

**Political Science 191A-B**  
**Senior Honors Seminar**  
Fall 2010 - Winter 2011  
Wednesdays 12:00-2:50, 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 Slantchev and Roeder 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 presentations about choosing research topics and discussions about research design. As specified in the assignments, written work must be submitted on the dates listed below to faculty advisors, seminar coordinators, or 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 6. A one-page summary of proposed thesis topic.
2. Wednesday, October 27. A three- to five-page statement of research design.
3. Wednesday, November 17. A preliminary bibliography and literature review.
4. Friday, December 3 (last day of instruction in the Fall 2010 quarter). A draft of the first chapter (submitted to your advisor).
5. Friday, March 11 (last day of instruction in the Winter 2011 quarter). The penultimate draft of the entire thesis (submitted to your advisor).
6. Monday, March 28 (first day of instruction of the Spring 2011 quarter). Three bound copies of the completed senior honors thesis (final draft) must be submitted to Mary Quisenberry in the Political Science Department office by 3:00 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 (see Political Science 30 for Pollock) 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.

**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 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**

September 29.           **Elements of Research**

October 6.               **Framing Questions and Faculty Research Presentation**

- Read Chapters 1 and 3 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Read Memo One, “Structure ...” and Memo Three “Manual of Minutiae” by Professor Philip Roeder on thesis writing, online at <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~proeder/ThesisA.htm>
- Assignment #1 Due:** One-page summary of your proposed thesis topic, with enough copies for each person in the seminar.

October 13.           **Library Session**

- PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Geisel Library, Electronic Classroom (Room 274)
- Several members of the library’s social science reference staff will offer a tutorial on the library’s resources. Class will meet the librarian at noon (usual time), at the Geisel Library, Classroom 1/Room 274, which is the first room on your left as you are walking from the Circulation Desk towards the Reference Area.
- Read Chapters 5-6 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

October 20.           **Discussion of Your Research Topics**

- Read Chapter 4 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Read Memo Two “Research Design” by Professor Philip Roeder, online at <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~proeder/ThesisA.htm>
- Read the John Platt piece that we will hand out in class.

October 27.

**Discussion of Your Research Topics**

- Read Chapters 1, 3-4 in Philip H. Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2009.
- 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
- Student pairs assigned for next two weeks of presentations

November 3.

**Designing Research and Discussion of Your Research Designs**

- Read Chapter 7 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

November 10.

**Faculty Presentation and Discussion of Your Research Designs**

- Students, in pairs, present their own research/critique their partner's
- Read Chapter 12 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

November 17.

**Discussion of Your Research Designs, continued**

- Assignment #3 Due:** Preliminary bibliography and literature review
- Read Chapters 13-14 in Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

November 24.

**No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!**

December 1.

**Student Presentations of First Chapters**

- Assignment #4 Due:** First draft of first chapter submitted to thesis advisor by Friday, December 3.