



IAFS 4800
HONORS SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
FALL 2023
M/W 3:35 - 4:50
CASE E313

Instructor	Robert Wyrod Associate Professor IAFS and WGST robert.wyrod@colorado.edu	Office Hours	Fridays 10:30-12:30 Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage 211
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Course Overview

This course will lay the foundation for a successful undergraduate honors thesis. It will help you refine your thesis topic, understand and execute the different components of a thesis, and improve your ability to defend your work. It will ask you to fulfill a series of assignments that break your project into manageable parts and help you build the skills and habits to complete a significant original research project. Instead of a traditional content-heavy course, the class will focus on craft and feedback. The topics we will discuss and the material we emphasize will depend in large part on your individual research interests and concerns. I want to be as helpful as possible in establishing a strong basis for your final thesis. As such, please consider our schedule more flexible than a typical course.

Important Arts & Sciences Honors Deadlines

Tues, October 3, 2023 at 11:59 pm – Honors Registration paperwork due to the Honors Program office through online form:

https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation#registration_and_deadlines-104

Wed, April 10, 2024 – Last Day to Defend Thesis (in practice, this means your thesis should be complete by **mid-March**) and Defense Copy Due to Honors Program Office - PDF to honors@colorado.edu

Tues, April 16, 2024 at 11:59 pm – Final Thesis Copy submitted to CU Scholar

Fri, April 19, 2024 by 5:00 pm – Honors Designations Emailed

More information can be found at: <https://www.colorado.edu/honors/graduation>

Grading Breakdown

Participation (20%)

Topic Statement and Research Plan (10%)

Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review (15%)

Research Presentation (15%)

Reports (10%)

Final Paper (30%)

Assignments

Participation (20%)

This class requires active involvement from all attendees. This participation will come in the form of group work, small presentations, and constructive feedback and questions provided to your peers. You will also offer dedicated feedback for the presentation of one of your peers. Frequent participation offers an invaluable chance to prepare for your thesis defense and improve your ability to articulate your ideas orally.

Topic Statement and Research Plan (10%)

2-3 pages.

Introduces topic and specifies the question(s) you seek to answer. Establishes a preliminary research plan. This will also comprise part of your Honors Registration paperwork.

Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review (15%)

5-7 page annotated bibliography and 4-5 page literature review.

Identify books, articles, online sources, etc. relevant to your topic. Consult with you advisor and explain the literature thematically. Format citations appropriately. An unannotated version of the bibliography will also comprise part of your Honors Registration paperwork.

Research Presentation (15%)

In-class presentation on selected day when you will lead a seminar on your developing research. Summarize your intellectual puzzle, its significance, your methods, the relevant literature, and problems you are having. Address questions from your discussant, peers, and me.

Reports (10%)

To help build strong research, communication, and organizational habits, you will have to complete a four 1-2 page written reports. These will include: 1) a topic paragraph; 2&3) two Memoranda of Conversation from meetings with your primary advisor; and 4) a MemCon from your individual consultation with a library specialist.

Final Paper (30%)

20-25 pages.

Includes a detailed introduction, the thesis scaffolding, and a chapter-by-chapter outline of your thesis. It will also include either a “mini-thesis” composed of abbreviated versions of each chapter or a full first chapter. You will submit a copy of this final paper to your primary advisor.

Readings

All of the course readings will be found on Canvas.

IAFS 4800 Schedule

Week One: Introductions and Topics

Mon 8/28 Introductions

Wed 8/30 Topic Discussion

Week Two: From Topic to Question to Argument

Mon 9/4 No Class; Labor Day

Wed 9/6 The Art of a Research Paper
 *Week Two Canvas Reading
 Topic Paragraph Report Due

Week Three: Situating Your Research

Mon 9/11 Scholarly Research: Library Visit with IAFS Area Expert (date tentative)
 Sign up for additional one-on-one appointment

Wed 9/13 Reviewing the Literature
 *Week Three Canvas Reading

Week Four: Methodology

Mon 9/18 Your Methods and Data

Wed 9/20 Visit from Career Services
 Topic Statement and Research Plan Due

Week Five: A Complete Thesis

Mon 9/25 Putting It All Together: Analyzing Sample Theses
 *Week Five Canvas Reading
 Annotated Bibliography Due; Advisor Memcon One Report Due

Wed 9/27 Honors Registration workshop
 Email me completed Honors Registration paperwork

Week Six: Research Meetings

Mon 10/2 No Class – final edits of your Honors Registration paperwork
 Tue October 3 [HONORS REGISTRATION FORM DUE](#) AT 11:59 pm

Wed 10/4 No Class (one-on-one meetings with me)

Week Seven: Research Meetings and Workshops

Mon 10/9 No Class (one-on-one meetings with me)

Wed 10/11 In-class research presentations

Week Eight: Research Workshops

Mon 10/16 In-class research presentations

Wed 10/18 In-class research presentations
Literature Review Due

Week Nine: Research Workshops

Mon 10/23 In-class research presentations

Wed 10/25 In-class research presentations

Week Ten: Research Workshops

Mon 10/30 In-class research presentations

Wed 11/1 In-class research presentations
Library Memcon Report Due (at latest)

Week Eleven: Research Workshops

Mon 11/6 In-class presentations

Wed 11/8 In-class presentations

Week Twelve: Strategy Sessions

Mon 11/13 Strategy Session

Wed 11/15 Strategy Session

11/20 – 11/24 FALL BREAK

Week Thirteen: Writing Workshop

Mon 11/27 How to Write When You Need to Write a Lot
*Week Thirteen Reading
Advisor Memcon Two Report Due

Wed 11/29 No class – Professor Wyrod at conference

Week Fourteen: Writing

Mon 12/4 and Wed 12/6 No class (work on final paper; one-on-one meetings if desired)

Week Fifteen: Writing

Mon 12/11 Class & Partner Check-ins

Wed 12/13 Next Steps

Final Paper Due @ 11:59 pm MT

SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases. The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the "Accommodation for Disabilities" statement on this syllabus. For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

[Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they

have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive an outreach from OIEC about their options for addressing a concern and the support resources available. To learn more about reporting and support resources for a variety of issues, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, In this class, email me in advance and we will work out a mutually agreed-upon arrangement regarding make-up work. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.