

SOC 700: Introductory Proseminar for Graduate Students

Tuesdays 4:00-6:00

Fall 2021

Prof. Monica Grant

4458 Sewell Social Science Bldg

grantm@ssc.wisc.edu

Office hours: Mondays 1-2pm, Thursdays 10-11 am and by appointment

Via Zoom: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/9183285860>

This course is designed to reveal the “hidden curriculum” of academia and provide you with a set of resources to help you succeed in graduate school. The schedule of guest speakers and panels will provide the opportunity to meet a range of faculty and advanced graduate students, become familiar with the processes and practices of our department, and learn more about the discipline. There is no one way to be a sociologist; this proseminar will expose you to different perspectives and approaches to our field and help you start to think about what professional identities you want to cultivate during your time at Wisconsin.

Schedule of class sessions

	4:00-5:00	5:00-6:00
Week 1 Sept 13	Introductions/Why are you in graduate school?	How to get situated?
Week 2 Sept 20	Creating your intellectual community at UW Emma Romell, So Yun Park, Alex Mikulas	Finding a team of mentors Christine Schwartz, Jason Robey, Molly Clark-Barol
Week 3 Sept 27	Funding mechanisms within the department Mike Bell, Joe Conti, and Katherine Curtis	Applying for external grants and fellowships Julia Thomas, Kurt Kuhne, Nona Gronert
Week 4 Oct 4	Masters thesis Needs one qual, one quant, one waiver	Prelims Anna Milewski + 2 tbd
Week 5 Oct 11	Managing time and responsibilities Kelly Ward and Jenna Nobles	Staff resources Tina Hunter and Janet Clear
Week 6 Oct 18	Getting started with research Max Besbris and Fabien Accominotti	Subjectivity and Research Mosi Ifetunji and Eunsil Oh
Week 7 Oct 25	SGSA Culture and Climate Committee	SGSA Mental Health and Well-being
Week 8 Nov 1	Publications part 1 – Narrowing down a topic for publication Jason Fletcher and Katie Jensen	Publications part 2 – How does the peer review process work? Felix Elwert + Eric Grodsky
Week 9 Nov 8	Research Ethics Laura Conger, UW Institutional Review Board (Zoom)	Diversity in the Academy (Zoom) Sarah Rios, Michal Engelman
Week 10 Nov 15	Literature reviews, citations, and citation managers Tom Durkin, social science reference librarian (Zoom)	
Week 11	Fieldwork	Navigating co-authorship

Nov 22	tbd	tbd
Week 12 Nov 29	Thinking of yourself as a writer Writing Center (Abigail Letak)	
Week 13 Dec 6	Building an academic CV no guest	Individual development plans Eileen Callahan, Director of Professional Development, Graduate School (tbd)
Week 14 Dec 13	Networking/professional communities Jen Dykema	Public sociology Nan Ensted

Requirements

You are expected to attend and engage with all sessions. For many class sessions, this will take the form of interaction with the guest panel. For some sessions, however, you will be expected to participate in planned activities.

Assigned Readings

All readings for this course are posted on Canvas (canvas.wisc.edu). In almost all weeks, these are recommended readings; you are not required to complete these readings before class. However, I suggest that you hold on to these readings for your future reference. I also strongly recommend that you add the following books to your library.

Becker, Howard. 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*
 Billig, Michael. 2013. *Learn to Write Badly: How to Succeed in the Social Sciences*
 Calarco, Jessica McCrory. 2020.
 Rockquemore, Kerry Anne *The Black Academic's Guide to Winning Tenure without Losing your Soul*
 Rojas, Fabio. 2011. *Grad Skool Rulz* (\$4.44 download)
 Silvia, Paul *How to Write a LOT*
 Silvia, Paul. 2014. *Write it Up: Practical Strategies for Writing and Publishing Journal Articles*

Detailed Schedule

Week 1: Introductions/Why are you in graduate school/Finding your intellectual community at UW

Suggested readings:

