**Bachelor’s Thesis**

**Semester:** Fall 2020

**ECTS Credits:** 6

**Hours/week:** 90 + 90 min

**Language:** English

**Instructor:** Cole Simmons, PhD

**Meeting**: Tues: 10:40-12:30 Arendt Library

Thurs: 13:00 – 14:30 Arendt Library

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# CONTENT

This course is a workshop. We will begin each class with a short discussion on what part of your thesis proposal you will be working on followed by a work session. There will also be student presentations with Q&A, to help you prepare for the real thing.

# ASSIGNMENTS

* Library Tour Task (dues Sept 22)
* 4-5 annotated sources (due Sept 24)
* Finish annotated bibliography (due Sept 28)
* Write 3 paragraphs on 1 of your generic categories (due October 1st)
* Full literature review (due October **13th**)
* Finish Abstract (October 20th)
* Outline of method. (October 22nd)
* Full section on methodology (October 27th)
* Introduction (October 29th)

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* Polished Thesis Proposal (November 8th)

**All assignments are “rough drafts” until the finalized proposal, due on November 8th.**

Rough draft assignments: 3% each or 27% total.

Polished thesis proposal: 73%

This scale is subject to change by October 1st--

**Timeliness is of essence in this course.**

Assignments have to be uploaded via Google Classroom by the due date. **Late submissions will incur grade penalty of 10%; 15% if it is not done until the final thesis proposal is finished.**

# Grading scale

A – 100-93%,   
B – 92-84%,   
C – 83-74%,   
D – 73-63%,   
E – 62-51%,   
Fx – 50-0%.

**Four or more absences result automatically in Fx.**

Regular attendance of all classes is of crucial importance in this course. Much of the explanation and implementation of what we learn towards your research project will take place in the seminars and skipping them will have impact on the quality of your research proposal. As per BISLA policy, four absences are permitted during the semester (these are to be reserved for cases of illness or family emergency). Any more absences result in failing the course. Do inform me prior to missing a class.

During this semester, it is essential that we remain safe. Thus, you are expected to stay at home and inform me when you have a raised temperature, feel short of breath, exhausted, experience upset stomach, etc. Contact the NCIZ hotline to arrange for testing. Check <https://korona.gov.sk/en/> for latest information and contact numbers.

# Plagiarism policy

**Plagiarism will automatically result in an Fx and may be subject to disciplinary proceeding and penalties stipulated in Disciplinary Code (up to expulsion).**

All assignments at BISLA should be: (a) based on *your* reading of the sources, (b) based on *your analysis* of the sources, and (c) written by you. All used sources have to be properly referenced in the text as well as in the bibliography of your papers. You may also reference lectures and class discussions—there is a way to reference everything.

**Definition of plagiarism**: If you use a statement, argument or idea from someone without giving them credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by citing your source(s).

You must cite a source in two cases: first, whenever you are using the exact wording of the source (in this case, enclose the words in quotation marks; if you add words to the quotation, use square brackets) and, second, whenever you are summarizing or paraphrasing a statement, argument, idea or narrative from the source. If you do not do this, you are guilty of plagiarism. BISLA is using an APA style of referencing—you will find an APA manual on your Google Classroom page. Also, you can consult OWL Purdue Writing lab online or the APA blog for excellent tips and guidance.

**APA formatting and style guide**: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html>

# Required literature

Baglione, L. (2020). *Writing a research paper in political science. A practical guide to inquiry, structure, and methods. 4th*, London, UK : CQ Press, an imprint of SAGE.

# TOPICS and SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Class Schedule for Bachelor’s Thesis (Tuesday/Thursday)

**September**

Week 1:

15: (No class, nat’l holiday)

17: Introduction to the Course

* In class *discussion*: What is a thesis? Why? How?
* In class *writing*: your topic vs. your presumed thesis; what and why.
* Assignment: Library Tour Task due on Tuesday.
  + (Bring to class Tuesday: your “LTT” and whatever makings of a bibliography you have.)

Week 2:

*Text: Lisa A Baglione, Chapter 3*

22: Annotating the Bibliography.

* Discussion: How annotation helps.
  + Making generic categories
  + Formulating errors of others
  + Formulating good arguments
* R & W: Work on annotated bibliography: (get at least 1 source done)
* Assignment: (get 4-5 sources done)

24: Annotating the Bibliography

* Discussion: Developing a thesis in light of the annotations.
* R & W: Work on annotated bibliography: (get at least 1 source done)
* Assignment: Finish up annotated bibliography (or up to 10 sources).

**October**

Week 3:

*Text: Lisa A Baglione, Chapter 4*

28: Literature review:

* D: Using your generic categories to craft your review; brief intro to “method.”
* R&W: Basic outlining of your review
* Assignment: Write 3 paragraphs on 1 of your generic categories.

1: Literature Review:

* D: Your “method” vs. the “methods” of others
* R&W: Write 3 paragraphs on 1 of your generic categories.
* Assignment: Finish Literature Review.

Week 4:

*Text: Lisa A Baglione,* *Chapter 5*

6: Developing your argument.

* D: Thesis and Abstract
* R&W: Work on your abstract
* Assignment: Work on your abstract

8: Developing your argument

* D: **Discussions of student abstracts**
* Assignment: work on abstract.

Week 5:

13: Developing your argument

* D: **Discussion of student abstracts**
* Assignment: work on abstract.

15: Developing your argument

* D: **Discussion of student abstracts**
* Assignment: Finish your abstract

Week 6:

*Text: Lisa A Baglione, Chapter 5*

20: A return to Method—the idea of *measuring*

* D: Method: the *Standard* and the *sliding-scale*. Or: how to quantify political facts.
* R&W: using your abstract, formulate what indications you see of the Standard within it.
* Assignment: outline your method.

22: Models with a neutral-Standard. Looking at “value-neutral social science.” (I am measuring “democracy” without saying whether it is good or bad. As I would a Toad, or Lion.)

* D: Why we choose our investigations.
* R&W: elaborate on your method-model.
* Assignment: Finish your section on Methodology. Include a “model” if this is a part of your thesis.

Week 7:

*Text: Lisa A Baglione, Chapter 7*

27: Writing the Introduction:

* D: Writing a decent summary-introduction.
* R&W: Write the introduction.
* Assignment: Finish the introduction.

29: Putting your Proposal together.

* D: Going over the nuts and bolts.
* R&W: Fill out the proposal template to your satisfaction.
* Assignment: Turn in thesis proposal at the end of Reading Week: **Sunday, Nov. 8th 2020.**

**November**

Week 8: Reading Week

**Mr. Rector has asked me to leave the remaining part of the semester open, for a possible collaboration seminar.**

Week 9:

10:

12:

Week 10:

17:

19:

Week 11:

24:

26:

**December**

Week 12:

1:

3:

Week 13:

8:

10:

Week 14:

15:

17: