the end of your proposal).

6. State whether you will need to Secure IRB Approval.

If you already have IRB approval, indicate approval end date. Please make sure you indicate the status of IRB in your proposal.

Annotated Bibliography

Attach an annotated bibliography (10-15 sources) of relevant peer reviewed journal articles or books. Use ASA Style to complete this.

Resources for your use

Resources for your use are available on the Sociology Department Moodle Site "Soc 1000" under the File called Senior Project.