

INTL 190H: Senior Honors Seminar
International Studies Program
Fall, 2017
Fridays 9-11:50
1401 Robinson Complex GPS

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As you will all soon discover, research is both difficult and satisfying. It requires not only intellectual discipline and a steady work ethic, but also careful organization, attention to the rules, and (perhaps contradictorily) an openness to the possibility of serendipity. Research, like writing, is a revelatory process; you know a great deal more about what you think when you reach the end. The trick, then, is to start well so that your conclusion is not a total surprise to you or your reader. Starting well is the point of this seminar.

The project for this quarter is the development of a research design and a *draft* of the first chapter of your thesis. We will work on the following standard pieces of the puzzle:

- Narrowing your topic to something doable in the time you have
- Focusing your research question
- Developing an argument and explanation: what side are you on and why?
- Producing a literature review that establishes the current debate parameters
- Establishing your research design—the “how to” map to test your hypothesis
- Clarify the conventions of research integrity
- The completion of **two** drafts of the first chapter of your thesis

Research is hard but no one does it entirely on one’s own. With that in mind, the seminar is structured around three sets of on-going discussions that are facilitated by the assignments.

1. Each assignment will take on a piece of your project and requires you to write, seek criticism from me, and to rewrite.
2. You will also submit your work to your classmates for their criticism and suggestions.
3. Each of you is engaging in an intellectual debate found in the written work of scholars and in discussions with your adviser.

The final copy of your thesis is **due** by 4PM, Monday, March 19th, of Winter Quarter Finals Week. You must turn in **one** (1) bound hard copy to the International Studies Advising Office. A **second** copy must be turned in electronically to isp@ucsd.edu. If your thesis is late the grade will be reduced by 0.5 points for every 24 hour period. This means, for example, that if you turn your thesis in on Tuesday of Winter Quarter Finals Week, it will lose 0.5 of a grade. There are **no** exceptions.

The **determination of honors** takes into account whether your work is turned in on time at the end of winter quarter. Once your thesis is completed, it is submitted to two blind readers. They

evaluate the work and each submits a letter grade for averaging to ISP. If your thesis was late, the average of those two grades is then discounted by the percentage lost to tardiness. In other words, it is possible to earn two A grades and then lose honors because you could not adhere to the deadline.

With this in mind, you **must** establish a time-line with your adviser that obligates you to due dates that, in turn, allow him/her to read and request changes/additions. Your thesis **cannot** be done in one draft or the night before.

Required Texts: You **MUST** purchase a manual of style so that you follow the rules on formatting and citation. I suggest the most recent edition of the Kate Turabian, but you are welcome to ask your thesis adviser about their preference. You will be required to bring the manual to class. All other assignments will be posted in PDF on the class *Triton Ed* site.

Seminar Requirements: Your grade in the seminar and, therefore, your ability to proceed into the second quarter of the thesis process, will be based on both written assignments and attendance to class. Individual grades will not be given for every written assignment, but all assigned work is required. Final drafts will lose 0.5 of a grade if the rough draft is not turned in on time. In order to proceed into the second quarter you **must** earn at least a B+ in INTL 190H.

All graded work listed below must be turned in as hard copy **and** to Turnitin through the course *Triton Ed* website by its due date/time. Your work will not be graded until it is submitted in both formats and will be counted as late and docked 0.5 grade a day. Work not turned in at all will receive a zero. Verified plagiarism will make you subject to exclusion to the second quarter of the program.

Grading: The weighting of the grading will be as follows in the order in which you will complete the assignments:

- Week Two—Research Proposal—10%
- Week Five—Literature Review—20%
- Week Seven—Research Design, Project Outline, Three draft paragraphs—20%
- Week Ten—First Chapter Draft—40%
- Attendance and Participation—This is an all or nothing 10%. The seminar works with participation in the peer discussion, editing, and review. If you do not attend, you not only are not receiving help, you also are not contributing. Absences may be excused in advance; late worked must be excused before the due date. So...if you do not attend and work with your colleagues, you lose 10% off the top.

Course Schedule and Assignments

September 29th: Zero Week Meeting: Introduction and Seminar Overview

- Discussion of Requirements—the calendar of assignments, meetings with your faculty adviser, due dates
- Introduction of your research topics—individual presentations of your topic, discussion, questions
 - Please bring a clean hard copy of the research proposal submitted to ISP and your adviser. You will be turning this in to me for comments.
- **Reading:** “Writing an Honors Thesis” available on the class TED site.

October 6th: Week One: Your Question, and Suggestions for How to Stay on Topic

- **Due- First Draft of Your Formal Research Proposal**—Please bring **two** hard copies to class for peer review and discussion; a **third** copy should be sent to me as an email attachment by 4:00PM, Thursday evening **before** class. The proposal should:
 - Tell the reader what it is that interests you. For example, “I am interested in the popularity of French hip-hop in the immigrant communities of Marseille.”
 - Then tell the reader the “why” of what you want to study; what is it that you do not know but want to find out: “I will study the popularity of French hip-hop in the immigrant communities of Marseille because I want to understand its appeal to Sub-Saharan and North African teenagers living in France.”
 - And then the “so what?”-- “I will study the popularity of French hip-hop in the immigrant communities of Marseille because I want to understand its appeal to Sub-Saharan and North African teenagers living in France and explain why it became an important mode of expression for anti-French sentiments during the *banlieue* riots. I will argue that French hip-hop is an important form of protest for French Arab teenagers in Marseille.”
- **Reading for Week One: Read and bring to class in hard copy-** Daniel Maliniak, Ryan Powers and Barbara F. Walter “The Gender Gap in International Relations” in PDF on Triton Ed or <http://www.wm.edu/offices/itpir/images/trip/Cambridge-IO-Gender-Gap-in-IR.pdf>

