

Honors 495: Introduction to Research Methods

Fall 2004
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Sakamaki A411
Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-2:45

Professor Valerie Wayne
Kuykendall 325, vwayne@lava.net
Office hrs: T3-4, Th 10:30-11:30
and by appointment
Office phone: 956-3039

Course Goals: The primary goal for this course is to prepare you for completing your Senior Honors Project in Honors 496, a one- or two-semester course that allows you to investigate and report your findings on a topic of your choice. Honors 495 provides you with an opportunity to discover a topic for your Senior Honors Project if you do not yet have one in mind, and to develop, refine, and research it even if you already know what you are working on. Through a series of assignments that introduce you to the methods of research, writing, and presentation of information, the course helps you work toward a proposal for the project that you will complete in Honors 496; it also requires that this semester you submit your best twenty pages of written work on your project.

Methods: The course is designed to give you the experience necessary to complete independent research. Lectures will be minimal, and your instructor's role is primarily to provide guidance, suggestions, and responses to your work. You will complete a structured set of assignments to help you define and develop your project. Guest speakers will share their own experiences with research and answer your questions. You will receive advanced instruction on how to use library resources and access other materials for research. You will also meet with your instructor in individual conferences four times during the semester. Writing and revising, re-thinking and re-writing, receiving responses from others and providing them with feedback will be integral to your work.

Requirements: You are required to complete all of the course assignments as well as attend class regularly and on time. You are responsible for learning about all assignments made in your absence, and classes you miss will negatively affect your final course evaluation. More than five absences from classes or scheduled conferences may result in your receiving no credit for the course. If you miss more than two classes in a row or accumulate more than four absences, you are required to consult your instructor to address the work that you missed. If you begin to have difficulty during the semester, let your instructor know in a timely manner via email, a phone call, or a conference.

Evaluation: An evaluation of your work in the course will include your attendance, class participation, course assignments, and an assessment of your progress over the semester. Although your grade of record for the course will be Credit/No Credit, you will also receive a final evaluation in the form of a narrative assessment of your work that will become a part of your record in the Honors Program. This evaluation will be a factor in determining the final category in which you will graduate as honors students: No Honors, Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors.

Academic Ethics: Any act of plagiarism in the course may constitute grounds for your receiving No Credit. Plagiarism involves using work that is not your own without proper acknowledgement. The UH Student Conduct Code defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.

Any work that is plagiarized will receive a failing grade and the student will be referred to the Honors Director and/or the Dean of Students. In order to avoid problems in this area, if you are in doubt about how to handle the presentation of someone else's findings, check with your instructor and, at the very least, provide a full citation.

Shared responsibilities in a learning context: Subjects that matter to us and projects we come to care about have personal as well as academic consequences. When we discuss cultural issues such as ethnicity, race, gender, class, sexual identity, and relationship to land and place, make an effort to respect the rights of others who hold different points of view. In addition to your academic responsibilities, you also have a responsibility to one another to ensure that learning in this course takes place in a safe environment free from hostility. Treating one another with mutual respect enables a context for a productive exchange of ideas and creates a supportive community in which each person's work can grow more fully.

Kokua: If you have any disabilities that might affect your school work, Kokua is a confidential service for students with disabilities that is available to offer assistance to you. Kokua is located in Student Services Center #013. Their phone numbers are 956-7511 and 956-7612. As your instructor, I will be happy to work with you and Kokua to meet your needs related to a documented disability.

Calendar of Assignments and Due Dates:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
1. Information form	Aug. 26
2. Abstract	Sept. 2
3. Bibliography	Sept. 23
4. Thesis Map	Oct. 12
5. Research Proposal	Oct. 14
6. Working Bibliography	Oct. 19
7. First Draft of Proposal	Nov. 11
8. Oral Presentation with poster	Nov. 11-30
9. Final Draft of Proposal	Dec. 7

10. Fall Forum Presentation

Dec. 10

Course Texts:

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

A style and documentation manual appropriate for your discipline. See *The Craft of Research*, "An Appendix on Finding Sources," pp. 297-315, item 6 in your field of study, and check with your adviser.

Course Syllabus:

(subject to change)

Week 1

Tu Aug 24 Introduction to the course
Introduction of students and their research interests
Distribute: Assignment #1, Information form
Discussion: syllabus and project timeline, expectations

Th Aug 26 **Due: Assignment #1, Information form**
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Preface, Prologue, Chap. 1
Distribute: Assignment #2, Abstract
Discussion: getting from topic to abstract; writing abstracts; approaches to research

Week 2

Individual Conferences this week

Tu Aug 31 Q & A with former students from Honors 495
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chaps. 2 and 3 and pages 219-221
Discussion: writing an abstract; from topic to abstract to proposal

Th Sept 2 **Due: Assignment #2, Abstract**
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chaps. 4 and 5
Distribute: Assignment #3, Bibliography
Discussion: building a topic bibliography; reading sources critically

Week 3

Tu Sept 7 Hamilton Library: organization and space

Th Sept 9 Hamilton Library: searching from the computer terminal

Week 4

Tu Sept 14 Hamilton Library: online resources; databases

Th Sept 16 Discussion: reading and organizing sources; advantages and problems of library research

Week 5

Individual Conferences this week

Tu Sept 21 Read prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chap. 6
Panel discussion

Th Sept 23 **Due: Assignment #3, Bibliography**
Distribute: Assignment #4, Thesis Map
Discussion: note taking and staying organized

