

**SOC 3510/3520 SENIOR THESIS I/II**  
(2010-11)

18.12.2009

**Course Description**

Students are to plan and conduct research on an approved topic for writing a thesis under close supervision of a faculty member whose consent is required.

These courses (3 units each) will be offered to sociology major students of final year. Senior Thesis I is to be taken in Term 1 and Senior Thesis II in Term 2. Interested students should approach their prospective teacher in the second term of 2009-10 if they intend to take this course in 2010-11.

**Objectives**

1. To provide an opportunity for students to consolidate their understanding of sociology through the focused study of a selected topic under individualized guidance and supervision
2. To enhance students' ability of conducting small-scale independent research or secondary analysis, interpreting data in the context of a research problem, and reporting the results in a professionally adequate manner
3. To strengthen the preparation of those students who are more inclined to undertake post-graduate studies or who anticipate the application of research skills in their future work

**Information for Students**

1. **Prerequisite:** Average GPA of **sociology courses** during the past terms (before 2nd term of 2009-10) must be **3.30** or above.
2. **Research Interest of Teacher:** The applicant must obtain consent from a teacher to be his/her supervisor. Before doing so, the applicant should make sure that his/her research topic falls within the research interests of the teacher. Such information is contained in the Department's Handbook.
3. **Research Proposal:** A brief research proposal (about 500 words in length) should be submitted to the prospective supervisor for the latter's consideration. The proposal should state the study's a) objectives, b) significance, and c) methodology.
4. **Application and Deadline:** Interested students may obtain an application form from the Department General Office. While the applicant ought to contact his/her prospective supervisor anytime (the earlier the better) during the second term of 2009-10, the completed application with the research proposal must be returned to the General Office before the last teaching day (in April) of the second term.
5. **Confirmation of Acceptance:** Confirmation of acceptance will be announced by the Department's Undergraduate Studies Committee around the middle of May.
6. **Summer Work:** If accepted, students should consult with their supervisor concerning preparatory work in the summer.
7. **Assessment of Performance in Senior Thesis I:** A substantial paper (like a regular term paper) reviewing the literature relating to the thesis topic is required for Senior Thesis I. The student has the option of exiting after Senior Thesis I or continuing with Senior Thesis II. If the latter is opted, the literature review paper can be modified to become part of the thesis that the student will write for Senior Thesis II.
8. **Length of Thesis:** The completed thesis should be in the average of **10,000-20,000 words** in length (in either English or Chinese), not counting notes and references. An abstract of about 200 words will also be required at the beginning of the text.
9. **Criteria for Evaluation of Thesis:** The thesis will be evaluated mainly according to adequacy of a) formulation of the research problem, b) methodology, c) interpretation of data in the context of the research problem, and d) presentation format (e.g., title page, in-text citation, tables, endnotes, references, etc.).
10. **Second Thesis Reader:** Each thesis will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader assigned by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.