

Department of International Studies

**IS 485 Senior Tutorial**

Spring 2012  
Monday, 6-8:30 pm  
Buckman 105

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**Course Description**

The course is designed to guide students through the steps of social science research, culminating in a major research paper of their choice. The quality of the paper should reflect the knowledge students have gained throughout their four-year education in international studies.

The main focus of the course is on the methods and techniques of social science research. Each week students will be exposed to a different phase of the process and will be required to apply this knowledge in the conduct of their own research and writing.

One of the best ways of learning how to conduct effective research is through the exchange of ideas with your peers. As such, students will spend time discussing their own and their fellow students' ongoing research and make constructive suggestions, where applicable. These exercises will help further develop students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

**Recommended Course Readings**

Creswell, John W. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Approaches. London: Sage Publications, 1998.

Strunk, William and White, E. B. Elements of Style. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ed. New York: Longman Publishes, 2008.

**Course Requirements**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Written Assignment	10%
Presentation	20%
Final Paper	60%

Attendance and Participation: Because of the nature of this class, attendance is mandatory. Absences that are not excused and documented will be penalized. The

participation grade will be based on the discussion of the assigned readings (when applicable), and critique of your own and your peers' submitted written assignments.

**Written Assignments:** Late papers will be lowered by three percent (3%) for each day they are late. Assignments submitted three days after their due date will receive zero points. If the student has a valid and documented excuse and has notified the instructor ahead of time, s/he may be allowed to submit the paper at a later time.

Assignments must be circulated electronically 24 hours before class time to allow your fellow students and the instructor sufficient time to read them. Students must submit their written work to the professor in hard copy.

All written work must be typed using Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1" margins.

**Presentation:** At the end of the semester, students will be required to give a presentation of their paper. Guidelines on how to present social scientific work in a professional manner will be given prior to the beginning of presentations.

**Final Paper:** Students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice, approved by the instructor. The paper should be approximately 30-40 pages in length, excluding bibliography and appendices (if there are any). The final copy is due on April 27, 2012 in class.

### **Course Policies**

**Honor Code:** It is understood that the students will observe the honor code of Rhodes College. Any evidence of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and notification of college officials.

**Disabilities:** Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. To do so as effectively as possible, students who need special accommodations should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester

**Laptops and cell phones:** Students who use laptops in class must do so exclusively for the purpose of note-taking. Surfing the web, emailing, or playing computer games in class conveys disrespect to your fellow students as well as the instructor, and can be disruptive for the entire class.

Please turn off your cell phones before the class begins and refrain from using laptops during class.

This syllabus is subject to change.

## Course Schedule

1/23/12	Introduction to the Course
1/30/12	Jonhston and Joslyn, The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research, 41-67 Van Evera, 7-21; 27-30; 35-40 Research Topics Due
2/6/12	Johnston and Joslyn, 73-108; 111-112; 133-148 Schraeder et al, Clarifying the Foreign Aid Puzzle
2/13/12	Bennett, Case Studies in IR; Van Evera, 50-66 Collier, The Comparative Method Knopf, Doing a Literature Review Introduction Due
2/20/12	Lijphart, Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method Geddes, How the Cases you Choose Affect the Answers You Get Literature Review Due
2/27/12	Checkel, Process Tracing Preliminary Bibliography Due
3/5/12	Discussion of Sample Articles Van Evera, 123-129
3/17/11	FALL BREAK
3/24/12	Evidence Section
3/31/12	Evidence Section
3/26/12	Discussion of Preliminary Conclusions and Problems
4/2/12	Guidelines to Presentations
4/9/12	Presentations
4/16/12	Presentations
4/23/12	Presentations; <b>PAPER DUE</b>