

SOC 797W: WRITING

Spring 2018

Thursdays 4-6:30 pm

Thompson 919

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TNOaYtqtxbBTTDexZnJRoykG2OkJQUnR>

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appointment

The Writing course helps develop articles, proposals, and other scholarly writing through workshopping a paper across the semester. We will work on each element of your (comps) paper, so that at the end of the semester, you have a complete paper that can be submitted to a journal for possible publication. Our long-term goal is for you to develop your professional writing skills and have a broader understanding of what constitutes professional writing in your corner of Sociology.

We will work sequentially through the sections of a research paper. We will explore the general principles of what to include in each section, as well as reviewing some examples from 1st comps papers defended in our department and subsequently published. You will workshop your paper in class, receiving feedback from your colleagues aimed at helping strengthen your paper. You will also provide feedback to your peers. This will help hone your skills as a good, constructive reviewer.

You should **enter the course with a draft of a paper** that is under 30 double-spaced pages in length. This includes having all of the data collected and coded for the paper you are writing. You should have either already carried out the key analyses of your data, or be in the final process of analyzing your data. If you are using a quantitative dataset, the data should be cleaned, with at the minimum descriptive tables summarizing your measures, and preferably preliminary analytical tables reporting results. If you are using qualitative data, the data should be transcribed and imported into your qualitative software program, fully coded data with preliminary thematic analyses and conceptual memos complete.

In addition to completing a final paper, this workshop will provide an opportunity to examine and reflect on the writing process. Writing does not just report research findings, but is itself a fundamental part of the research process. Academic writing should not be dull and plodding, and if avoidable should be accessible to more than a narrow audience of like-minded scholars. We should all aim to write in ways that are clear, engaging, and creative.

We provide three comp papers by UMass Sociology students that were published while the student was still in graduate school. We urge you to read all three papers early in the semester. They are examples of qualitative, quantitative and comparative historical projects. For specific workshops and to develop your own writing please refer to which ever paper provides the best model for your paper, either in terms of tone, method, or target audience.

Required Readings

Please purchase the following books, or borrow them from the library (both books are on reserve there). You can find the other readings on the course [drive](#).

Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. (any edition). New York: Norton.

Howard Becker. 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists*, 2nd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

REQUIREMENTS

Please note that to earn a strong grade in this course, you need to complete the required readings, attend class, turn in writing assignments, and provide constructive feedback to your classmates as part of the peer-review process. To earn a Master's in the Sociology department, you MUST earn a B+ or above in this course. This means you must be actively engaged in the course.

The elements of the grade for this course include:

Attendance in Class/Discussion of Readings	15%
Comments on Colleagues' Drafts	20%
Abstract (Due February 1)	5%
Literature Review Draft (Due Feb 12)	10%
Methods Draft (Due Feb 26)	5%
Findings Draft (Due March 5 or March 19)	10%
Intro & Conclusions Draft (Due April 2)	5%
Paper Draft (Due April 9 & 16)	10%
Revised Final Draft (Due May 8)	20%

Given that we will be workshopping these in class there is no flexibility in terms of due dates, you will need to have your drafts ready on particular dates. We will give full points to everyone who submits an Abstract, Literature Review, Methods, Findings, and Intro & Conclusions drafts, as well as the Paper Drafts due April 9 and 16. We will, however, assign grades for attendance/discussion of reading, comments on colleagues' drafts, and the revised final draft. As you will notice, the final draft of the paper is worth the same amount as your comments on your colleagues' drafts. This is because we view learning to review others' research in constructive and helpful ways as equally important to the development of your own writing (as well as collegiality).

Feel free to use marginal notes in your text across the semester to remind yourself and others of work still to be done and to ask for help from readers. After we workshop sections of your paper you should rewrite and resubmit to the instructors for further feedback.

