

Sociology 575A - Research Practicum
Fall 2000
Professor David Hachen

Practicum Meetings: Tuesday from 1 -3 in 725 Flanner.

Communication:

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Office Hours: 1-2:30 on Thursdays in 747 Flanner or by appointment.

Practicum Objectives: The purpose of this practicum is to help students plan and conduct their research for their Masters' Thesis. The first part of the semester will be devoted to helping students formulate and write a research proposal, while the second half will provide a forum through which students can receive feedback on their research. The practicum will continue in the Spring as a one hour weekly session during which students can discuss problems and receive feedback on their progress.

Practicum Organization and Readings: During the first half of the semester (up until the Fall break) you will work on developing a research proposal for your Master's Thesis. We will use as a guide *Proposals That Work, 4th Edition* by Locke, Sprirduso and Silverman (2000, Thousand Oaks: Sage), which can be purchased through the bookstore. Each week you will be assigned specific pages from this book and asked to do a short assignment related to the reading. Practicum sessions will be devoted to sharing your assignments and discussing issues that are presented in the readings. These assignments will then be revised and used to write a draft of a research proposal which is due before the Fall break. The five sessions after the break will be devoted to student presentations of research progress reports, giving participants an opportunity to receive feedback from me and other students.

Practicum Requirements: Because this is a hands-on course students are required to actively participate in the practicum. There will be no examinations or research papers required. Instead students are required to:

1. Attend and participate in practicum sessions.
2. Complete weekly assignments during weeks 1-8.
3. Write a draft of a research proposal and then revise it into a final proposal.
4. Provide feedback to other students on their research proposals.
5. Present an oral progress report during one of the classes in the last five weeks

Seeing that this course is pass/fail I will not grade your work. Instead I see my role as one of providing feedback on your work. However, I will ask you to revise and resubmit assignments and/or the proposal if I feel they are incomplete and need more work.

Course Schedule

DATE	TO READ	TO DO
Week 1 - Introduction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In class: Describe your study
Week 2 - Clarifying Your Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1 (skim) and Chapter 3 in <i>Proposals</i>. Look over Figure 3.1 on pp. 52-3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate your research problem, question and purpose using information in Table 3.1., p. 47 (see also discussion on pp. 8-11) Answer Question A in Figure 3.1
Week 3 - Hypotheses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4 ("Elements of Research Design") in Singleton, Straits and Straits' <i>Approaches to Social Research, 2nd Edition</i>. Copies will be made available for photocopying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate hypotheses (or research questions) after clarifying units of analysis, independent, dependent and confounding (control) variables, and relationships.
Week 4 - Qualitative Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 in <i>Proposals</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those planning to do qualitative work discuss questions/issues pp. 102-105 (especially # 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13) For those planning to do quantitative work revise hypotheses Work on literature review
Week 5 - Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 in <i>Proposals</i> Read ASA Code of Ethics (www.asanet.org/members/ecoderev.html) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List potential ethical problems in your research Revise hypotheses and research questions Work on literature review
Week 6 - Literature Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4 in <i>Proposals</i> (see also pp. 17-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created annotated bibliography of 5-10 most relevant works Discuss gap (theoretical, empirical, methodological) in literature (see Questions B & D in Figure 3.1)

<p>Week 7 - Research Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pp. 19-22 and 79-82 in <i>Proposals</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer Questions 1-6, p. 20 • Answer questions F, G, H, and I in Figure 3.1 • Construct Table or Figure of Hypothetical Results and write description of how you will generate results for the table or figure
<p>Week 8 - Writing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 in <i>Proposals</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of proposal due