

SOC 715

How to Publish a Journal Article

Dr. Krysia Mossakowski

Fall 2018: 12:00 -2:30 pm

Classroom: Grad Lounge

My office: Saunders 215

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Office hours: by e-mail or appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

To be eligible as a student in this course, you must have a draft of a paper that uses a theoretical framework, research method, and has results that will contribute new knowledge. It can be a Master's thesis, chapter of a dissertation, qualifying review paper, or other manuscript that you have written as a sole author. During the semester, you will learn strategies to refine your writing style for an academic audience and ultimately publish in academic journals.

For your professional development, you will first learn how to select the most appropriate journal for your manuscript, and how to write a cover letter. Different course lectures will also focus on preparing each aspect of a journal article including the title, abstract, literature review, data/methods/measures, results, and discussion sections. The feedback that you will receive from me on drafts of each of these sections will emulate what I offer as a reviewer at top-tier American Sociological Association (ASA) journals and you will learn to respond to my feedback as you would during the "Revise & Resubmit" process at a journal. Moreover, you will gain insight into the politics and timeline of publishing in ASA journals and other journals, which will be very useful for your future career as a sociology professor or researcher.

For the second half of the semester, guest speakers will provide you with their articles and their successful strategies for publishing using quantitative and qualitative data. Also, class activities will involve peer reviews and you will become very comfortable with the peer-review process as fellow students in this class will be reading your work and giving you feedback. By the end of this course, you will have a publishable, completed draft of a manuscript that will be ready to be submitted to the journal you have selected.

Student Learning Objective:

- Demonstrate understanding of a sociological theory and be able to apply it to frame a research problem and to present the findings of a research project.

- Demonstrate understanding of a quantitative or qualitative method for conducting sociological research
- Demonstrate ability to analyze research data and to write clearly and effectively for a professional academic audience
- Complete a manuscript for publication in an academic journal

Required Readings:

What you read for this class will be provided on Lualima and in class. Also, the readings will be based on the target journals you select for where you plan to publish your article.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are required. If you cannot attend a class due to illness or a family emergency, please notify me in advance via email to be excused.

Class Policies: During discussions, civility and respect for others are guiding principles in this class. Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH Student Conduct Code:

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.

Safe Environment (Title IX): The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, we have staff and resources on campus to support and assist you and can also direct you to resources in the community.

As a faculty member, I am *required to immediately report* any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

To remain anonymous and speak with someone confidentially, [Mānoa Confidential Resources](#) include: [University Health Services](#) (808) 956-8965, East-West Road; [Counseling](#) (808) 956-7927, QLC 312; [Office of Gender Equity](#) (808) 956-9977, QLC 210; [LGBT Student Services](#) (808) 956-9250, QLC 211; PAU Violence Program (808) 956-8059, QLC 211; [Student Parents at Mānoa](#) (808) 956-8059, QLC 211; and the [Women's Center](#) (808) 956-8059, QLC 211.

To report an incident, contact a [Title IX Coordinator](#) (808) 956-2299, t9uhm@hawaii.edu, Hawai'i Hall 124; [Public Safety](#) (Campus Security) (808) 956-6911; or in an emergency, call 911.

ADA Statement: If you have a disability for which you will need accommodations in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in this course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services. If you do not have an ADA-documented disability, but there is something, which I can do to assist you in the classroom, please speak to me preferably at the beginning of the semester.

Course Assignments:

Assignments involve a 2-step process: for each assignment, a first draft will be handed in for peer review and then your response to the peer review and revisions will be needed to complete the second step of that assignment.

Assignment 1: Ranked list of your target journals (at least 2), 2 or more articles (pdfs) from those journals that are relevant to your research topic and/or method, a written justification for selecting your target journals, the journals' "instructions for authors" document, and a cover letter for the journal at the top of your list

Assignment 2: Data/Methods/Measures Section

Assignment 3: Results Section

Assignment 4: Literature Review, research questions

Assignment 5: Discussion Section

Assignment 6: Title and abstract

Assignment 7: Cover letter, final draft of completed manuscript (word count) and instructions for authors for your target journal.

Grading

10% Assignment 1 due September 11

15% Assignment 2 due October 2

15%	Assignment 3 due October 16
15%	Assignment 4 due October 30
15%	Assignment 5 due November 13
10%	Assignment 6 due November 20
20%	Assignment 7 due December 4 th last day of class
100%	= Total

Grades for the course will be assigned according to the following percentage scale:

A:	93 – 100 %	C:	73 – 76 %
A-:	90 – 92 %	C-:	70 – 72 %
B+:	87 – 89 %	D+:	67 – 69 %
B:	83 – 86 %	D:	60 – 66 %
B-:	80 – 82 %	F:	less than 60 %
C+:	77 – 79 %		

Course Schedule

*This schedule may be subject to change depending on the progress of this class.

August 21 **Class Topic: Do you have a publishable paper idea?**

August 28 **Class Topic: How and why will your findings fill a gap in the literature and be a contribution?**

Reading (my first publication in graduate school): Mossakowski, Krysia. 2003. "Coping with Perceived Discrimination: Does Ethnic Identity Protect Mental Health?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44(3): 318-331.

September 4 **Class Topic: How should you pick target journals and should you care about journal impact factors? What should be in a cover letter?**

Readings: Jacobs, Jerry A. 2011. "Journal Rankings in Sociology: Using the H Index with Google Scholar." Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania, PSC Working Paper Series, PSC 11-05.

“Finding Suitable Academic Journals,” (p 112-127) in Wendy Laura Belcher’s, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

Cover letter examples will be provided in class

September 11

Assignment 1 “Target Journals” and cover letter due today

Class Topic: How to Write a Data/Methods/Measures section

Readings: “Writing Up Evidence in the Social Sciences,” (p 192-193) in Wendy Laura Belcher’s, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

*Please share in class an exemplary article (data, measures, methods section) and it will be posted on Laulima

September 18

Class Topic: Writing for an academic audience and to publish

Reading: Chapter 4 “Editing by Ear.” Pp. 68-89 in Howard S. Becker’s, *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Reading: Chapter 4 “Words and Expressions Commonly Misused.” Pp. 39-65 in William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White’s, *The Elements of Style*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

September 25

Class Topic: Writing, Publishing and the Peer Review Process

Reading: “Giving, Getting, and Using Others’ Feedback,” (p 222 – 231) in Wendy Laura Belcher’s, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

October 2

Class Topic: How to write a results section

Assignment 2 “Data/Methods/Measures Section” due today

Class activity: Peer review of Data, Methods, Measures section

Reading: “Results,” (p 194-195) in Wendy Laura Belcher’s, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

October 9

Class Topic: How to write a literature review, theoretical framework, and research questions

*Please share in class an exemplary article for a theoretical framework and it will be posted on Laulima

October 16

Assignment 3 “Results section” due today

Class Activity: Peer review of results section

October 23

Class Topic: How to write a Discussion section

Reading: “Discussion,” (p 195-196) in Wendy Laura Belcher’s, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

October 30

Assignment 4 “Literature Review section” due today

Class activity: Peer review of literature review section

November 6

Election Day Holiday (No class)

November 13

Assignment 5 “Discussion Section” due today

Class activity: Peer review of discussion section

November 20

Assignment 6 “Title and Abstract” due today

Class activity: Peer review of abstracts and titles

November 27

Class Topic: Responding to Journal Reviewers (R & R process)

Examples of feedback from journal reviewers and author responses will be provided in class

December 4

Class Topic: Academic Careers and “Publish or Perish”

Assignment 7 “Completed Manuscript” due today