**Library Research Seminar for International Studies and Social Sciences**
 (AS.192.210)
01/30 – 04/10 2019
Wednesdays 6:00PM-8:00PM
Electronic Resource Center (M level, MSE Library)
Instructor: Yunshan Ye (yye@jhu.edu)

**Course Description:**

This course offers training to students in international studies, political science and other social sciences on the fundamentals of library research and research/grant proposal writing.  The course will introduce you to major research resources, strategies and techniques to conduct effective research. By the end of the course, you will have come up with a viable research topic, and complete a research statement that includes an abstract, problem statement and literature review based on in-depth research utilizing tools and techniques covered in the course. The skills that you will learn through the course will prepare you for any future research projects and advanced studies.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance and participation (20%): Full participation is expected. This includes coming to class, doing your work and sharing ideas throughout the course.
2. Mini assignments (15%): Mini assignments will be given through the course. Completed assignments should be sent to the instructor by **Friday midnight of the week** unless otherwise noted.
3. Research Statement (50%): You will complete a minimum two page (singe space) research statement with (a separate page of) annotated references.
4. Presentation (15%): You will be asked to do a 5-10 minute talk about your research project at the end of the course.
5. Pass or Fail: the course is evaluated on pass or fail basis. If you have more than 4 unexcused, un-made-up absences, or miss more than three assignments, or fail to turn in final project on time, you may get “incomplete” or “fail.”

**Course Materials:**

All readings are available in *Course Content Folder in Blackboard*.

**Lesson 1** Course outline, final assignment, and introduction to proposal writing (1)

* PPT presentation on proposal writing

**Assignment #1**: Choose a research topic and write briefly (one paragraph) about why it is important and what you might want to do with the research (independent study, class project, thesis, or grant project?). Email the Instructor by midnight Friday. Read the sample student proposals and prepare for discussion on strength and weakness (no need to turn in).

**Lesson 2** Introduction to Proposal Writing (2)

* PPT presentation (continued)
* Intro to Refworks
* **In class activity**: Read and critique sample student proposals.

**Assignment #2:** Create a RefWorks account and generate a test bibliography of 5 sources.

**Lesson 3** How to Conduct Preliminary Research (Narrow Down the Topic)

* Tools for preliminary research: Proquest; Ebscohost; major disciplinary databases
**In class activity:** Practice and record your search findings and ideas with Refworks and GoogleDoc.
**Assignment #3**: Narrow down your project idea and write a tentative title of your project that suggests the object of study and theoretical approach.

**Lesson 4** How to Find and Organize Related Sources for Literature Review (Identify the “gap”)

* Tools for citation tracking and finding related sources (WoS; Scopus; Google Scholar)
* Tools for keeping up with scholarship (Current Content; citation alerts; TOC alerts)
* How to conduct Literature Review: watch and discuss (<https://youtu.be/2cy3GJ_k4z8>)
* **Assignment #4:** Find one major article on your topic and five related articles. Use RefWorks to generate a bibliography of the six sources. Briefly (one paragraph) describe the "gap" in the literature.

**Lesson 5** Grey Literature and Systematic Review

* What is Systematic Review: definition, uses, and samples
* What is grey literature: examples and search tools
* **Assignment #5:** 1) find a background article about a key concept in your research topic; 2) Write the Abstract of your project.

**Lesson 6** How to Find Primary Sources (1)

* General strategies for finding print primary sources
* Digital historical primary sources: Gale Primary Sources; AMExplorer
**In class activity:** find and report one primary source pertaining to your research project and explain its significance.
**Assignment#6:** Write the introduction (background and problem statement) of your project.

**Lesson 7** How to Find Primary Sources (2)

* US government sources (Proquest Congressional; CGP; Hein Online)
* Declassified documents
* International sources
**In class activity**: watch FOIA video (<https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1399981896796325&id=1373512296109952>)
* **Assignment#7**: write the preliminary literature review with research goal and objectives.

**Lesson 8** Basics of Researching Statistical Data and Mapping

* Tool: Sage Research Methods Online
* Tools for finding statistical data and mapping
**In class activity**: create a map or table or find a data source on your topic and send it to the instructor.

**Lesson 9** Basics of Researching Laws and Regulations

* Tools: Hein Online; WestLaw
* **Assignment #8**: Work on your final project and prepare for presentation. No need to turn in.

**Lesson 10** Class presentation

**Final project due by midnight Sunday.**