SOCY7761.01: Second Year Graduate Writing Seminar
Academic Year 2015-2016

Alternate Tuesdays, 7:45 am – 10:15 am, McGuinn 415 (Fall)
Spring TBD

Professor: Sara Moorman
Office: 404 McGuinn Hall
Office hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 pm; Fridays 9:00-10:00 am
E-mail: moormans@bc.edu

About the Course
Being able to write and publish an empirical journal article in Sociology requires a unique set of skills. You haven’t acquired them yet, no matter how well you write in other formats. (You wouldn’t necessarily expect a noted playwright to be able to produce good poetry, would you?) Fortunately the journal article format is technical, organized, and formulaic—and thus learnable, given sufficient practice and feedback. The mandate of this course is to provide you with what is for most of you your first experience with that practice and feedback. You’ll produce a complete draft of an empirical journal article by May, which many of you will use to fulfill the MA thesis or paper requirement.

Fall Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>The Library and its Manifold Resources</td>
<td>1) Lambert chapters 1, 9, and 11&lt;br&gt;2) Belcher pp. 48-53</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>Organizing Data</td>
<td>1) Chapter 33 by MacLean et al. (in Streiner &amp; Sidani)&lt;br&gt;2) Chapter 37 by MacLean et al. (in Streiner &amp; Sidani)&lt;br&gt;3) Luker chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Resources</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2) Lambert chapter 5</td>
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<td>3) Sternberg chapter 11</td>
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<td>4) Belcher 54-57</td>
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<td>October 27</td>
<td>Writing the Introduction Section</td>
<td>1) Mitchell, Jolley, &amp; O’Shea chapter 5</td>
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<td>2) Belcher 69-end</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>1) Warren (in Sternberg)</td>
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<td>2) Shatz chapter 3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3) George &amp; Woodward (in Shatz)</td>
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| November 24| Writing the Methods Section                 | 1) https://us.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/14649_Chapter5.pdf  
|            |                                            | 2) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2987281/                   |
| December 8 | Writing a Curriculum Vitae                  | 1) http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/creatingmaintaining-your-cv/26887  
|            |                                            | 2) http://chronicle.com/article/The-Rhetoric-of-the-CV/131404/             |

**Potential Topics for Spring (suggestions welcome!)**
- Writing the results section
- Making tables and figures
- Writing the discussion section
- Defenses
- Conference presentations
- Question-answer sessions following a defense or presentation

**Assessment**

**Grading scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
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Your grade is based on attendance, participation, and assignment submission.
- Attendance: You are allowed to miss one class session per semester with no grade penalty. After that, you will be penalized a half-grade per class missed (i.e., 0-2 misses = A, 3 misses = A-, 4 misses = B+, etc.).
- Participation: The meat of this course involves discussing the reading, doing in-class activities and exercises, and workshopping one another’s work. If you sit on the sidelines,
that hurts everyone’s experience. I don’t expect problems in this arena, so assume you’re doing A work unless I notify you otherwise.

- Assignment submission: This class is about practice, so I’m going to give feedback on your work but I’m not going to grade it. Your job is to submit complete assignments on time. This bar is really low, so you get one late or incomplete assignment for the entire year and then you’ll be penalized a half-grade for each subsequent assignment that is late or incomplete (i.e., 0-1 late or incomplete = A, 2 late or incomplete = A-, 3 late or incomplete = B+, etc.).

**Dates To Keep In Mind:**

- October 31, 2015: Deadline for submission to the 2016 meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society
- January 13, 2016: Professor’s birthday
- ~January 15, 2016: Deadline for submission to the 2016 meeting of the American Sociological Association
- March 17-21, 2016: Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston MA
- April 1, 2016: Deadline for having defended and submitted a thesis/paper for a spring master’s degree
- August 1, 2016: Deadline for having defended and submitted a thesis/paper for a summer master’s degree
- August 20-23, 2016: Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle WA
- September 30, 2016: Deadline for 2nd years in the PhD program to have defended an MA thesis such that they are eligible for continued funding in Spring 2017

**Academic Honesty**

Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and other academic offenses will result in (a) automatic failure of the assignment, and (b) a report to the Dean and the Committee on Academic Integrity. For further information, please review BC’s policies on academic integrity at: www.bc.edu/integrity

**Accommodations**

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.