Jessica Calarco. 2018. "Grad school's hidden curriculum"
 Pam Oliver. 1997. "Hoops and hurdles"
 Victoria Reyes. 2017. "10 Tips for Thriving, not just Surviving, Graduate School"
 Rojas. Grad Skool Rulz. Chapters 3-5
 Karra Shimabujuro. 2016+. "How to Prep for Grad School If You're Poor"
 Tressie McMillan Cottom. "Professor Cottom's Graduate School Guidance"
 Tanya Golash-Boza. "Succeed in Graduate School and Have a Life Too"

Suggested exercise:

Identify and attend a brown bag. Even better, attend 2 or 3 brown bags and try to get a feel for which intellectual communities feel like the best fit for your interests. Some brown bags are more formal and

focus on presentations by faculty and outside speakers (e.g. DemSem, the CDE brown bag), while others are more oriented toward presentations of student work in progress (e.g. FemSem, the gender brown bag, or the SECD brown bag).

Week 2: Intellectual community/Mentoring

Suggested readings:

Zavattaro and Orr (eds.). 2017. "Graduate School: Reflecting on Everything from Choosing to Finishing"
Rojas. *Grad Skool Rulz*. Chapters 12-13, 20-21

Suggested exercise:

Make virtual appointments with two faculty. Reach out to people whose research is interesting to you and who might be a potential member of your masters thesis committee.

Week 3: Funding mechanisms within the department/Applying for external grants and fellowships

Suggested readings:

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program FAQs
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship FAQs

Suggested exercise:

Investigate your eligibility for pre-doctoral grants and fellowships. If you are eligible for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, decide whether you will apply this year or next year. If you plan to apply this year, start working on your essays! If you are eligible for a Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship, start working on your essays. I am happy to provide feedback on your essays for the application.

Week 4: Masters thesis/prelims

Suggested reading:

Rojas. *Grad Skool Rulz*. Ch. 10

Suggested exercise:

If you wrote a masters thesis at another institution, start the conversation with your first year advisor about whether you should get a masters thesis waiver. If you need to write a masters thesis, set aside time this week to brainstorm ideas for your masters thesis and start talking to your first year advisor about what you need to do in order to get this project started. Everyone should review the list of prelims offered by the Sociology PhD program and start strategizing about which exams you are interested in taking and what timeline makes sense for you.

Week 5: Managing time and responsibilities/Staff resources

Suggested reading:

Silva. *How to Write A LOT*

Suggested exercise:

Identify three small changes that you can make to your weekly routine that will improve your time management.

Week 6: Getting started with research/Subjectivity and research

Suggested readings:

Raul Pacheco-Vega. "Developing Research Questions"
Sprague. "The Field of Vision"
Desmond "About this Project" *Evicted*
Bonilla-Silva. Chapter from *White Logic, White Methods*

Week 7: Culture and climate/Mental health in graduate school

Suggested reading:

Evans et al. 2018. "Evidence for a mental health crisis in graduate education."
Katie Shives. 2016. "5 Tested Tips to Battle Burnout with Better Self-Care"
Academic Mental Health Collective. 2016. "Self-care for the PhD student"
Grace Cale. 2015. "An Important Caveat About Self-Care for Academics"
Zavattaro and Orr (eds). 2017. "Surviving and Thriving in Academic: Obtaining Balance, Health, and Clarity"

Required exercise:

Build time into your week to take care of yourself. Go for a run. Play video games. Nap. Cook an elaborate meal. Go for a walk on the Lakeshore Path. Meditate. Go out for donuts with friends. Dedicate this time to finding time to relax and recharge.

Week 8: Publications parts 1 and 2

Suggested readings:

