

Soc 793

MA Thesis Boot Camp

Charles F. Turner, Spring 2019
Wednesdays, 5-00 to 6-15pm in Sociology Lounge

Email: 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.

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. Various survey data files from ICPSR (<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/>) are available for download, as are numerous public use data files. Much of the data used in graduate courses could also be made available for thesis writing. Often, successful theses have been developed from term papers completed for courses.

Students **must** have a faculty advisor for their thesis. In the ideal situation, your thesis advisor will have expertise either about your selected area of research or the methods you plan to use. Your thesis advisor must be a member of the Sociology Department faculty. She or he will have primary responsibility for advising you on your work. S/He will also be responsible for approving and grading your thesis.

To assist MA students in the sometimes daunting process of preparing an MA thesis, the department holds a weekly "Thesis Boot Camp". Attendance at Boot Camp is not mandatory, but past students have found it helpful in completing their theses on schedule. If you are unsure about attending, please come to the first class or meet with the instructor, Dr. Charles Turner.

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:

web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf

Boot Camp Meeting Dates and Deadlines

Wednesday, January 30	First meeting and introductions, hand out Task Memo 1, describe materials on class website
Wednesday, February 6	Updates and troubleshooting 1 st Memo and Tasks
Wednesday, February 13	Hand out and Discuss 2 nd Memo and Tasks
<i>Friday, February 15</i>	<i>1st Memo and Tasks Due by email</i>
Wednesday, February 20	Feedback on 1st Memo and Tasks Updates and troubleshooting 2 nd Memo and Tasks
<i>Friday, February 22</i>	<i>2nd Memo and Tasks Due by email</i>
Wednesday, February 27	Feedback on 2 nd Memo and Tasks Hand out and Discuss 3 rd Memo and Tasks
Wednesday, March 6	Updates and Troubleshooting 3 rd Memo and Tasks Hand out and Discuss 4 th Memo (Rough Draft Preparation)
<i>Friday, March 8</i>	<i>3rd Memo and Tasks Due by email</i>
Wednesday, March 13	Feedback on 3 rd Memo and Tasks
Wednesday, March 20	Updates and troubleshooting
Wednesday, March 27	Updates and Troubleshooting
Friday, March 29	First Draft of Thesis Due (See Memo 4) <i>Note: Drafts will be circulated to the group for comment in subsequent weeks</i>
Wednesday, April 3	Feedback on Rough Drafts of Theses
Wednesday, April 10	Feedback on Rough Drafts of Theses
Wednesday, April 17	Feedback on Rough Drafts of Theses
<u>April 19 thru April 28</u>	<u>SPRING RECESS</u>
Wednesday, May 1	Class Presentations of Draft Theses #1
Wednesday, May 8	Class Presentations of Draft Theses #2
<i>Wednesday, May 15</i>	<i>Final Drafts of Thesis Due</i>