

Seminar: International Relations A I

Hiromi Fujishige

Credit : 4 | Semester : Spring | Year : 3~4
Day/Period : Thu 3rd and Thu 4th

【Subject】

管理 ID :
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授業コード :
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This is the first-quarter of the two-year seminar for graduation theses writing. After registering for this seminar, students will be expected to write up a thesis during their fourth semester (this usually coincides with the fourth-year fall semester). When students can only register for three semesters or less and they have a valid reason for doing so (e.g. studying abroad), they may complete an alternative extended essay; that is, the shorter version of a thesis.

This seminar is designed especially for students who are interested in international security-related issues. The instructor will apply a comprehensive definition to security. In doing so, the scope of this seminar will cover a wide variety of issues, ranging from traditional military/defense-related problems to unconventional security agendas (e.g. human security, environmental security, development issues.)

More broadly, other topics may also be pursued, provided they relate to the discipline of International Relations.

These possibilities include, for example, diplomatic issues (e.g. the US-Japanese relations), institutional problems (e.g. the UN Reform), historical topics (e.g. the US-Soviet relations during World War II), ethical issues (e.g. moral justification of nuclear bombing) and theoretical questions (e.g. human rights as the international norm).

The class will enhance your employability skills in several ways: First, collecting materials will improve your information gathering skills. Second, reviewing materials will promote your ability for critical thinking. Third, writing a research proposal will develop your ability to analyze materials and time management skills. Finally, making a class presentation will sharpen your oral skills so that you may properly deliver your ideas and persuade an audience.

During your first semester, you will be expected to complete your research proposal.

【Goal】

Upon the completion of this course, students are expected to have acquired the basic knowledge and planning skills required to write a thesis.

【Course Description】

(1) During Weeks 2-12, the instructor will provide the fundamental knowledge/skills required for thesis writing. Accordingly, students are expected to complete their research proposal step by step. Each two-period class will be composed of the following elements: lectures, individual works (e.g. finding topics), group discussions and brief individual tutorings. The instructor will put the most emphasis on student progress. Student work will be checked every week and comments and advice will be given to help to improve his/her preparation.

(2) In Week 13-14, students will be expected to make an individual presentation based on their research proposal. This will reflect feedback from the instructor and their classmates.

(3) At the end of the semester, the students will be requested to submit their written research proposal.

【Schedule】

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Guidance	Course Guidance/Screening
2	Essentials for Thesis Writing	Purpose/Procedure/ Coherence / Originality / Research Proposal
3	Finding Your Topic	What are you interested in? Is it worthwhile doing research?

4	Exploring the Existing Materials	Library Tour: Mastering the use of library resources
5	Collecting the Existing Materials	Listing the materials relevant to your topic
6	Information Gathering	Information Gathering/ Ordering
7	Reviewing/Criticizing the Existing Materials	What are the existing arguments? How do you criticize them?
8	Finding Your Question	What questions should be asked?
9	Finding Your Hypothesis	How can you attest your hypothesis?
10	Organizing the Structure	Organizing the flow of your argument
11	Finding the Way of Analysis/ Methodology	How can you attest to your hypothesis?
12	Writing Your Research Proposal	Topic/ Literature Review/ Question/ Hypothesis/ Importance/ Methodology /Limits
13	Presentation (1)	Making a presentation on your research proposal
14	Presentation (2)	Making a presentation on your research proposal
15	Review	Reviewing your progress during the spring semester/ Setting your agenda for the autumn semester

【Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)】

Completing the research proposal.

【Textbooks】

Relevant materials will be distributed in class

【References】

Brian Paltridge and Sue Starfield , *Thesis and Dissertation Writing in a Second Language: A Handbook for Supervisors [new ed.]*, Routledge, 2007.

【Grading Criteria】

Class participation (15%); Weekly assignments [Week 3-10] (40%); Presentation (15%); Research Proposal (30%).

【Changes following previous student comments】

Not applicable.

【Other】

Week 1 attendance is mandatory to register for this class.

【Prerequisite】

None.