

**Political Science 191A**  
**Senior Honors Seminar**  
Fall 2013  
Wednesdays 12:00-2:50 pm, SSB 104

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**Description.** The two-quarter Senior Honors Seminar provides majors with an opportunity to design and carry out a research project on a topic of their choice, to work closely with individual members of the Political Science faculty, to write an honors thesis, and to graduate with honors in Political Science. Professors Erie and Mares will coordinate class meetings; all other members of the Political Science faculty who are not on leave participate as advisors to students in the program. The Senior Honors Seminar will meet in both the Fall and Winter Quarters.

The purpose of the seminar meetings each week is to help students carry out their research. Class time will be devoted primarily to 1) discussion about choosing research topics and about research design; and 2) student presentations and critiques as specified in the assignments. You should be prepared to present your progress during each session. Early in the Fall term, we will break the group into research clusters, based on similar topics and interests, in order to cultivate ongoing collegial working relationships and feedback among participants. Written work must be submitted on the dates listed below to faculty advisors, seminar coordinators, and colleagues in this seminar. Students should seek feedback from their advisors on each completed assignment.

**Writing requirements.** To remain in good standing in the seminar, all enrolled students *must* submit written work by the following deadlines:

1. Wednesday, October 9. A one-page summary of proposed thesis topic.
2. Wednesday, November 6. A three- to five-page statement of research design.
3. Wednesday, November 20. A preliminary bibliography and literature review.
4. Friday, December 6 (last day of instruction in the Fall 2013 quarter). A draft of the first chapter (submitted to your advisor).
5. Friday, March 14 (last day of instruction in the Winter 2014 quarter). The penultimate draft of the entire thesis (submitted to your advisor).
6. Monday, March 31 (first day of instruction of the Spring 2014 quarter). *Three* bound copies and *one* electronic copy of the completed senior honors thesis (final draft) must be submitted to Ariane Parkes ([aparkes@ucsd.edu](mailto:aparkes@ucsd.edu)) in the Political Science Department office by 2:00 p.m.

**Required Readings.** Readings are mandatory. To remain in good standing in the course students must complete reading assignments in advance of the seminar meetings. You may purchase copies in the book store or borrow these from course reserves.

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Philip H. Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2009.

•online: <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>

**Determination of grades.** You will receive four grades for the work you complete in the honors seminar:

1. Course grade for the fall quarter. A letter grade will be assigned by your thesis advisor on the basis of the work you complete in the fall quarter.
2. Course grade for the winter quarter. A letter grade will be assigned by your thesis advisor on the basis of the work you complete in the winter quarter.
3. Thesis grade. The thesis grade will be the average of recommendations of two (possibly three) anonymous readers who are department faculty (*not* your thesis advisor). (If the first two readers differ in their recommendations by more than two-tenths of a grade point [e.g., 3.5 and 3.8], a third reader will be asked to grade the thesis as well.)
4. Departmental honors. The award of departmental honors is by a vote of the entire Political Science faculty. In assigning honors the faculty is guided by the average of your departmental GPA (through the winter quarter) and your thesis grade. There are three levels of honors—highest honors, high honors, and honors. A student may complete the thesis but not receive departmental honors.

### **Class Schedule and Assignments for the Fall Quarter**

October 2.                   **Introduction**

October 9.                   **Framing Questions**

- Read Preface, Prologue, Chapters 1 and 3 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- Read <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>
- Assignment #1 Due:** One-page summary of your proposed thesis topic, with enough copies for each person in the seminar.

October 16.                   **Library Session; Primary and Secondary Sources**

- PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Geisel Library, Electronic Classroom (Room 274/Classroom 1). Reference librarian Annelise Sklar will give a tutorial on electronic and library research resources. Class will meet at noon (usual time), at the Geisel Library, Room 274/Classroom 1, which is the first room on your left as you are walking from the Circulation Desk towards the Reference Area.
- Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

October 23.                   **Discussion of Your Research Topics**

- Read Chapter 4 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- Student research clusters assigned for duration of seminar.**

October 30.                   **Discussion of Your Research Topics**

- Read Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 4 in Philip H. Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

- November 6.           **Designing Research and Discussion of Your Research Designs**
- Read Chapters 7 and 10 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
  - Assignment #2 Due:** Three to five page statement of research design. This must be signed by your advisor. Bring enough copies to distribute to the seminar

- November 13.           **Discussion of Your Research Designs, continued**
- Students, in clusters, present their own research/critique one another's' research.
  - Read Chapter 12 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

- November 20.           **Discussion of Your Research Designs, continued**
- Students, in clusters, present their own research/critique one another's'
  - Assignment #3 Due:** Preliminary bibliography and literature review. Bring enough copies to distribute to the seminar.
  - Read Chapters 13 and 14 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

November 27.           **No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!**

- December 4.           **Student Presentations of First Chapters**
- Assignment #4 Due:** First draft of first chapter submitted to thesis advisor by Friday, December 6.