

HONORS 0001 – University Orientation
2020 Fall Term

Foundations of Research & Scholarship (Four Sections)

At its core, research and scholarship serves to develop new knowledge, inform action, and advance the public good. This seminar teaches students about foundational concepts and skills necessary to conduct research across disciplines while helping students begin to develop their own scholarly work. Specific seminar sections focus on topics in either the Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Professional fields (e.g., education, business, etc.).

SECTION TOPIC: American Politics in 2020

Wednesdays, 12-12:50 pm

Class Number: 30333

Instructor: Aidan Beatty

You may have noticed that there will be a presidential election in November 2020. In this seminar we will study some of the main strands (and most controversial questions) of contemporary American politics; race, policing, propaganda and the perceived threat of terrorism; how are all of these connected and how they are playing a role in contemporary politics. The first third of the seminar will introduce students to the basic tenets of academic research. The second section will be a close reading of Bernard Harcourt's *The Counterrevolution: How Our Government Went to War Against Its Own Citizens* (2018), with a particular focus on the research methodologies used in this book; we will essentially take the book apart and see how it is constructed. In the last third of the seminar, students will develop their own research project on American politics (broadly defined), identify suitable archival sources, and prepare an application for a research grant to actually carry out this research.

SECTION TOPIC: The Meaning of Things

Mondays, 12-12:50 pm

Class Number: 30334

Instructor: Josh Cannon

We assign meanings to objects on a regular basis, whether it be a wedding ring or a national flag or a box of chocolates in the shape of a heart. This course will examine how social behaviors and attitudes create these meanings and then explore how this creation of meaning affects us. The first part of this course will discuss research methods broadly, with a focus on social scientific research approaches. This will be supplemented by readings that exhibit these methods in line with the creation, interpretation, and impact of meaning. The last part of the course will be dedicated to research design where students will put together their own research project on a topic of their choice. This will include identifying a social science-oriented hypothesis, a way to collect data to test that hypothesis, and a theoretical framework through which that data can be interpreted.

SECTION TOPIC: Identity and Narrative

Fridays, 12-12:50 pm

Class Number: 30332

Instructor: Lesha Greene

Narrative and identity, two terms that are permanently linked. In this seminar, we will explore the concept of identity using different narrative voices. While the first third of the seminar will introduce students to the basic tenets of academic research, the latter thirds will focus on personal research. Introspection and reflection. How does a story change when it is told using the personal I instead of the omniscient 'he/she/they', or, the more abstract 'you'? The seminar hopes to inform the stories we tell about ourselves and of others. engage with fiction that reflects the different narrative voices and will be tasked with writing short fiction/nonfiction pieces.

SECTION TOPIC: Health and Data

Fridays, 10-10:50 am

Class Number: 30329

Instructor: Dave Fraser

Decisions about health are driven by facts and data. This is true whether the decision is made by an individual for their own personal health or by officials setting policy for millions of people. This seminar will look at the presentation of health-related data in the media, with a specific focus on data relating to the COVID 19 pandemic. Readings will focus on ways in which quantitative data is presented to bias the reader towards a particular interpretation and how violations of the basic assumptions about graph construction can be used to mislead. We will also discuss the use of surveys in human subjects research and students will test an original hypothesis using a survey data they have collected using Mechanical Turk.

Archival Research (One Section)

Mondays, 2-2:50 pm

Class Number: 30335

Instructor: Brett Say

Archival research is one of the primary methods used to conduct historical, political or legal research. Through the utilization of primary sources and methods that cross academic boundaries, archival research helps professionals across disciplines uncover new knowledge about the past and better understand the historical roots of contemporary phenomena. This interdisciplinary course introduces students to foundational methods of archival research while developing project management and critical thinking skills. By the end of this course, students will understand how to convert raw, archival data into a concise, written project proposal that can be used as the foundation for research or creative projects.