

SOCI-400 Senior Project (Fall 2018) Montclair State University

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Office Hours: By appointment: <https://calendly.com/johannaquinn/dr-quinn-office-hours>

Class: Dickson Hall 340, 4:00pm-5:15pm, Tuesday's

Key Assignment Due Dates

	Assignment	Points	Where to Submit	Due Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Reverse Outline of One Senior Paper	5	Submit to Canvas	Monday, September 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Human Subjects Certificate	5	Submit to Canvas	Monday, September 24
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Research Questions & Methods Plan	5	Bring to one-on-one	Tuesday, October 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Research Proposal	15	Submit to Canvas	Monday, October 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Bibliography	5	Submit to Canvas	Monday, October 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Annotated Bibliography	5	Submit to Canvas	Monday, October 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Literature Review	10	Submit to Canvas	Monday, October 29
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Research Instrument	5	Bring to one-on-one	Tuesday, November 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Results Chart & Description	5	Submit to Canvas	Monday, November 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Poster & Presentation	15	Bring to class	Tuesday, December 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Final Paper	25	Submit to Canvas	Monday, December 17

<u>Course Policies</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Class Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO put phones on SILENT during class time. • DO come to class on time, ready to participate and pay attention. • DO complete assignments on time. • DO be respectful of your fellow students. • DO let me know if you have an issue that's making it hard for you to complete the requirements of this class. I want you to succeed, but please talk to me early. • DO feel comfortable emailing me at quinnjo@montclair.edu. • DO feel comfortable visiting me during office hours and by appointment. 	A 94-100 A- 90-93 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 60-66 F 0-59

Course Description

This course brings together your previous sociology courses on theory, methods, and social problems. Throughout the semester, you are expected to complete your senior research project and demonstrate your ability in designing a sociological study, conducting a scholarly literature review, gathering and analyzing data, presenting findings and preparing a written research report.

This course will act as an independent study: each student is responsible for carrying out their own research project. It is your responsibility to make sure your project is on track. My role is to act as your consultant and guide throughout this process. At two points during the class, we will meet one-on-one to discuss your project.

The purpose of this course is twofold. First, it aims to provide structure and guidance to help you throughout the process of writing your senior research paper. Second, the course is a workshop focused on you developing a research project. We will also be discussing the research projects as a class and giving feedback to each other throughout the process.

In this Senior Project course, you will:

1. Design and conduct an original sociological research study
2. Present findings in paper and poster format

Materials

Required Readings

There are no required books for purchase. We will use one primary text, *Writing Sociology: A Guide for Junior Papers and Senior Theses*, which I will distribute. Additionally, please use your methods books from previous sociology classes for reference. You will also develop a reading list for yourself based on your senior project.

- Massengill, Rebekah P. 2014. *Writing Sociology: A Guide for Junior Papers and Senior Theses*.

Index Cards

You will need to bring a 4X6 lined index card to each class. You will need at least 15 blank index cards.

Poster Presentations

As part of this course, you will be presenting your work on our last day of the course. If you choose, you can print posters at Montclair State University's, ADP Center for Learning Technologies for \$10. Follow the link below for more information.

- <http://www.montclair.edu/cehs/academics/centers-and-institutes/adp-center/media-services/posterprinting/>

Key Assignments

You will be writing one research paper and creating one poster- your senior project- in this class. Assignments are broken down into smaller components so you can tackle it more efficiently.

Assignment 1: Reverse Outline of One Senior Paper

Pick one of the three example Senior Papers posted on Canvas. Read the paper in its entirety and reverse outline it. In your reverse outline, you will answer questions such as:

- How did the researcher organize their paper?
- What did the researcher do in each section of their paper?
- What is the thesis or central argument of the paper?
- What did the researcher do well?
- What suggestions would you give the researcher for improving their paper?
- How does this paper inform your plan for your own research project?

More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, September 17 before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Assignment 2: Human Subjects Certificate

To demonstrate your knowledge of ethical research practices, complete Montclair State University's online Human Subject Research course and earn a certificate for completing "HSR-Students/Faculty Basic Course." Turn a PDF copy of your certificate into Canvas. The training can be found on the CITI Program website here: <https://www.citiprogram.org/> Detailed instructions on how to register for the program can be found on Canvas.

