

<b>DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:</b>	
<b>SO 4690 SENIOR THESIS SEMINAR</b> (Updated Spring 2015)	
<b>UK LEVEL: 6</b>  <b>UK CREDITS: 15</b> <b>US CREDITS: 3/0/3</b>	
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	SO 1000 LE Introduction to Sociology SO 1001 LE Sociology of Modern Life SO 3260 Classical Sociological Theory SO 3411 Quantitative Methods in Sociology SO 3416 Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology SO 4461 Contemporary Sociological Theory
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	Capstone course which integrates key theoretical and methodological traditions in order to offer the advanced sociology student a range of choices of important questions and ways to answer them. Techniques for answering the research questions are selected on the basis of the research question. The course offers practical experience towards the designing and carrying out of a research project, presented in the form of a dissertation.
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	An opportunity to experience first-hand what it means to do sociological research. Students will formulate a research problem, design a research strategy, collect evidence, and write up their findings and analysis.
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	As a result of taking this course, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine a selected sociological problem in an independent manner.</li> <li>2. Relate their work to existing theory and research.</li> <li>3. Choose a research design appropriate to their original question</li> <li>4. Demonstrate their ability to gather information from appropriate sources, including undertaking original empirical research, and apply this information to the topic of study.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate their understanding of the distinctive nature of sociological knowledge.</li> <li>6. Organize and present their work in a clear and coherent manner using communication aids (Ppt. slides, posters, handouts etc.)</li> </ol>
<b>METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:</b>	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Classes consist of discussions of how to design a senior thesis research project, the literature review, methodological approaches, ethical concerns, writing strategies and style, strategies for organizing empirical evidence.</li> <li>➤ Individual consultations during office hours (students sign up in advance for individual meetings)</li> <li>➤ Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources</li> </ul>

<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="613 79 1356 178"> <tr> <td>A Research dissertation of 7000 words– <b>summative</b></td><td><b>90</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Oral presentation - <b>summative</b></td><td><b>10</b></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="613 235 1356 436"> <tr> <td><b>Formative:</b> Five ‘diagnostic’ assignments</td><td><b>0</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Formulation of the research question, literature review, choice of a research design, data analysis, writing strategies and style</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>The Research dissertation tests learning outcomes 1,2,3,4,5.</p> <p>The Oral presentation tests learning outcomes 5 and 6.</p> <p>The formative assignments test learning outcomes 1,2,3,4.</p>	A Research dissertation of 7000 words– <b>summative</b>	<b>90</b>	Oral presentation - <b>summative</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Formative:</b> Five ‘diagnostic’ assignments	<b>0</b>	Formulation of the research question, literature review, choice of a research design, data analysis, writing strategies and style	
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Formulation of the research question, literature review, choice of a research design, data analysis, writing strategies and style									
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>Required material:</b></p> <p>Booth, Wayne C. Gregory Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, 2008. <i>The Craft of Research</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press) CORE TEXT</p> <p>Strunk, William Jr., 2000. <i>The Elements of Style</i> (4th ed.) (New York: Macmillan)</p> <p>Turabian, Kate L.,1996. <i>A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations</i> (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press)</p> <p><b>Recommended material:</b></p> <p>Alford, Robert, 1998. <i>The Craft of Inquiry: Theories, Methods, Evidence</i>. (New York: Oxford University Press)</p> <p>Andrews, Richard. 2003. <i>Research Questions</i> (London: Continuum)</p> <p>Maxwell, Joseph A. 2005. <i>Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach</i> (London: Sage) (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)</p>								
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p><b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> N/A</p>								
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Verbal skills using academic / professional English.								
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Word, Powerpoint								
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>									

**INDICATIVE CONTENT:**

1. From Topics to Questions
2. From Questions to a Problem
3. Engaging Sources
4. From Problems to Sources
5. Methods
6. Assembling reasons and Evidence
7. Planning, Drafting and Revising
8. Writing strategies and style

\*adapted from the chapter outline of Booth, Wayne C. Gregory Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, 2008. *The Craft of Research* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press)