

WORKSHOP SYLLABUS

INTL 190H: Honors Seminar in International Studies

Fall 2008

Tuesday 9:00am – 11:50am, Social Sciences Building 102

Prof: James Fowler, SSB 383, jhfowler@ucsd.edu, <http://jhfowler.ucsd.edu>

Office Hours: by appointment

Course description

This workshop is designed to prepare students to write their International Studies Honors Thesis. The course provides an introduction to inference in the social sciences, and to construction of a thesis. By the end of the course, each student will have produced simple and complex outlines of their thesis, an annotated bibliography, and their thesis's first chapter.

The format of this workshop is social. Science is a *social* activity, so there will be a very large emphasis on soliciting feedback from and providing feedback to your peers.

Required text

The only text we will use for this class is:

Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ISBN: 0691034710 (referred to as KKV in the assigned readings).

This book should be available at the University bookstore, but it is probably cheaper online.

Requirements

Your grade for this course will depend on (nearly) weekly assignments that should help you write your first thesis chapter. You will be paired with a different person each week and you will exchange assignments on Friday by email (we'll create a schedule at the first meeting).

- 1. List of Questions and Hypotheses.** Five questions you are interested in and three hypotheses related to each question is due to your partner by 5pm on October 3. Replies to your discussion partner are due by Noon on October 6.
- 2. Annotated bibliography.** Your notes to ten articles and five books related to your topic (four sentences per article entry; six for each book) is due to your partner by 5pm on October 10. Replies to your discussion partner are due by Noon on October 13.
- 3. Question and simple outline.** Your research question and a simple one page outline is due to your partner by 5pm on October 24. Replies to your discussion partner are due by Noon on October 27.
- 4. Literature Review.** A 5 page *synthetic* literature review is due to your partner by 5pm on October 31. You should also send this to me (electronically) and to your advisor to solicit feedback. Replies to your discussion partner are due by Noon on November 3. In this assignment you will turn your annotated bibliography into a critical synthesis of the state of the literature relevant to your topic. I will grade the literature review. **20% of your grade**
- 5. Extended outline.** Your extended outline is due to your partner by 5pm on November 7. Replies to your discussion partner are due by Noon on November 10. This is a document of at least 10 pages, and includes your question and a review of previous research, your research design, dependent and independent variables, and a bibliography of at least 10 sources.

6. **Thesis chapter.** A hardcopy of your first chapter is due Monday, December 9th at Noon in my mailbox in the Social Sciences Building, room 301. This should be from 15-20 pages long. (Your finished thesis will be from 40-100 pages long.) **40% of your grade**
7. **Classroom chapter presentation.** 2-3 students will be asked to present the chapter from KKV each week. I am especially interested in your ability to discuss research methods in the context of your own project. I am also especially interested in your ability to provoke class discussion. **10% of your grade**
8. **Classroom project presentation.** Three students will be asked to present progress on their thesis project each week, and solicit feedback from other members of the workshop. **10% of your grade**
9. **Classroom discussion.** Please participate actively in class discussions. If you make an effort to communicate your questions and ideas in class, then both you and your peers will benefit. **10% of your grade**
10. **Peer evaluation.** At the end of the workshop you will be asked to evaluate the feedback you received from your discussion partners, and you will be graded based on their evaluation of your feedback. These evaluations are private and will only be seen by me. **10% of your grade**

You must receive a B+ in this course to continue in the honors track.

Policies

I do not grant permission to add requests (PTAs).

I will only give incompletes for compelling, unanticipated, and nonacademic reasons. Late assignments will be marked down the equivalent of a full letter grade for each 24 hour period *in which* they are late (one hour late = -1 letter, 25 hours late = -2 letters, and so on). I will only make an exception to this policy if 1) you contact me in writing a week in advance to discuss a conflict, or 2) you provide documentation of a severe illness or family emergency that prevented you from completing the assignment on time.

I reserve the right to check a digital form of any of your written work with software designed to check for plagiarism. I will prosecute all cases of detected plagiarism to the fullest extent of University policy (see UCSD's Academic Integrity policy: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>).

Tentative Schedule

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| Sep 30 | Introduction: Meet, greet, and brainstorm.
Search Lab: Bring a laptop and we'll learn how to search the academic literature. |
| Oct 7 | KKV, Chapter 1. Discussion of questions and hypotheses. |
| Oct 14 | KKV, Chapter 2. Discussion of annotated bibliographies. |
| <i>No class Oct 21 – Prepare your outline!</i> | |
| Oct 28 | KKV, Chapter 3. Discussion of simple outlines. |
| Nov 4 | KKV, Chapter 4. Discussion of literature reviews. |
| Nov 11 | KKV, Chapter 5-6. Discussion of extended outlines. |
| <i>No class Nov 18</i> | |
| <i>No class Nov 25</i> | |
| Dec 2 | Thesis chapter presentations |
| Dec 9 | (No class) <i>Hardcopy of Thesis chapter due at Noon in my office.</i> |