

Topics in Sociology: Student Projects
SOC 496, Spring 2016

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Course Description:

“SOC 496 Topics in Sociology: Student Projects (V) Students create their own study group and solicit an advisor from faculty. Consult department for assistance” (University of Hawaii Manoa Course Catalogue 2015-2016).

For current purposes, this is a self-directed research course. Students are to conduct their own research over the semester on a topic of their choice and write a research paper. There are two types of research papers that may be written for this class: a systematic review or an empirical study. A systematic review is a comprehensive examination of the literature surrounding a topic (i.e., a long literature review) while an empirical study analyzes data (this may be qualitative or quantitative in nature).

Research Paper Requirements

For a systematic review paper, you must have: (1) an introduction to the topic and sub-topics; (2) four or more distinct sub-topics; (3) a summary; and (4) a reference list.

For an empirical research paper, you must have: (1) a literature review; (2) one or more research questions that address gaps in the literature; (3) a description of data and analytic methods, (4) a results section; (5) a discussion section focusing on the significance and implications of your findings; and (6) a reference list.

The research paper is expected to be 20-30 pages, double spaced (about 5000+ words).

The research paper should have at least 35 references for a systematic review and 20 references for an empirical study.

Final paper grading is based on the following criteria:

Is the literature review comprehensive?

Is the paper organized and well-written (grammatically)?

Are the arguments clear and follow a fluent logic flow?

Is it formatted in APA or ASA style manuscript (the Purdue website describes the styles)?

Additionally for an empirical paper appropriateness of data and methods and logical interpretation of results will be assessed.

Due Dates:

2/16 Research Topic Due

Please submit (through email) a short write up describing your topic of choice, whether you are doing a systematic review or an empirical study, and a list of 3 references you intend to use. If you are doing an empirical study also briefly describe what data and method you intend to use.

5/5 Research Paper Due

The University of Hawaii Office of Research Compliance

The Office of Research Compliance administers the UH Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that evaluate, approve, and monitor new and continuing research protocols involving human research participants. All research involving human subjects used for publication and requirements for higher degrees should obtain IRB approval before any collection of data.

Website: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/researchcompliance/human-studies>

Kokua Statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me. I would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations. 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.

Academic Honesty:

Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
- b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.
- c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.

The term 'cheating' includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

The term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

(E7.208 University of Hawaii Systemwide Student Conduct Code, July 2009)

eCAFE: "The Department of Sociology is committed to a continual improvement of the quality of its course offerings. To allow for this to occur, your help, as the consumers of these courses is needed. You are there and only you can tell us about your educational experience in your classes. Towards the end of the semester, you will be informed that the eCAFE system is available to you to complete your course evaluation. We encourage you to login to <http://www.hawaii.edu/ecafe/> to submit your evaluations."

*The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus as the semester progresses.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the concepts, theory, and empirical research surrounding your topic of interest.

Locate and identify scholarly sources.

Develop critical thinking in learning how to interpret, relate, and apply scholarly sources.

Demonstrate clear and effective communication skills.

Demonstrate clear, organized, and comprehensive analytic writing.