In this class you will design your honors thesis project. In consultation with your advisor, you will (1) identify a question and rationale, (2) review the appropriate literature, (3) come up with a potential answer – or thesis, and (4) chart a research strategy to determine if you are right. That may sound simple but as you will soon learn, it is very, very hard. (But that’s why you are here, right? You are honors student; you are supposed to be able to be able to crack hard problems.) Class reading will include some “how to” selections and many, many examples on which you can model your work. In several instances you will have the chance to meet with (or at least ask questions of) the authors of the examples. At the end of the quarter you should have a roadmap for researching and writing your honors thesis.

Course Requirements

Class attendance and participation 15 pts
Project Statement (1 page) 5 pts
Bibliography 10 pts
Research problem and rationale (1-2 pages) 15 pts
Literature Review (3-5 pages) 15 pts
Research proposal 40 pts
(a thesis, revised problem and rationale, revised literature review, outline of your empirical strategy, and revised bibliography)

All writing assignments will be graded on the basis of persuasiveness of argument, use of evidence, consideration of alternative viewpoints, demonstrated knowledge of lectures and readings, and attention to detail. Common mistakes include: telling the reader what you feel or believe rather than what can be demonstrated empirically or logically, failing to anticipate obvious counter arguments, lacking a thesis and/or clear logical progression of the argument, and sloppy writing and grammar.

Required Readings
Most of the readings will be articles that will be posted under “course files” on the EEE website. I did order one book that should be in the bookstore soon.

Weekly Assignments:

Week 1 (9/30)  Discussion: Topics to questions. Different routes to a question.
IS Honors Society
Reading: Booth, Colomb and Williams, pp. 9-50

Week 2 (10/7)  Individual meetings (W, Th or Fri) and attend ISPF

Week 3 (10/14)  Designing projects – a question, an audience, an argument, logical and empirical support
Discuss Ross
Need funding? How to fund your research: Said Shokair
Due: project statements
Reading: Booth, Colomb and Williams, pp. 51-82
Kal Raustiala and Robert Keohane, “Toward a Post-Kyoto Climate Change Architecture: A Political Analysis” manuscript.
Recommended: RIGS seminar with Kal Raustiala Friday, October 17 at noon in RIGS conference room, SST, 5th floor.

Week 4 (10/21)  Identifying an audience, reviewing the literature
Doing research – library, web and other strategies
Human subjects review – take human subjects tutorial on line
Librarian visit (?)

Week 5 (10/28)  Making Arguments
Readings: Booth, Colomb and Williams. pp. 105-109
Ann Hironaka, Neverending Wars, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005), ch. 1

Week 6 (11/4)  Collecting evidence: historical, case and database strategies
Due: bibliography
Readings: Booth, Colomb and Williams, pp.131-138
Week 7 (11/11)  NO CLASS – Veteran’s Day
Recommended: ISPF with James Goldgeier Thursday, Nov. 13, 3:30-5

Week 8 (11/18)  Collecting Evidence: interviews, surveys, experiments and ethnographic strategies
Reading: Booth, Colomb and Williams, pp. 83-101
Due: First draft of research question and rationale (Monday Nov.17)

Week 9 (11/25)  Peer reviews
Readings:  Booth, Colomb and Williams, pp.139-170
Assigned peer papers
Due: Literature Review

Week 10 (12/2)  Final presentations

**FINAL PROPOSAL DUE BY 5PM on Friday December 5**