Due Date: Monday, September 24 before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Assignment 3: Research Questions & Methods Plan

As a first step towards completing your research proposal, draft a 1-page precipice that includes the research questions for your senior project and your plan for collecting and analyzing data to answer your chosen question(s). Instead of class this week, you will meet with me one-on-one to go over your 1-page brief. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Tuesday, October 2

Where: Bring to our one-on-one meeting

Points: 5

Assignment 4: Research Proposal

Your research proposal is due on **October 8, 2018**. Your research proposal should be the guide/plan for your final research paper. It is also the first three sections of your final paper (Introduction, Research Question, and Methods). It is a contract for the final product: what research you will be conducting, what methods you will be using and which hypothesis you will be testing. The more detailed it is, the better your paper will be. It should address the following:

- What is your research question? What sociological question/problem do you want to address?
- Why is this a social problem? Why should we care about this issue?
- What sociological theory or existing social problem does your question address?
- What are your dependent and independent variables?
- Do you have supporting independent variables?
- How will you define and measure each variable?
- How will you go about answering the research question?
- What kind of data do you intend to employ to answer your question?

For your research methods:

- What is your research site?
- Do you have access to your research site? Will you have permission issues?
- How many surveys are you conducting?
- Where and how will you be doing your surveys?
- Whom will your subjects be?
- What are the kinds of questions you would like to include in the survey?
- Will you also be using systematic observations?
- Describe the demographics of your sample in detail.
- Describe the types of questions, topics you will be asking about.
- What is your timeline? What problems do you foresee?

The proposal will be a contract: a statement of what your final product will be and the detailed way in which you will accomplish that. Having a solid, comprehensive and well-written proposal is essential. Remember: the more detailed the plan, the better your final paper will be. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, October 8, before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 15

Assignment 5: Bibliography

As a first step towards writing the Literature Review section of your paper, you will identify at least ten scholarly articles, books, or research papers for your project and create an ASA-style bibliography for these works. Your bibliography should conform to ASA style guidelines

and include peer-reviewed sociological texts. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, October 15, before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Assignment 6: Annotated Bibliography

You will select a minimum of five books, articles, or research papers related to your project to read deeply and take detailed notes. Your annotated bibliography will include a summary and evaluation of each of the sources. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, October 22, before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Assignment 7: Literature Review

On **October 29, 2018**, you will be turning in your literature review and a complete updated bibliography. Your literature review is based on your research of the existing literature on your topic: what has been done in your area and what needs to be done. You will need to provide a detailed bibliography in line with ASA-style. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, October 29, before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 10

Assignment 8: Research Instrument

For your study, you will need to complete interviews, conduct observations, or administer surveys. Depending on the research method you choose to use for your project, you will create and turn in the appropriate research instrument. Some examples include an interview protocol, a survey questionnaire, or an observation rubric. Instead of class this week, you will meet with me one-on-one to go over your research instrument. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Tuesday, November 27

Where: Bring to the one-on-one meeting

Points: 5

Assignment 9: Results Chart & Description

As a first step towards writing your findings section, you will create one chart, table, or graph that demonstrates a finding from your study. Additionally, you will write a paragraph describing what your graphic shows and how it relates to your research question(s). More

detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Monday, November 26, before midnight

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Assignment 10: Research Poster and Presentation

On **December 11, 2018**, the last day of class, we will hold a poster symposium. You will give a 3-minute talk on your research and present a poster at this event. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class.

Due Date: Tuesday, December 11

Where: Bring your poster to class

Points: 15

Assignment 11: Final Paper

On **Monday, December 17**, you will hand in your final research paper. The research paper is a minimum of a 20 page /5000-word paper. More detailed instructions for completing this assignment are available on Canvas and will be handed out in class. Your essay should be typed, double-spaced with the following suggested format.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Literature Review

Research Question(s)

Methods

Findings

Discussion

Conclusion

Bibliography

Appendix: Copy of Research Instrument, Human Subjects Certification

Due Date: Monday, December 17, before midnight.

Where: Canvas

Points: 25

Late Work and Missed Assignments

This course has eleven graded assignments that build on one another. For you to complete your final paper and get feedback from your classmates and me along the way, you need to turn the assignments in on time. The precise due dates and where the assignments should be handed in are noted above. Assignments turned in late will be penalized 5 percentage

points for each day late (e.g., one day late makes a 100% turn to 95%). If you have a real emergency, email me at least 24 hours before the deadline.

Extra Credit

Extra credit can be earned by:

- Attending an event on campus related to sociology or social science research and writing a 500-word analysis. In your analysis you should 1) summarize the event, 2) explain how it relates to sociology classes you have taken in the past, course materials, or your research project, and 3) assess the event (e.g., did you enjoy it, what changes would you recommend, etc.) Possibilities include:
 - departmental events
 - dorm events
 - social events
 - presentations
 - films, plays, shows
 - student org events

Due Date: All extra credit assignments must be turned in before Friday, December 7, 2018

Where: Canvas

Points: 5

Other Important Things

Accommodations

Please send me an email by the end of the second week of the course if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks.