SCHEDULE

<p>January 25</p> <p><i>Writing as a Craft/ Writing as Risk</i></p>	<p>Anne Lamott. 1994. <i>Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life</i>. NY. (1-12)</p> <p>Howard Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, Chapter 1, 2 & 6</p> <p>Adam Przeworki and Frank Salomon. "Some Candid Suggestions on the Art of Writing Proposals."</p> <p>Bring copies of your title and research question(s) and be prepared to give a short description of your goals for your paper.</p>
<p>February 1</p> <p><i>Abstracts</i></p>	<p>Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein, <i>They Say, I Say</i>, Introduction, Ch 9</p> <p>Paul Silvia. 2007. <i>How to Write a Lot</i>. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, Ch 2, 3, 6.</p> <p>Peter Elbow. 1981. "Power in Writing." <i>Writing with Power</i>. New York: Oxford.</p> <p>Bring copies of your draft Abstract to class</p>
<p>February 8</p> <p><i>Literature Reviews</i></p>	<p>Howard Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i>, Chapter 8</p> <p>Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein, <i>They Say, I Say</i>, Chapters 1-3</p> <p>Read literature review for:</p> <p>Dustin Avent Holt. 2012. "The Political Dynamics of Market Organization." <i>Sociological Theory</i>. 30(4): 283-302.</p> <p>Chris Smith. 2014. "The Influence of Gentrification on Gang Homicides in Chicago Neighborhoods, 1994 to 2005." <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 60(4): 569-591.</p> <p>Sharla Alegria. 2014. "Constructing Racial Difference through Group Talk." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 37(2): 241-260.</p> <p>Be Prepared to discuss the structure of the reviews</p> <p>Literature Review Due Monday, February 12, 4 pm</p>
<p>February 15</p> <p><i>Literature Reviews</i></p>	<p>Workshopping Lit Reviews</p> <p>Read literature review for all class members</p> <p>Bring written comments for one assigned peer</p>
<p>February 22</p> <p><i>Methods Sections</i></p>	<p>No Class/Eastern Sociological Society</p> <p>Read methods and findings section for:</p> <p>Dustin Avent Holt. 2012. "The Political Dynamics of Market Organization." <i>Sociological Theory</i>. 30(4): 283-302.</p> <p>Chris Smith. 2014. "The Influence of Gentrification on Gang Homicides in Chicago Neighborhoods, 1994 to 2005." <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 60(4): 569-591.</p> <p>Sharla Alegria. 2014. "Constructing Racial Difference through Group Talk." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 37(2): 241-260.</p>

	<p><i>Methods Sections</i></p> <p>Methods Section Due Monday Feb 26, 4 pm</p>
<p>March 1</p> <p><i>Workshopping Methods sections</i></p>	<p>Read all peer methods sections Bring written comments for one assigned peer</p> <p>Selected Findings Section Due Monday, March 5 4 pm</p>
<p>March 8</p> <p><i>Workshopping Findings sections</i></p>	<p>Read findings section for one of the following: Dustin Avent Holt. 2012. "The Political Dynamics of Market Organization." <i>Sociological Theory</i>. 30(4): 283-302. Chris Smith. 2014. "The Influence of Gentrification on Gang Homicides in Chicago Neighborhoods, 1994 to 2005." <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 60(4): 569-591. Sharla Alegria. 2014. "Constructing Racial Difference through Group Talk." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 37(2): 241-260.</p> <p>Read all peer findings sections Bring written comments for one assigned peer</p>
<p>March 15</p>	<p>No Class – Spring Break!</p> <p>Selected Findings Section Due Monday, March 19 4 pm</p>
<p>March 22</p> <p><i>Workshopping Findings sections</i></p>	<p>Read all peer findings sections Bring written comments for one assigned peer</p>
<p>March 29</p> <p><i>Framing</i></p>	<p>Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein, <i>They Say, I Say</i>, Chapters 4-8 Howard Becker. 1998. <i>Tricks of the Trade</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch 4</p> <p>Read entire paper for one of the following: Dustin Avent Holt. 2012. "The Political Dynamics of Market Organization." <i>Sociological Theory</i>. 30(4): 283-302. Chris Smith. 2014. "The Influence of Gentrification on Gang Homicides in Chicago Neighborhoods, 1994 to 2005." <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 60(4): 569-591. Sharla Alegria. 2014. "Constructing Racial Difference through Group Talk." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 37(2): 241-260.</p> <p>Intro/ Conclusions Due Monday, April 2, 4 pm</p>

April 5 <i>Workshopping Intros & Conclusions</i>	Read all peer intro/conclusions sections Bring written comments for one assigned peer Paper Due Monday, April 9, 4 pm
April 12 <i>Workshopping papers</i>	Howard Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i> , Chapter 4 & 5 Bring written comments for one assigned peer Revised Draft Paper Due Monday, April 16, 4 pm
April 19 <i>Workshopping papers</i>	Bring written comments for one assigned peer
April 26	Howard Becker, <i>Writing for Social Scientists</i> , Chapter 7 Celebratory Dinner
May 8	Final Paper Due – No extensions