POLI191A: Senior Honors Seminar  
Fall 2016  
Wednesdays 12-2.50pm  
SSB 104

Professor Claire Adida  
Email: cadida@ucsd.edu  
Office: SSB 389  
OH: WED 9-11am

Professor Lawrence Broz  
Email: jlbroz@ucsd.edu  
Office: SSB 388  
OH: TU 1:15-3:00pm

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 Adida and Broz 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 2016-2017.

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

Written assignments and deadlines
All assignments are due in TED 24 hours before the start of class the week they are due. This will provide the instructors a better opportunity to provide feedback.

1. October 5: Assignment 1 due – one-page summary of proposed research question
2. October 19: Assignment 2 due – two-page summary of what the existing literature says about your question, and what your own contribution will be
3. November 2: Assignment 3 due – three to five-page summary of your research design
4. November 9: Assignment 4 due – 5-page draft of your introduction
5. December 7: Assignment 5 due – Revised 5-page introduction + preliminary summary of your findings
6. Last day of instruction of Winter 2017: Penultimate draft of your thesis due
7. First day of instruction of Spring 2017: 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:


**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 TED, 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:
- Writing Center at UCSD: [https://writingcenter.ucsd.edu](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.

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND FALL QUARTER ASSIGNMENTS

**September 28: Introduction (Lawrence)**
- Distribution of Template #1 for Assignment #1

**October 5: Framing Questions and How to Narrow Them Down (Claire)**
- Read Preface, Prologue to Section I and II, Chapters 1 and 3 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.

**October 12: Discussion of Research Topics I: Developing An Argument (Lawrence)**
- Distribution for Template #2 for Assignment #2

**October 19: Library Session: Primary and Secondary Sources (Annelise)**
- NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Geisel Library, Classroom 2. 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

**October 26: Discussion of Research Design I (Claire)**
- Read Chapters 7 and 10 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*.
- Students present their own research/critique one another’s research.
- Distribution of Template #3 for Assignment #3

**November 2: Discussion of Research Design II (Lawrence)**
- Read Chapter 12-14 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*.
- Students present their own research/critique one 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.

**November 9. Discussion of Introduction and Research Progress (Lawrence)**
- **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.
- Distribution of Template #4 for Assignment #4

**November 16: Presentation of Progress Reports I (Claire)**
- **Assignment #4 Due**: Preliminary introduction (maximum three pages, single-spaced).
  Bring enough copies for all members of the seminar.
- In-class reports on preliminary research findings using Powerpoint slides.

**November 23: No seminar**

**November 30: Presentation of Progress Reports II (Claire)**
- In-class reports on preliminary research findings using Powerpoint slides.
- Distribution of Template #5 for Assignment #5

**December 7: 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 your thesis advisor, seminar coordinators, and fellow students by email by noon on this date. We will be discussing them in the first session of Winter quarter.