

DATA 793

MA Thesis Boot Camp

Charles F. Turner, Spring 2022
Tuesdays, 5 to 6 pm in PH-202
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3 to 5pm in office (PH-233F)

All Email should be sent to: Soc793.CFTurner@GMail.com
Website: www.popepi.org

Every student in the MA program in Data Analytics and Applied Social Research is required to write a Master's thesis. The thesis consists of original, independent research by the student, which culminates in a thesis document or research report. The thesis represents the capstone project of the graduate program and utilizes many of the research skills students are expected to master during their course of study. Examples of excellent theses submitted by previous student can be found at: www.PopEpi.org [folder Soc-793].

Any social science topic is fair game for the thesis. However, the thesis is not a dissertation. Rather, it should explore or answer a very focused research question – one that may be examined during the course of one semester or two at most and that may be adequately addressed by available data.

Students develop thesis topics by matching their interests with available data or with data that may be readily collected. Given the nature of the requirement, most students elect to use existing data, rather than to collect their own. A catalog of available public use datasets available for download can be found at: <https://www.qcsociology.org/data-analytics/grad-student-resources/data-for-research/>.

Much of the data used in graduate courses could also be made available for thesis writing. Often theses are developed from term papers completed for courses. To assist MA students in the sometimes daunting process of preparing an MA thesis, the department holds this weekly “Thesis Boot Camp”.

All MA students **must** have a faculty advisor for their thesis. I will serve as advisor for most students in this “Boot Camp” However, if another faculty member has particular expertise about your selected area of research or the methods, you may ask them to serve as your thesis advisor. Your thesis advisor must, however, be a member of the Sociology Department faculty. She or he will have primary responsibility for advising you on your work and will also be responsible for approving and grading your thesis.

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM. The use of other people's work or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is a serious breach of the standards of academic scholarship. Students who engage in such behavior may be given a grade of F, and they may be subject to other disciplinary action. The university's academic integrity policy is published in full at:

<https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/academic-integrity-policy/Academic-Integrity.pdf>

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 31	First meeting and introductions, hand out Task Memo 1 , describe materials on class website
Tuesday, February 7	Updates and troubleshooting 1 st Memo and Tasks; hand out and Discuss 2nd Task Memo
<i>Friday, February 10</i>	<i>1st Memo and Tasks due by email</i>
Tuesday, February 14	Feedback on 1st Task Memo; Updates and troubleshooting 2 nd Task Memo Hand out and Discuss 3rd Task Memo
<i>Friday, February 17</i>	<i>2nd Memo and Tasks due by email</i>
Tuesday, February 21	<i>No Class. CUNY follows Monday schedule.</i>
Tuesday February 28	Feedback on 2 nd Task Memo; Updates and troubleshooting 3 rd Task Memo
<i>Friday, March 3</i>	<i>3rd Memo and Tasks due by email</i>
Tuesday, March 7	Feedback on 3 rd Task Memo Hand out and Discuss 4th Task Memo (Rough Draft Preparation)
Tuesday, March 14	Updates and Troubleshooting 4 th Task Memo
Tuesday, March 21	Discussion of Progress with Thesis Drafts
Tuesday, March 28	Discussion of Progress with Thesis Drafts
Tuesday, April 4	Discussion of Progress with Thesis Drafts
<i>Friday, April 7</i>	<i>First Draft of Thesis Due (See Memo 4)</i> <i>Note: Drafts will be circulated to the group for comment in subsequent weeks</i>
Tuesday, April 11	Feedback on Rough Drafts of Theses
Tuesday, April 18	Feedback on Rough Drafts of Theses
Tuesday, April 25	Class Presentations of Draft Theses #1
Tuesday, May 2	Class Presentations of Draft Theses #2
Tuesday, May 9	Final Questions from Class
<i>Tuesday, May 16</i>	<i>Final Drafts of Thesis Due</i>