Material Support

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact Student Development and Campus Life, at 973-655-6959. Additionally, food, personal care products, and household/kitchen supplies are available at Red Hawk Pantry to all Montclair State University students. For more information, please visit <https://www.montclair.edu/student-services/red-hawk-pantry/>. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable me to provide any other resources that I may possess.

Academic Honesty

As with all courses at Montclair State University, you are expected to follow the University's rules and regulations about academic honesty and integrity. The standards are outlined here: <https://www.montclair.edu/policies/academic/policies/academic-dishonesty-policy/>.

Course Outline and Weekly Readings & Assignments

Introduction & Reverse Outlining

Overview of the Course & Senior Research Papers (Tues 9/11)

1. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 4, Finding Data" pgs.14-22.
2. Choose one senior paper on Canvas to read and reverse outline the paper.
3. Submit **Assignment 1: Reverse Outline** to Canvas by midnight on Monday, September 17.

Conducting Ethical Research

Human Subject Approval (Tues 9/18)

1. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 1, Research Questions" pgs.5-9.
2. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 2, Defining the Importance of Your Research" pgs.10-12.
3. Complete "HSR-Students/Faculty Basic Course" training to earn your Human Subjects Certificate.
4. Submit **Assignment 2- Human Subjects Certificate** to Canvas by midnight on Monday, September 24.

Writing Research Proposals

Creating Research Questions & Defining the Importance of Your Research (Tues 9/25)

1. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 5, Methods" pgs.23-31.
2. Reread articles and chapters from previous sociology courses that pertain to your topic.
3. Sign up for a time to meet individually with Dr. Quinn during the week of 10/1.
4. Complete **Assignment 3- Research Questions and Methods Plan** and bring a hard copy to your one-on-one meeting.

One-on-One Meetings (Tues 10/2)

NO CLASS – Meet One-on-One with Dr. Quinn in University Hall 4151

1. Reread articles and chapters from previous sociology courses that pertain to your topic and methods.
2. Submit **Assignment 4-Research Proposal** to Canvas by midnight Monday, October 8.

Literature Reviews, Bibliographies and Citing Sources

Identifying, Finding, and Citing Academic Sources (Tues 10/9)

Class Meets in Harry A. Sprague Library

1. Locate relevant scholarly sources for your research paper.
2. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 3, The Literature Review" pgs.13-18.
3. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 8, Bibliography" pgs.41-44.
4. Submit **Assignment 5-Bibliography** to Canvas by midnight, Monday, October 15.

Annotated Bibliographies (Tues 10/16)

1. Read and take notes on articles that you identified for your research paper.
2. Turn in **Assignment 6-Annotated Bibliography** to Canvas before midnight, Monday, October 22.

Literature Reviews (Tues 10/23)

1. Turn in **Assignment 7-Literature Review** to Canvas before midnight, Monday, October 29.

Developing Research Instruments

Developing Research Instruments & Using Qualtrics (Tues 10/30)

1. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 6, Data Analysis" pgs.32-39.
2. Sign up for a time to meet individually with Dr. Quinn during the week of 11/5.
3. Complete **Assignment 8- Research Instrument** and bring a hard copy to your one-on-one meeting.

One-on-One Meetings (Tues 11/6)

NO CLASS – Meet One-on-One with Dr. Quinn in University Hall 4151

1. Revise research instrument and start collecting data.

Data Collection & Analysis

Collecting & Analyzing Data Using SPSS (Tues 11/13)

Class Meets in University Hall, ADP Center, Room 1120

1. Collect data for your research paper.
2. Begin analyzing data for your research paper.

Analyzing Data Using SPSS (Tues 11/20)

Class Meets in University Hall, ADP Center, Room 1120

1. Read "Writing Sociology. Chapter 7, Discussing Findings and Drawing Conclusions" p. 40.
2. Submit **Assignment 9- Results Chart & Description** to Canvas by midnight Monday, November 26.

Discussing Findings and Drawing Conclusions

Discussing Findings & Drawing Conclusions (Tues 11/27)

1. Rewrite methods and analysis sections of your paper.
2. Write findings section of your paper.
3. Start working on your poster.
4. Bring drafts of your paper and poster to class (can be on computer).

Writing & Revising Research Papers

Creating Final Products (Tues 12/4)

1. Complete *Assignment 10- Poster* and bring a hard copy to class.

Poster Presentations

In Class Poster Presentations (Tues 12/11)

Final Paper

Final Paper

1. Turn in *Assignment 11: Final Paper* to Canvas before midnight, Monday, December 17, 2018.