

## Gualtieri Research Paper Guidelines

### Research Paper

In 15-20 double spaced, size 12 font, 1-inch margins pages, present your final research proposal/paper. Your paper should include:

A title

An abstract of 100-150 words that summarizes the project

An introduction of 1-2 pages that includes (1) a hook, (2) your research question, (3) the justification of your research question (why does it matter and what does it tell us about sociology), and (4) a map for the rest of the paper's argument

A Case History section of 1-3 pages that answers (1) what is your site or case? (2) Why do we care about your site or case? (3) What do we already know in the scholarship about your site or case? (4) What does your reader need to understand about the case to follow the argument you intend to make?

A Theory and Literature Review section of 4-8 pages that explains the theoretical framework you are using to answer your research question. You will need to identify 1-2 texts from class, explain the major argument of each text and how it is relevant to your case and research question. You may also want to draw on some of the texts you read for the annotated bibliography that speak to the theoretical texts you draw on. You should organize these sources into theoretical and analytical themes. For each theme, you must present (1) the major arguments of the theme/sources in mass (I do not want to know each source's argument but rather the overarching argument common within the theme), (2) what these arguments tell us about your particular case, (3) hypotheses or expectations deriving from that logic and (4) justification and explanation of those hypotheses.

A Methods section of 2-3 pages that answers (1) what method are you using to answer your question? (2) why is this the appropriate method? (3) what is your sample? How did you draw this sample? (4) what is your data source? how did you get access to this data? where is it located? (5) what are your specific tools of data collection (if you are conducting interviews, what questions will you ask in which order; if you are using a survey, what is the survey instrument?)? Justify and explain the logic of these tools--why these questions in this order? and (7) How do you plan to analyze the data?

A findings section of 5-8 pages that articulates the themes you found in the data and connects these themes to the theoretical framework that you articulate. I want to encourage you to organize these findings into themes/subheadings. For each subheading, articulate (1) the description of the finding; (2) evidence to support the finding; (3) how the finding contributes to the theoretical framework you articulate (what does the descriptive finding mean and why does it matter sociologically?)

A Conclusion of 1-3 pages that presents (1) a summary of your findings, (2) potential limitations of the research, (3) directions for future research, and (4) the theoretical contribution and or broader impacts of your project (the so what? of the project)

A works cited page in American Sociological Association format