

# POLITICS SENIOR HONORS SEMINAR II

## New York University, Department of Politics

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POL-UA 951-001  
Spring 2016  
Professor Oeindrila Dube  
19 West 4<sup>th</sup> St., Rm. 428  
odube@nyu.edu

### Course Information

**Lectures:** MW 9:30 am – 10:45am (Bldg:12WV Room: L114)

**Office Hours:** W 4pm – 5 pm

**Lab:** Fri 9.30 AM - 10.45 AM (Building: 25W4 Room: C-6)

The teaching assistant for this course is Maria Carreri. Email: mc4427@nyu.edu.

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to prepare you to write a senior honors thesis. This is the second semester in a two-semester sequence designed to guide you in the development, research and writing of an original, publishable thesis.

### Course Structure and Requirements

**Individual advisement meetings:** At this stage in the process, the course will be structured around individual advisement meetings.

**Memos:** For most individual meetings with Professor Dube, you will be required to prepare a brief memo on pre-specified topics. Unless otherwise specified, these memos should not be longer than 1 page in length. The aim is to communicate your ideas as concisely as possible. During select weeks, you may have other assignments (e.g., an updated section of your thesis). The memos and weekly assignments are due in **by email noon the day PRIOR to your meeting.**

**Presentations:** You will be asked to do two presentations. The first is to present your final set of results prior to when the draft of your complete thesis is due. The second is a practice presentation of your completed work for the honors conference. It is essential that you are in class all days of the presentations, and that you participate by commenting on other's presentations. Your research is improved by other student's feedback and you owe them the same courtesy.

**Lab:** You will have two sessions in the lab with the TA. You will also have individual meetings with the TA. See the schedule of meetings / recitations for relevant dates.

## Grading

Memos and weekly assignments: 35 %  
Class participation and presentations: 15%  
Completed thesis: 50%

**Note:** Your thesis is assessed on the basis of both the quality of your research and the quality of your writing. The quality of your research is contingent on factors such as:

- whether you have developed a question that is worth answering;
- used a novel and sensible research design to answer the question;
- developed a sound theoretical argument;
- devoted effort to bringing as much data into the project as possible;
- devoted effort to analyzing your data; and
- displayed creativity in answering your research question.

The quality of your writing is also extremely important at this stage. You should pay attention to:

- structuring your arguments;
- communicating your ideas clearly; and
- put effort toward editing your writing thoroughly so it is devoid of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Good writing is often, at its core, good editing.

## Approximate Meeting Times

### Group 1:

Park	9:30	9:42
Brown	9:43	9:55
Brukner	9:56	10:08
Castellar	10:09	10:21
Ferro	10:22	10:34
Glaeser	10:35	10:47

### Group 2:

Gottlieb	9:30	9:42
Han	9:43	9:55
Heumann	9:56	10:08
Klinghoffer	10:09	10:21
Lim	10:22	10:34
Bagepalli	10:35	10:47

## SCHEDULE WITH PROF. DUBE

Meeting Group	Meeting No.	Date	Day	Notes / Due Dates
Full group meets in class		25-Jan	Mon	
Group 1	1	27-Jan	Wed	
Group 2	1	1-Feb	Mon	
Group 1	2	5-Feb	Fri 9:30-10:45	Note: Group 1 will meet during lab slot
Group 2	2	8-Feb	Mon	
Group 1	3	10-Feb	Wed	
		15-Feb	Mon	President's Day- no classes
Group 2	3	17-Feb	Wed	
Group 1	4	22-Feb	Mon	
Group 2	4	24-Feb	Wed	
Group 1	5	29-Feb	Mon	
Group 2	5	2-Mar	Wed	
Full group meeting in class		7-Mar	Mon	FINAL RESULTS PRESENTATIONS
Full group meeting in class		9-Mar	Wed	FINAL RESULTS PRESENTATIONS
		<b>March 11th</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>COMPLETE DRAFT OF THESIS DUE</b>
		3/14 and 3/16	Mon / Wed	Spring Break - no classes
Group 1	6	21-Mar	Mon	
Group 2	6	23-Mar	Wed	
		<b>March 25th</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>FINAL THESIS DUE</b>
Full group meeting in class		28-Mar	Mon	THESIS PRESENTATIONS
Full group meeting in class		30-Mar	Wed	THESIS PRESENTATIONS
		<b>APRIL 1st</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>HONORS CONFERENCE</b>

**NOTE:** All-day attendance of Honors Conference is mandatory and strictly enforced. If you have a schedule conflict, make sure to change your schedule for that day. This event is the capstone of your undergraduate career and you have two full months to arrange this one free day. Plan on being at the event from 8:30am to 9:30pm.