The purpose of this Independent Study course is for you to draw on your previous Research Methods class to formulate a research proposal that you will execute in the Capstone class in Fall, 2018.

By the end of this course you will have:

1) Created a feasible research question;
2) Reviewed the appropriate literature that informs your research question;
3) Selected research methods appropriate to your question;
4) Demonstrated a basic understanding of how you will analyze your data and
5) Documented both your intext citations and your References listing using appropriate ASA format.

Readings: you should refer to your course research methods text, your SOC 350 Social Theory text, additional methods texts that might be available, your SSC 252 Data Analysis text and related readings posted to our course D2L page. You will also need to obtain print or electronic copy of the ASA Style Guide, 5th edition (available from SOCJ Administrative Assistant Ms. Pitman).

Examples of strong past Capstone proposals and projects will be posted to the course D2L page.

Course requirements:

Class preparation and participation 10%

Preliminary proposal 5%

10 Journal articles listing, ASA format 10%

Draft literature review submissions 20%

Draft research design 20%

Final proposal 35%

Tentative Course Outline

Jan 23 Discussion of course and brainstorming on possible proposal
30
Submit and discuss **preliminary proposal**. Searching for journal articles; identification of 2 articles for next week

Feb 6
Review and discussion of journal articles. Read 2 journal articles related to your topic, for your literature review, completing study questions to guide your reading.

Read Neuman, pp. 96-106

13
Identify 8 more journal articles for your proposal. Cite them in ASA format. Begin writing literature review and bring several pages for review and discussion. Continue to work on literature review

20
Consult on lit review

27
**Submit draft research design.** See guidelines. Discuss next steps on final proposal

Mar 3-11  **Spring Break…. No Classes**

Mar 13  **Submit draft literature review**

Mar 20  Discussion of lit review and research design revisions

**Target date for final proposal:**  end of March