

Seminar: International Relations A II

Hiromi Fujishige

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

[Subject]

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.

In the second semester, students are expected to complete their introduction and one of cases.

[Goal]

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to have the basic knowledge and skills required for thesis writing. They are also supposed to have acquired solid preparation and planning skills for their thesis writing.

[Course Description]

(1) In Weeks 2-12, the instructor will provide the necessary knowledge/skills required for thesis writing.

(2) Students are expected to complete and submit their introduction by Week 6.

(3) In Week 13-14, students will be expected to make an individual presentation on their case chapter..

[Schedule]

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Guidance	Course Guidance
2	Examining your Hypothesis again	Is your hypothesis sustainable?
3	Titling your thesis	What is an "attractive" title?
4	Writing an Introduction (1)	Topic/ Literature Review/ Question/ Hypothesis/ Importance/ Methodology /Limits
5	Writing an Introduction (2)	Completing your introduction
6	Analyzing materials	How can you analyze your materials?
7	Persuasive Argument	How can you persuade your readers?

8	Reaching a Tentative Conclusion	What is your tentative conclusion?
9	Writing a Case (1)	Collecting relevant Materials/Note-taking
10	Writing a Case (2)	Analyzing the case
11	Charts and Diagram	Effectively using charts and diagrams
12	Citation	Citation method / Avoiding plagiarism
13	Presentation (1)	Presenting your case
14	Presentation (2)	Presenting your case
15	Review	Reviewing your progress in the fall semester/ Setting your agenda for the next year

[Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)]

Completing an introduction and a case for the thesis,

[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 (10%); Writing an introduction (40%); Writing a case (40%); Presentation (10%)

[Changes following previous student comments]

Not applicable.

[Prerequisite]

Successful completion of Seminar I (International Relations A) is a PREREQUISITE to take this seminar. Also, Week 1 attendance is mandatory to register for this class.