October 13th: Week Two: Redrafting the Research Proposal, Sources, and Note Taking

- **Due- Second Draft of a Formal Research Proposal for Grading**—Due; **one** to me electronically **and** one to Turnitin by 4:00PM the Thursday before class and **two** hard copies to class. This draft should be at least three pages long, with a clearer statement of your research question and answer than was in the first draft. Included this time should also be: 1) a brief forecast or outline of the organization of your thesis; and, 2) a preliminary identification of your independent and dependent variables (as in, what are you trying to explain and what do you think will be the pieces of evidence that you will use to test your hypothesis).
 - If I were doing this assignment, my dependent variable would be the popularity of French hip-hop among French Arab young people. This is a clearly visible, empirical thing; they are listening to it, buying it, playing it in clubs, singing it on the streets, playing it at parties.
 - The research question is “Why is it popular?”
 - My independent variables would be things such as lyrics, the politics of the performers, other events in French society that influence protest, such as police violence, that are referenced in the lyrics, and so on. These will help me make my case about why hip-hop is popular.
 - But, among my independent variables will also be things like rhythm, testing whether it is simply danceable or like popular Afro-Arab music, or identification with American teenagers.

October 20th: Week Three: Research Design or How Will You Do What You Have Said You Want to Do? Independent and Dependent Variables

- **Due- First Draft of Your Research Design**— Due as before; **one** to me electronically by 4PM the Thursday before class, and **two** hard copies to class. This will require some preliminary research and should include the follow:
 - A restatement of your research question and answer
 - An explanation of why this is an important question.
 - A brief discussion and justification of your research methods.

- Cases, time period, data sources
 - An expanded, preliminary outline
 - A preliminary list of at least four (4) sources
- **Reading for Week Three:** You should be reading in your sources.

October 27th: Week Four: Developing Your Literature Review—The Scholarly Debates and You: Distilling your question and argument.

- **Due- First Draft of Your Literature Review**—This should be a “to the point” analytic discussion of at least **four** of the most relevant scholarly sources on your topic. What is the argument in each piece? What are its strengths and weakness? What does it lend, if anything, to the topic as you have outlined it and why does it not answer your question? How will your project contribute to the on-going debate about your topic? (3-4 pages)
One copy is due to me by 4:00PM the Thursday before class; bring **two** hard copies to class for peer review.

November 3rd: Week Five: Reworking your Literature Review and Rethinking the Definition of Your Variables

- **Due- Second Draft of Your Literature Review for a Grade**—This should now be a review of at least **10** scholarly sources. **One** copy to me electronically **and** one to Turnitin by 4PM the Thursday before class, and **two** hard copies for peer review in class.
- **Also Due**— A reworking of your thesis statement in light of the extended literature review. **One** page. Due with the literature review to me and Turnitin on Thursday and included in the two hardcopies copies to your peers in class.

November 10th: Week Six: Veterans Days Holiday BUT you still have work due to me by Thursday, 4:00PM--- Developing Your Working Research Design and Thesis Outline

- **Due- Redraft of Your Final Research Design**—This should be at least ten (10) pages and should include the following:
- Succinct statement of your research question and an explanation of its importance
 - Succinct statement of your hypothesis/argument.
 - Definition of operationalized variables
 - Explanation and justification of your research methods: why those cases, that time period, those materials, that data
 - Statement about and justification of your sources
 - Correctly formatted bibliography of the 12 sources from your literature review
- **You must also meet with your research adviser to discuss your research draft and let them know that your final draft (due next week) will need their written approval—signature on the draft or email to me noting their approval.**

November 17th: Week Seven: Final Draft for Grading of Your Research Design and Beginning to Write

- **Due- Final Draft of Your Research Design, Outline of Your First Chapter, and Draft of Your First Three Paragraphs**—Turned in electronically to me and to Turnitin by 4PM on the 10th.
- **The First Three Paragraphs** must be properly cited which means, of course, that you will also have the beginning of a Bibliography or Works Cited Page
- This draft must also be sent to or delivered in hard copy to your adviser. They must either sign it or send me an email saying they have seen and approved it.

November 24th: Week Eight: Thanksgiving Holiday—“The Feast of Fat Things” and Writing

December 1st: Week Nine: Draft of Your First Chapter—Does Your Reader Want to Turn the Page?

- **Due- Draft of Your First Chapter-** Due to me on **Thursday, November 30th**, by 4:00PM. Please bring one hard copy draft to class. This must be a formal draft with proper citations, formatting and a Works Cited or Bibliography page.
- **This draft must also be emailed to your adviser with a cc to me so that I can see it has been sent and received.**
- **The draft turned in to me will be returned with comments by Monday of Week Ten.**

December 8th: Week Ten: Final Draft of Your First Chapter, Final Draft of Your Research Design, and Schedule for Research and Writing for Winter Quarter

- **Due—Final Draft for Grading of Your First Chapter—**You will be turning these in as usual—one draft to me and one to Turnitin by 4PM the day before class, and one hard copy to class. You will **also** bring all marked copies of **all** written work to turn in to me so that we can discuss your progress in a **required** appointment during finals week.