Bartkowski, Deem, and Ellison. 2016. "Publishing in academic journals: strategic advice for doctoral students and academic mentors." *The American Sociologist*. 46(1): 99-115.
Badenhorst, Cecile and Xiaolin Xu 2016 "Academic Publishing: Making the Implicit Explicit"
Karen Cerulo. 2016. "Why Do We Publish?" *The American Sociologist*. 47(2-3): 151-157.
Clemens, Elizabeth, Walter W. Powell, Kris McIlwaine and Dina Okamoto, 1995. "Careers in Print: Books, Journals and Scholarly Reputations." *American Journal of Sociology*, 101(2): 433-494.
Rojas. *Grad Skool Rulz*. Ch. 26-28
Martin & Risman, "Preparing a paper" and G&S "article preparation guidelines"
Uggen and Eliason "preparing for peer review"
LaRossa, Ralph 2012 "Writing and Reviewing Manuscripts in the Multidimensional World of Qualitative Research" *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74 (August): 643 – 659
Raewyn Connell. 2015. *Writing for Research: Advice on Principles and Practice*
Lynn White. 2005. "Writes of Passage: Writing an Empirical Journal Article." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 67(4): 791-798

Suggested exercise:

What does a journal article in your area of research look like? Skim the recent tables of contents of the *American Sociological Review* or the *American Journal of Sociology* and find an article that uses the type of methodology that you plan to use. How is the article structured? What sections does the article have? How much space is devoted to each section? What does each section accomplish?

Week 9: Research ethics/Diversity in the academy

Suggested readings:

Barbara Dennis. 2009. "What does it mean when an ethnographer intervenes?" *Ethnography and Education*.

Vindu Goel. 2014. "As data overflows online, researchers grapple with ethics." *NY Times*

Judith Taylor and Matthew Patterson. 2010. "Autonomy and compliance: How qualitative sociologists respond to institutional ethical oversight." *Qualitative Sociology*

Mitch Smith. 2012. "Author provides inside look at IRBs" *Inside Higher Ed* (Q&A with Laura Stark, author of *Behind Closed Doors: IRBs and the Making of Ethical Research*)

Mary Ann Mason, Nicholas Wolfinger, and Marc Goulden. "The Graduate School Years: New Demographics, Old Thinking" In: *Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower*

Stephanie Shields. "Waking up to Privilege: Intersectionality and Opportunity." In: Gabriella Gutierrez y Muhs, Yolanda Flores Niemann, Carmen G. Gonzalez, and Angela P. Harris (Eds.) *Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia*

Serena Easton. "On Being Special" In: *Presumed Incompetent*

Constance G. Anthony. "The Port Hueneme of My Mind: The Geography of Working-Class Consciousness in One Academic Career" In: *Presumed Incompetent*

Suggested exercise:

Complete the CITI Human Subjects Research Training (<https://kb.wisc.edu/gradsch/page.php?id=32559>)

You must complete the online training and be certified before you can submit an application to the IRB or conduct research at the university. I *strongly* encourage you to do this now and not postpone your certification.

Week 10: Literature reviews, citations, and citation managers

Suggested readings:

<https://socopen.org/2016/07/09/announcing-the-development-of-socarxiv-an-open-social-science-archive/>

Jerry Jacobs. 2016. "Journal Rankings in Sociology: Using the H Index with Google Scholar." *The American Sociologist*. pp. 192-224.

Tanya Golash-Boza. 2011 "Writing a Literature Review: Six Steps to Get You from Start to Finish"

Suggested exercise:

Use Web of Science to construct a "network" around one journal article in your subarea however you choose to define it. Who cites this and whose work did it cite? how broadly or narrowly across journals and books does this area spread – interdisciplinary or not? Use forward and backward searching, and the "related references" function of WoS to construct your picture of the network in which your article (and maybe your own work) fits.

Week 11: To be determined

Week 12: Thinking of yourself as a writer

Suggested readings:

Week 13: Building an academic CV/Individual development plans

****Required reading:* Before you come to class, look at the CVs of past UW graduates that are posted in Canvas

<https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/individual-development-plan/>

Suggested reading:

Zavattaro and Orr (eds.). 2017. "Developing a Research Agenda: Your Bread and Butter"

Week 14: Public sociology/Networking and professional communities

Suggested readings:

Rojas. *Grad Skool Rulz*. Ch. 31-32, 34, 38, 41

Michael Buroway. 2004. "Presidential Address: For Public Sociology"

Joe Feagin, Sean Elias, and Jennifer Mueller. 2009. "Social Justice and Critical Public Sociology"

Rojas. *Grad Skool Rulz*. Ch. 29