

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 391: Junior Seminar
2012-2013

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The junior seminar is a three-credit course offered for honours Sociology students, normally in their 3rd year. In this course, you will be provided with an orientation to writing a thesis, selecting an advisor, and using research tools such as RefWorks. You will be assigned a reading written by each Sociology faculty member, and meet with them to discuss their thoughts on doing sociologically informed research. You will meet them in their office (their office number is provided below). You will also shadow the 4th year students to observe the steps taken in completing a thesis project. You will learn that the research process is adaptable to reflect the various approaches, theories, and methodologies in the discipline.

Fall Term

September 5	Course orientation
September 12	Thesis advisor agreement form; thesis proposal orientation
September 19	RefWorks orientation
September 26	Introduction to Tri-Council Policy, Ethical Guidelines/R.E.B.
October 3	Introduction to Student Research Day
October 10	4 th year's Thesis Proposal presentations
October 17	Dr. Riley Olstead, Annex 110C
October 24	Dr. John Phyne, Annex 110A
October 31	Dr. Patricia Cormack, Annex 112A
November 7	Dr. Peter Mallory, Annex 9D
November 14	Dr. David Lynes, Annex 9C
November 21	4 th years' Ethics Application Presentations (15 minutes)
November 28	Dr. Norine Verberg, Annex 111A

Winter term

January 9	4 th years' will present submitted chapters to class
January 16	4 th years' will present submitted chapters to class
January 23	Planning session for the Sociology Forum
January 30	Dr. Daniel MacInnes, Annex 110B
February 6	Dr. Stephen Marmura , Annex 111C
February 13	Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker, Annex 111B
February 20	Essay due date; Thesis presentation planning
March 6	4 th years' practice thesis presentations
March 13	4 th years' practice thesis presentations
March 15??	Thesis presentations (date & time to be confirmed)
March 20	4 th years' discuss experience
March 21	Student Research Day
March 27	Discussion of editing final draft of graded thesis.
April 3	No class – good luck with exams!

Evaluation

Your grade is based on the following work.

40% **Journal of reflections**

Keep a journal to document your reflections on what you are learning about the thesis process and about doing Sociological research. You are encouraged to write a reflection for each week, but your grade will be based on the following:

- your critical reflections (not summaries) of the readings written by each faculty members and the discussion with each faculty member about their research
- a reflection based on your review of 3-4 Sociology honours thesis (in Carla's office)
- your critical reflections on the Honours Thesis Presentations
- your thoughts on the St.F.X. Student Research Day.

Each reflection should be about 150-200 words. They are due Fridays by 4:00 (in my mailbox) the week it was assigned. They will be returned the following class. ***Please submit all your reflections in a duotang on March 27th.***

Please note that the readings written by the Sociology faculty will be delivered by email attachment (as a PDF of a published article or a manuscript being developed).

40% **Essay [due Feb 20]**

Writing a paper on a topic related to your thesis under the supervision of a Sociology faculty member. You are strongly encouraged to write about some aspect of the topic you might study for your thesis.

20% **Planning and participating in a Sociology Forum.**

The class will organize a Sociology Forum, and each student will present a research paper at this forum. You may also request one or two faculty members to present a paper. The paper you choose to present may be the one written for this course or a paper you prepared for another course. It is recommended that some aspect of the paper presented could be used for your thesis (e.g., theoretical concept, literature review). The length of the presentation will be 10-15 minutes. Options for this public forum will be discussed in class. The Sociology Forum will be in the winter term. The date will be set by January 23 to allow students to plan.

Honours students are entitled to use the student resource room, Annex 8B . You can arrange to get a room key (and possibly a locker) by meeting with Carla Haley-Baxter.
