

POLI191A: Senior Honors Seminar
Fall 2018
Wednesdays 12-2.50pm
SSB 104

Professor Seth Hill
Email: sjhill@ucsd.edu
Office: SSB 395
OH: THU 1:30-3:00pm & by appointment

Professor David Wiens
Email: dwiens@ucsd.edu
Office: SSB 387
OH: TU 2:00-4:00pm & by appt

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 Hill and Wiens will coordinate class meetings; all other members of the departmental faculty (except those on leave) can serve as individual advisors to students in the program. The seminar will meet in the Fall and Winter quarters of 2018-2019.

The purpose of the weekly meetings is to help students carry out their research. Class time will be devoted primarily to (1) how to create and execute a research paper, (2) discussion of research topics and research design, and (3) student presentations and critiques as specified in the assignments. You should be prepared to report on your progress during each class session. Written work must be submitted on the dates listed below to individual faculty advisors, seminar coordinators, and student colleagues in the seminar. You should seek feedback from your advisors on each completed assignment.

Written assignments and deadlines

All assignments are due in TritonEd 24 hours before the start of class the week they are due. Also bring a paper copies to class the week they are due.

1. October 9: Assignment 1 due – one-page summary of proposed research question
2. October 23: Assignment 2 due – two-page summary of what the existing literature says about your question, and what your own contribution will be
3. November 6: Assignment 3 due – three to five-page summary of your research design
4. November 29: Assignment 4 due – three to five-page draft of your introduction
5. December 11: Assignment 5 due – Revised 5-page introduction + preliminary summary of your findings
6. Late January/early February: (Almost) Complete first draft of your thesis
7. Last day of instruction of Winter 2019: Penultimate draft of your thesis due

8. First day of instruction of Spring 2019: Three bound copies and one electronic copy of your completed senior honors thesis (final draft) must be submitted to Ariane Parkes (aparkes@ucsd.edu) in the Political Science department office by 2:00pm.

Readings

Reading is required for this class, and you are expected to complete the reading before the start of the seminar (the only exception is on the first day of the quarter, where we will read in class). The required readings for this class are:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 3rd Edition.
- Online: <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>

Attendance and participation

Attendance and active participation are mandatory. The seminar functions well only if students come prepared, ready to discuss their research projects, and eager to engage in group discussions about the projects of other students.

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and, in so doing, protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. All suspicions of plagiarism and academic misconduct will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office according to university policy.

All assignments will be submitted through TritonEd, and we will run them through the Turnitin software which will detect any and all instances of plagiarism.

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 of 2017) 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.

Other Useful Resources

- Information about UCSD Political Science Honors:
<https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departmental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/departmental-honors.html>
- Writing Center at UCSD: <https://writingcenter.ucsd.edu> You can make an appointment here on-line and get a personal counseling and feedback on your written work. We encourage everyone to get a feedback on their writing on your introduction by the end of January.
- Strunk W., Jr. and White, E.B., 2007. *Elements of Style*. Penguin. This little booklet is a must for every writer and is available for free here:
<https://faculty.washington.edu/heagerty/Courses/b572/public/StrunkWhite.pdf>
- Weston, Anthony, 2000. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. Hackett. A short introduction to logic and argument construction.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND FALL QUARTER ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING RESEARCH MATERIALS

October 3: Introduction (Wiens)

- Read <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>
- Read Preface, Prologue to Section I and II, Chapters 1 and 2 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*
- Prior to class: Pick two theses that have won department honors from previous years to skim from bottom of [Dept Honors page](#).
- *In class exercise: Two-sentence reconstructions of past theses*

October 10: Framing Questions and How to Narrow Them Down (Hill)

- Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*
- **Assignment #1 Due:** One-page summary of your proposed thesis topic, with enough copies for each person in the seminar.
- *In class exercise: Two-sentence reconstruction of others' summaries*

October 17: Discussion of Research Topics I: Developing An Argument (Wiens)

- Read Chapters 7 and 8 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd edition.
- *In class exercise: Four sentence reconstructions of short articles*

October 24: Library Session: Primary and Secondary Sources (Annelise Sklar)

- NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Geisel Library, Classroom 1, Dunst Classroom. 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, Classroom 2, which is one of the two rooms just to the left of the lobby on the main floor.
- Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*

- **Assignment #2 Due:** One-page summary of your proposed argument and contribution
- For next week, bring in (1) a dataset that you think can start providing some answers, and (if possible) (2) a graph/figure that motivates your puzzle

October 31: Discussion of Research Design I (Wiens)

- Read Chapters 9 and 10 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*.
- Bring revised versions of Assignment #2 to class with copies to distribute
- *In class exercise: Four sentence reconstructions of others' research*

November 7: Discussion of Research Design II (Hill)

- Read Sections 1-1 and 1-2 in Trochim, William M.K. and James P. Donnelly, 2007, *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, Third Edition, Thomson Publishing.
- Students present their own research/critique one another's research.
- *In class exercise: Eight sentence reconstructions of another's research*
- **Assignment #3 Due:** Three-to-five page statement of research design, plus a one page table of contents for the thesis. These must be signed by your advisor. Bring enough copies to distribute to the seminar.

PART II: WRITING: FIRST DRAFTS

November 14. Discussion of Introduction and Research Progress (Matthew Nelson)

- **Writing Workshop:** Led by Matthew Nelson, Director of the Writing Hub in the Teaching and Learning Commons at UCSD, and President of the Southern California Writing Centers Association.
- Read Chapter 12-14 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*.

November 21: No seminar (Thanksgiving)

November 28: Presentation of Progress Reports I (Wiens)

- **Assignment #4 Due:** Preliminary introduction (three to five-pages).
- In-class reports on preliminary research findings using Powerpoint slides.

December 5: Presentation of Progress Reports II (Hill)

- In-class reports on preliminary research findings using Powerpoint slides.

December 12: No seminar but assignment due electronically

- **Assignment #5 Due:** Submission of (i) a revised draft of your introduction and (ii) a preliminary summary of your research findings. The introduction and summary should be between five to ten pages in length, double-spaced (it can be longer, if you made great progress). The summary presents your preliminary findings using appropriate tables and figures and documentation of sources. You will need to submit these items to TritonEd, as well as to your thesis advisor and fellow students by email by noon on this date. We will be discussing them in the first session of Winter quarter.

PART III: WRITING: FROM FIRST DRAFT TO FINAL VERSION

We will hold two class sessions during the winter quarters, exact dates TBD.

- One session will be in early January. This will provide students a chance to present their progress to date.

- A second session will be in late January/early February. This will be a second writing workshop with Matthew Nelson, focusing on editing and polishing. You will be expected to have a (nearly) complete first draft of your thesis by this date.