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 Smith and Wong 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 both Fall and Winter Quarters.

The purpose of the weekly meetings is to help students carry out their research. Class time will be devoted primarily to 1) discussion about research topics and research design; and 2) 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 this seminar. You should seek feedback from your advisors on each completed assignment.

Writing assignments and deadlines.
1. Wednesday, October 15. #1: A one-page summary of proposed thesis topic.
2. Wednesday, November 12. #2: A three- to five-page statement of research design.
3. Wednesday, November 19. #3: A preliminary bibliography and literature review.
4. Friday, December 12 (last day of instruction in the Fall 2014 quarter). #4: A draft of the first chapter.
5. Friday, March 13 (last day of instruction in the Winter 2014 quarter). The penultimate draft of the entire thesis.
6. Monday, March 30 (first day of instruction of the Spring 2014 quarter). Three bound copies and one electronic copy of the completed senior honors thesis (final draft) must be submitted to Ariane Parkes (aparkes@ucsd.edu) in the Political Science Department office by 2:00 p.m.

Required Readings. 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 or borrow them from course reserves.

• online: http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm
**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) 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.

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**CLASS SCHEDULE AND FALL QUARTER ASSIGNMENTS**

October 8. *Introduction*

October 15. *Framing Questions*

- Read Preface, Prologue, Chapters 1 and 3 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research, 3rd edition*.
- **Assignment #1 Due:** One-page summary of your proposed thesis topic, with enough copies for each person in the seminar.

October 22. *Library Session; Primary and Secondary Sources*

- NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Geisel Library, Electronic Classroom (Room 274/Classroom 1). 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, Room 274/Classroom 1, which is the first room on your left as you are walking from the Circulation Desk towards the Reference Area.
- Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research, 3rd edition*.

October 29. *Discussion of Research Topics I*

- Read Chapter 4 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research, 3rd edition*.
November 5.  Discussion of Research Topics II

• Read Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 4 in Philip H. Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 3rd edition.

November 12.  Discussion of Research Design I

• Read Chapters 7 and 10 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd edition.
• Assignment #2 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.

November 19.  Discussion of Research Design II

• Students present their own research/critique one another’s research.
  • Assignment #3 Due: Preliminary bibliography and literature review. Bring enough copies for all members of the seminar.

November 26.  No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3.  Presentation of First Chapters

• In-class reports on first chapters.
• Assignment #4 Due: First draft of first chapter submitted to thesis advisor, seminar coordinators, and fellow students by Friday, December 12.