

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today.](#)

 [Edit](#)

POLI 191B: Senior Honors Seminar

Winter 2021

Professor David A. Lake

Email: dlake@ucsd.edu

(<mailto:nichter@ucsd.edu>)

OH: Tuesday 1-3 PM (sign up [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x5HybxiZGDqI7eUa9T-NG8ggjHUUh5k8coathGqTxPc/edit#gid=0) (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x5HybxiZGDqI7eUa9T-NG8ggjHUUh5k8coathGqTxPc/edit#gid=0>))

(<https://bit.ly/2Tn91FE>))

Professor Simeon Nichter

Email: nichter@ucsd.edu

OH: Friday 1:30-3:30 PM (sign up [here](#)

TA: Alexandra Lange

Email: arwoodru@ucsd.edu (<mailto:arwoodru@ucsd.edu>)

OH: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98431119992> (<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98431119992>)

(1) drop in (no appointment needed) quick questions/R help: Wednesdays 3:15-4:00

(<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98431119992>) (<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98431119992>) (2) For individual appointments, sign up [here](#) (<https://calendly.com/arwlange/office-hours-appointment>) Wednesdays 4:00-5:15 PM, or email me if these times don't work)

KEY DATES FOR WINTER 2021:

- **January 20** (12-2:50 pm): In this Zoom meeting, you will present your progress to your subgroup. Each of you will have approximately 20 minutes, in total. Your presentation should take no more than 10 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for discussion. Please focus your remarks on your empirical research; building from the research designs you have submitted, what material have you collected and analyzed, what are your findings to date, and what difficulties are you having (so that we can help).
- **January 29**: First draft of thesis due. 25-35 double-spaced pages, including introduction, literature review, theoretical section with hypotheses, research design, discussion of data sources, preliminary results, and conclusion. Please submit your draft in the Assignments tab of Canvas, and be sure to also email a copy to your faculty advisor (not to us).
- **February 3** (12:30 - 2:50 pm): This will be a second writing workshop with Matthew Nelson, focusing on writing style and clarity. Please note that this session starts at 12:30, not our usual time. If you would prefer not to have Nelson use excerpts from your work in class, please feel free to let us know.
- **March 12**: Penultimate draft of thesis due. Please submit your draft in the Assignments tab of Canvas and be sure to also email a copy to your faculty advisor (not to us).

Canvas, and be sure to also email a copy to your faculty advisor (not to us).

- **March 29:** Final thesis due. Please submit your draft in the Assignments tab of Canvas, and be sure to also email a copy to your faculty advisor (not to us).

To Access STATA:

You will be able to access STATA through UCSD Cloud Labs, but there might be a delay (<https://cloudlabs.ucsd.edu> (<https://cloudlabs.ucsd.edu/>)). In the meantime, you can apply for access via the library [here](#).

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzMRib_KjKvFGgp9DYfgArnMblbRbxjv7vLM2VyrJEo7tYZQ/view?gxids=7628) Contact Alex (arwoodru@ucsd.edu (<mailto:arwoodru@ucsd.edu>)) if neither of these options work for you.

POLI 191A: Senior Honors Seminar

Fall 2020

Wednesdays 12-2:50 PM

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 Lake and Nichter 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 remotely in the Fall and Winter quarters of 2020-2021.

The purpose of the weekly remote meetings is to help students carry out their research. Due to the interactive nature of this course, sessions will be held live on Zoom (i.e., synchronously). *Class sessions can be accessed using the links below.* If you have an important reason why you cannot participate regularly during the normally scheduled course time (e.g., you are in a different time zone), you must email the professors by October 7th. Class time will be devoted primarily to (1) how to create and execute a research paper, (2) discussion of research topics and research design, and (3) 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 by each deadline as instructed below. You should seek feedback from your individual thesis advisors on each completed assignment.

If you contact us, please do so directly using the email addresses above -- not through the "Compose a Message" feature on Canvas.

Written assignments and deadlines

All assignments must be submitted to Canvas by NOON at the dates listed below. To receive credit for

All assignments must be submitted to Canvas by noon at the dates noted below. To receive credit for assignments, you MUST submit each assignment in TWO locations on Canvas – in the **Assignments** tab and in the **Discussions** tab. In addition, you must email a copy of your assignment to your thesis advisor (do NOT email assignments to Professors Lake and Nichter). Note that these deadlines are 24 hours before the start of class. So that you can provide feedback to your fellow students, it is also your responsibility to read what other students have submitted for their assignments before each class session – you can view these in the Discussions tab on Canvas.

