Political Science 191B:
Senior Honors Seminar

Winter 2010
Wednesday 12-2:50, SSB 104

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Office hours: Monday, 12-1PM

Description: The Honors Seminar provides seniors 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 Abrajano and Poole 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.

To remain in good standing in the seminar, all enrolled students ***must*** meet the following deadlines:

1. Friday, March 12 (last day of instruction in the Winter 2010 quarter): The penultimate draft of the entire thesis must be submitted to your advisor.
2. Monday, March 29 (first day of instruction of the Spring 2010 quarter): Three bound copies of the final draft must be submitted to Mary Quisenberry in the Political Science Department office by 3:00 PM

Determination of grades: You will receive four grades for the work you complete in the honors seminar:

1. Course grade for the winter quarter: a letter grade for the winter quarter will be assigned by your thesis advisor on the basis of the work you complete in the quarter.

2. 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.

3. 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. The purpose of the seminar is to help students carry out their research; class time will be devoted primarily to presentations about choosing research topics, discussions about research design. Assignments must be submitted, on the dates listed here, to faculty advisors, seminar coordinators, or to your colleagues in this seminar. Students should seek feedback from their advisors on each completed assignment.

Class Schedule and Assignments for the Winter Quarter

January 6:	Taking Stock –progress reports
January 13:	Independent Research
January 20:	Options: pick one or more 1) session on data interpretation and analysis; 2) session on writing like a social scientist; 3) none of the above
January 27:	Independent Research
February 3:	Independent Research
February 10:	Individual conferences (Bartlett-Kahn): meeting with either Prof Poole or Abrajano to discuss any research questions or issues that you may have.
February 17:	Individual conferences (Kulkarni – Ward): meeting with either Prof Poole or Abrajano to discuss any research questions or issues that you may have
February 24:	Independent Research
March 3:	Final Presentations (Kulkarni – Ward)
March 10:	Final Presentations (Bartlett-Kahn)