

Pol Sci 702 Seminar: Research Methods, Spring 2016  
Mondays 3:00-5:30 in Saunders 624

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#### Course Description:

This course focuses on what I call trans-disciplinary methods as applied to research approaches to a variety contemporary political issues and venues. With an emphasis on aesthetic theory and the politics of aesthetics (and its methodological realizations), it will treat cinema, literature, art history, architecture, poetry and other aspects of the arts. While the philosophical predicates of the methods – readings from Foucault, Deleuze, Ranciere, Benjamin and Brecht (among others) – will occupy some parts of our sessions, the main focus will be on applications. The purpose of the course is to help students design interpretive analyses that move from theory to research, i.e., that effectively move from critical philosophical perspectives to applications that involve readings of artistic and cultural texts. Students from a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. The emphases in the course will range over a variety of substantive areas – global politics, war, urban politics, indigenous politics and over a variety of genres (noted above). For students, the seminar should eventuate in essays that apply theory and methods to the issue areas they wish to explore.

#### Books and Monographs you should obtain

M. J. Shapiro, *Studies in Trans-Disciplinary Method: After the Aesthetic Turn*

Linda Hogan, *Mean Spirit* (a crime story novel that begins with a murder on a Native American Reservation)

Gregory Clark, *Civic Jazz*

Beth Hinderliter and William Kaize, *Communities of Sense: Rethinking Aesthetics and Politics*

Other Readings will be supplied on Lulima

Weekly reading discussion schedule TBA