1. October 13: Assignment 1 due – one-page summary of proposed thesis topic
2. October 20: Assignment 2 due – two-page summary of what the existing literature says about your dependent variable
3. October 27: Assignment 3 due –one paragraph summary of EACH of 10 articles on your topic
4. November 3: Assignment 4 due – three-page literature review
5. November 10: Assignment 5 due – three-to-five page research design
6. November 24: Assignment 6 due – revised research design
7. December 8: Assignment 7 due – Introductory chapter due (topic, literature review, and research design). This draft chapter should be between 10 and 20 pages, double-spaced.
8. Late January/early February: (Almost) Complete first draft of your thesis
9. Last day of instruction of Winter 2020: Penultimate draft of your thesis due
10. First day of instruction of Spring 2020: Three bound copies of your completed senior honors thesis (final draft) must be submitted to Natalie Ikker (nbikker@ucsd.edu) in the Political Science department office (SSB 301) by 2:00pm. You must also upload an electronic version on the course website (via the link that will be available on Canvas).

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Readings

Reading is required for this class, and you are expected to complete the reading before the start of the seminar. The required readings for this class are:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. Fitzgerald. *The Craft of Research*. 4th
- Online: <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>
(<http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>)

Attendance and participation

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 Canvas 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 – with input from Professors Lake and Nichter – 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 – with input from Professors Lake and Nichter – 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 2020) 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:
<https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departmental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/departmental-honors.html> (<https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departmental-honors-and-pi-sigma->

[alpha/departamental-honors.html](#))

- 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.
- Strunk W., Jr. and White, E.B., 2007. *Elements of Style*. Penguin. This little booklet is a must for every writer and is available for free here:
<https://faculty.washington.edu/heagerty/Courses/b572/public/StrunkWhite.pdf>
(<https://faculty.washington.edu/heagerty/Courses/b572/public/StrunkWhite.pdf>)
- Weston, Anthony, 2018. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. A short introduction to logic and argument construction. 5th Hackett Publishing Company.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND FALL QUARTER ASSIGNMENTS

October 7: Introduction

- Read <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>
(<http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>)
- Read Prologue to Section I and II, Chapters 1 and 2 in Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*
- Prior to class: Skim the two award winning theses from last academic year:
 - **Charlotte Zell** (https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departamental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/Charlotte-Zell_Senior-Honors-Thesis-2020.pdf), Renewable Energy Adoption Among OECD Countries: The Role of Public Campaign Finance
 - **Thomas J. Brailey** (https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departamental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/Thomas-Brailey_Senior-Honors-Thesis-2020.pdf), Provisions of Power-Sharing: Assessing the Impacts of Segmental Autonomy
 - Skim others according to interest on **Dept Honors page**
(<https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/departamental-honors-and-pi-sigma-alpha/departamental-honors.html>).
- *In class exercise: Be prepared to summarize a past thesis in two or three sentences; pay attention to the scope and magnitude of the work, as well as the kinds of evidence presented*

October 14: Framing Questions and Dependent Variables

- Read Chapters 3 and 4 in Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*
- **Assignment #1 Due on 10/13 (noon):** One-page summary of your proposed thesis topic.
- *In class exercise: Be prepared to summarize other students' summaries in two or three sentences*

October 21: Developing an Argument

- Read Chapters 7 and 8 in Booth et al. *The Craft of Research*

• Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Booth, et al., *The Craft of Research*.

- **Assignment #2 due on 10/20 (noon)** – two-page summary of what the existing literature says about your dependent variable
- *In class exercise: Four sentence reconstructions of short articles*

October 28: Library Session: Primary and Secondary Sources (Annelise Sklar)

- Reference librarian Annelise Sklar will give a tutorial on electronic and library research resources. Class will meet at noon (usual time); further information will be posted on Canvas and emailed to you several days in advance.
- Read Chapters 5 and 6 in Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *The Craft of Research*
- **Assignment #3 Due on 10/27 (noon)**: one paragraph summary of EACH of 10 articles on your topic
- For next week, bring in (1) a dataset that you think can start providing some answers, and (if possible) (2) a graph/figure that motivates your puzzle

November 4: Research Design

- Read Chapters 9 and 10 in Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*.
- Read Sections 1-1 and 1-2 in Trochim, William M.K. and James P. Donnelly, 2007, *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, Third Edition, Thomson Publishing.
- **Assignment #4 Due on 11/3 (noon)**: three-page literature review

November 11: Veteran's Day, NO CLASS

- **Assignment #5 Due on 11/10 (noon)**: three-to-five page research design

November 18: Writing Workshop (Matthew Nelson)

- 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.
- Read Chapter 12-14 in Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*.

November 25: Thanksgiving, NO CLASS

- **Assignment #6 Due on 11/24 (noon)**: revised research design

December 2: Presentation of Research Reports

- In-class reports on preliminary research findings using slides.

December 9: NO CLASS

- **Assignment #7 Due on 12/8 (noon)**: Submission of Introductory chapter (topic, literature review, research design). This draft chapter should be between 10 and 20 pages, double-spaced.