



INTL 190H: Senior Honors Seminar

International Studies Program

Fall, 2020

Fridays 11 AM – 1:50 PM

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Introduction

You have chosen the road less traveled: producing a piece of original and extensive research as an undergraduate. You will experience any number of highs and lows along this path because generating and communicating good research can be both frustrating and exhilarating. When you finally reach your destination, I hope – and the ISP hopes – you will have found the journey worthwhile.

Your objective for this quarter is an excellent draft of your thesis's first chapter.

To do this, you will:

- Transform your interest in a topic to a research question that is possible to answer in a thesis.
- Understand other researchers' answers to questions similar to yours (when this survey of other work is written, it is called a literature review).
- Construct your argument and from it derive testable hypotheses.
- Construct your research design i.e., the process by which you will test your hypotheses.
- Complete **two** drafts of the first chapter of your thesis. While you will undoubtedly change these as you complete your thesis, the last of the two drafts must be good enough to give you (and your advisor) a clear roadmap of what you need to do to finish your work.
- Complete assignments that will help you do the things above.
- Give comments on the work of your colleagues.

Over the quarter, I will:

- Teach you about the nature of research.
- Teach you about the structure of research.
- Teach you about presenting your research.
- Comment on your work,

Grading

I will determine your grade using the assignments and their weights given below. In order to proceed into the second quarter of the honors sequence you will need to earn at least a B+ in this course.

Due date	What	Share of final grade
10/15	Research proposal	10%
10/29	First draft of literature review	10%
11/5	Research design	10%
11/12	Second draft of literature review	15%
11/19	First draft of chapter	20%
12/10	Second draft of chapter	25%
Entire quarter	Participation	10%

This is an honors course. If you miss more than one class period, please set up an appointment with me to discuss whether or not you should continue in the honors sequence.

Notes about the final thesis

The final copy of your complete thesis is due by 4PM, Monday, March 15th, 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.

Your thesis is evaluated by two professors in a double blind process (you will not know who they are, they will not know who you are). Each submits a letter grade, from which ISP determines an average. If your thesis is late, the reduction in your grade is taken from this average. Thus it is possible to earn two A grades and put lose an “honors” designation because you turned your work in late.

This due date means that you need to work with your advisor and establish a clear set of expectations about meetings and work. You cannot expect anyone to read your work and provide comments at the last minute. This is not term paper. It cannot be done well in a week or two.

Required Texts: Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, Ninth Edition. You will be required to bring the book to each meeting. All other assignments will be provided through Canvas or directly by me via email.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Oct 8: Seminar overview, restructuring your proposal.

- Review of course requirements
- The structure of research
- The structure of presenting research
- Practicing the structure
- Creating a question
- Transforming your proposals into the new form
- Discussion of your proposals
- Rewriting your proposals
- Discussion of your proposals
- Discussion of Turabian assignment