Week 6

Tu Sept 28 Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chaps. 7 and 8
Distribute: Assignment #5, Research Proposal in abstract form and Assignment #6, Working bibliography with annotations
Discussion: good questions as the basis for good research; from thesis statement to research proposal

Th Sept 30 Meet in pairs to exchange information on one another's research

Week 7

Tu Oct 5 **Presentations: one-minute presentations of another student's project; re-presentations of those projects**
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chap. 13

Th Oct 7 **Presentations: short presentation of two sources from your bibliography to show how they inform your project**
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chap. 12
Discussion: structuring your draft; open discussion of current problems

Week 8

Individual Conferences this week

Tu Oct 12 **Due: Assignment #4, Thesis Map**
Discussion: organizing a draft; outlines from abstracts; citation form and function

Th Oct 14 **Due: Assignment #5, Research Proposal in Abstract Form**
Presentation from Dr. Dendle of the Committee on Human Subjects

Week 9

Tu Oct 19 **Due: Assignment #6, Working Bibliography**
Distribute: Assignment #7, First Draft
Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chap. 15
Discussion: oral presentations with posters; current problems and possible solutions

Th Oct 21 **Presentations: 2-minute presentations for class with feedback**

Week 10

Tu Oct 26 **Presentations: 2-minute presentations for class with feedback**

Th Oct 28 Reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chap. 16
Distribute: Assignment #8, Oral Presentation with Poster
Panel Presentation

Week 11

Tu Nov 2 Election Day: no class

Th Nov 4 Discussion: creating a poster presentation
Prior to class: tour websites on poster presentations:
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/poserwhat.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/posterswhy.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/posterhow.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/gallery.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/FAQ.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/posterres.htm>
<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/poster.htm>

Week 12

Tu Nov 9 Veterans' Day: no class

Th Nov 11 **Due: Assignment #7, First Draft**
Distribute: Assignment #9, Final Draft
Class Presentations

Week 13

Tu Nov 16 **Class Presentations**

Th Nov 18 **Class Presentations**

Week 14

Tu Nov 23 **Class Presentations**

Th Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day: no class

Week 15

Tu Nov 30 **Class Presentations**

Th Dec 2 Re-reading prior to class: *Craft of Research*, Chaps. 13 and 16

Week 16

Tu Dec 7 **Due: Assignment #9, Final Draft**

Th Dec 9 Wrap up and evaluations

F Dec 10 **Fall Forum Presentations**

Finals Week **Final Conferences**

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Assignment #3: Bibliography
Due September 23

Length: 3 to 4 pages

A working bibliography allows you to keep relevant information handy and in one place for easy access. It includes bibliographies, publications, manuscripts, databases, maps, audiovisual resources, and any other reference sources pertinent to your discipline in general and to your topic in particular.

In order to develop an efficient bibliography, you need to be consistent, complete, and accurate in entering the citations. Make a habit of doing it correctly the first time. Remember that this bibliography is the first version of the bibliography that will become part of your research proposal for this course and part of your Senior Honors Project. Knowing that your citations are correct the first time means that you do not have to expend as much effort later on in double-checking them. Now is the time to make sure you have unlimited access to a documentation manual that is authoritative in your field. Purchase one or copy the relevant pages from the library's copy, and use it for this assignment.

You are asked to assemble an initial list of resources that will be relevant to your discipline in general and (insofar as you can know right now) to your topic in particular. Remember that it is useful to list in one place both the general and the particular resources even if you are relatively certain of your topic. The emphases within a topic can easily shift as you work through the research, and having general resources to (re)turn to will save you time.

Although your individual bibliographies will differ greatly depending on your discipline, in this initial listing of resources you should attempt to put together the following:

1. The best generalized bibliographic resources for keeping up with your subject area. These databases will often be both in print and online. Describe each one with a sentence so that when you refer back to the list, the differences between them will be apparent.
2. At least five periodicals/journals which focus on your subject. In a sentence, note which ones seems likely to be most useful.
3. Eight of the ten most influential books, reference works, or reviews on your subject which have been published in the last thirty years. For each entry, add a sentence to indicate why it is important.

4. At least five articles published in the last ten years, again with a sentence to note for your future reference why it is important.
5. A short list of the internet addresses of resources available on your subject that are not the generalized databases to be found in category one. Add a sentence to indicate your sense of the relative importance of each one.
6. Finally, consider what other resources might be useful for your topic: interviews? special collections? videos? government documents? maps? This is a miscellaneous category, which may be critical to some of you.

Please provide full bibliographic information for each resource. If you wish, you may even add the call number for the books and periodicals so that you can relocate a specific item later.

What you will have at the end of this first gathering of resources is an overview of what materials are available for use in your general subject area. You should also be able to establish the beginning of research into your particular topic.

Remember that you are doing this assignment for yourself first of all. Make it useful to you. Do not be limited by the parameters of the assignment. The categories are general ones to get you started on the process of segmenting resources. The required numbers in each category are starting points. If your topic is especially strong or heavy in one area, you should probably put more effort into that section than some others and provide a longer list.

Class locations for the next three sessions:

September 7: Hamilton Library 156A

September 9: Hamilton Library 306

September 14: Hamilton Library 156A

The librarian handling these sessions is Elaine Schulz

**Conferences for Honors 495
Fifth Week**

Monday, September 20

12:30

1:15

2:00

4:00

Tuesday, September 21

10:30

11:15

3:00

3:45

4:30

Wednesday, September 22

1:00

1:45

2:30

3:15

4:00