

Pols 390—Political Inquiry & Analysis (ONLINE) WI, E
(Writing Intensive and Ethics)

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Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to become familiar with a variety of methodological approaches used in social and political research in order to develop thought-provoking research questions and strategies for addressing them. We will engage with each of these methods through reflexive reading and critical writing. We will discuss the ethics of research and consider the stakes of such work with a focus on how power, knowledge and truth influences epistemology (how we know) and methodology (the means by which we produce knowledge). We will consider how knowledge is deeply political and how it comes to be legitimized or delegitimized as well as how doing research and producing academic knowledge as deeply political. ‘

This course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus designation. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of instruction time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of online discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Active and engaged participation online in weekly writing assignments and responses
- 2) Create a 10-15 minute video presentation of your final paper
- 3) Write a 12-15 page final paper

Course Book Requirement:

Ackerly, Stern and True, *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*
Collins, Patricia Hill, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*
Dauphinee, Elizabeth, *The Politics of Exile*
Kendall, Gavin and Gary Wickham, *Using Foucault's Methods*
Freedon, Michael. *Ideology: A very short introduction*
Shapiro, *Studies in Trans-disciplinary Method: After the aesthetic turn*
Smith, Linda Tuhiwai, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*
Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*
Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th Ed.) University of Chicago Press, 2007.

*****Other course materials will be available on Laulima*****

The Fine Print:

Plagiarism: Plagiarized work will be failed work. Presenting someone else's words and ideas as your own without giving that person credit is plagiarism. Cutting and pasting from a website, book, article, journal, or anywhere else without citation is plagiarism. Paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source, or submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved is plagiarism. In your various written assignments you are welcome to draw from outside sources and consult with your classmates, however any ideas of others must be fully and properly cited in your writing. Refer to chapter seven in the Turabian Style Manual for further information. Plagiarism is cheating. Academic dishonesty is punishable by grade reduction, course failure, and expulsion. If you have any question about doing written work or some personal issue (life happens sometimes) that may affect how you do your work, please **talk to me before your work is due**. We can work something out together. **Communicate, communicate, communicate.** If you have any questions, refer to the UHM Student Conduct Code: www.hawaii.edu/eil/students/plagiarism.html

Accessibility Statement: If you require specific disability-related accommodations of any kind, please contact me privately. I am committed to making this class accessible to all students. The KOKUA program on campus (956-7511) is located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center. They coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Computer Labs: You may find computer labs in the Sinclair and Hamilton Libraries, Keller Hall, Saunders Hall, and Crawford Hall. Check either website for availability and locations:
<http://www.hawaii.edu/itslab/index.htm>
<http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/pages/tech/lab/labschedules.html>

Assignments

Weekly Writing Assignments:

The objective for these weekly writing assignments is for you to develop your critical analysis and writing skills as well as to engage with the assigned texts. Write 800-1000-word response to assignments posted in the class schedule below. Each response will be graded for content as well for grammar and style. You must properly cite your sources using the Turabian Style Manual. Your post is due before 7AM HST Saturdays. Late submissions are ½ your grade. Feel free to work ahead.

You will be expected to comment on at least one person's blog post each week (100-200 words). Respond to instructor and peer comments for additional weekly writing response points. Each topically related response over 100 words is worth one point (full credit or no credit). Twenty points earns an A. These assignments will be posted in Laulima's "Discussions and Private Messages" tab.

Final Research Paper:

Choose a primary method discussed in class for your final 12-15-page research paper. You are strongly encouraged to use a mixed method approach to analyze your topic. Use at least two sources from the class in a significant way in your final paper. Develop a thesis question and abstract (350 words) for submission by **29 June**. Submit an annotated bibliography (at minimum include 2 class texts and at least 6 academic sources (no website will count for this) by **13 July**. Please note, you may not use Wikipedia as a source. Only use .gov, .mil, .edu, and reputable .org websites. Ask if you are not certain if a website is reputable. Use the Turabian Style Manual. Use one-inch margins, page numbers, spell check, correct grammar and style, and MS Word only. Submit your final paper to your Laulima Dropbox by Saturday, 16 August before midnight.

Final Project Presentation:

During your final formal presentation you will present your research findings and analysis in a 10 to 12 minute video. Limit your reliance on outside materials, such as other audio/video sources, to no more than two minutes. This is your time to present your work to the class. Be sure to practice your presentation before you record it. You will upload this video and provide a link to the class for viewing. Each student is expected to view all other videos and comment (100 words). You are then expected to reply to these comments. **The final paper is due Saturday, 16 August before midnight.**

Weekly Writing Assignments	Weekly writing responses	Final Project Video Presentation	Final Paper
45%	20%	15%	20%
Due before 7AM HST Saturdays Late submissions less ½ grade	Due before Midnight HST Mondays (credit/no credit) One pt. each	Due Tuesday, 12 August before midnight.	Due Saturday, 16 August before midnight in your Laulima Dropbox

I reserve the right to make amendments to the syllabus at any time during the course of the semester.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (10-13 June) Understanding Epistemology, Ontology, and Ideology

Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*

Assignment 1: Write your origin story.

Week 2 (16-20 June)

Freedden, Michael. *Ideology: A very short introduction* (1-74)

Stanley, Liz and Sue Wise. *Breaking Out Again: Feminist Ontology and Epistemology*.
“Breaking out again: Afterward” (186-233)

Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*, “Two Lectures”

Assignment 2: Explain ideology. Identify two ideologies--one macro, one micro. How are they developed, disseminated, and reproduced? How are ideologies emotional? Why can't politics do without ideology? What does power have to do with knowledge and truth?

Week 3 (23-27 June) Postcolonial & Indigenous Methods (ethical inquiry, case study)

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*

Assignment 3: How do researchers go about producing legitimate knowledge? What are your responsibilities as an insider or an outsider? How does one decolonize methods? Highlight relationships of power and the relationship between epistemology (what we know) with methodology (the means by which we produce what we know).

Submit the abstract for your final paper to your Laulima Dropbox by Sunday, 27 July before midnight HST

Week 4 (30 June – 4 July) (ethnography, ethical inquiry)

Gertz, Clifford. “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture,” and “Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight,” *The Interpretation of Cultures*

Ty P. Kawika Tengan, *Native Men Remade*

Assignment 4: Write a “thick description” of any person or phenomena you noticed in the last few days. Be as detailed in your descriptions as possible. Seek to understand and account for deeper levels of meaning in what you witnessed/experienced.

Week 5 (7-11 July) Feminist Methods: Intersectionality, Standpoint, Critical Race Feminism, Gender (discourse analysis, narrative approaches, feminist theoretical methods)

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*

Kathy Davis, “Intersectionality as buzzword: A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful,” *Feminist Theory*, v.9, 2008, 67-85.

Carter, Nicole A., “Critical Race Feminism: An Educational Perspective”

Assignment 5: What is intersectionality? What makes it a feminist methodology? How does it enable us to think reflexively and critically? How is it different from other feminist approaches? Identify and compare two other feminist approaches; what are their limits?

Submit an annotated for your final paper by Sunday, 13 July before midnight HST

Week 6 (14-18 July) Methodologies in Feminist IR (discourse analysis, narrative approaches, ethnography, interviews, feminist theoretical methods)

Ackerly, Stern and True, *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations* (selections)

Hansen, Lene, “A Research Agenda on Feminist Texts and the Gendered Constitution of International Politics in Rebecca West’s *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (selections)

Assignment 6: How are questions in IR that use employ feminist methods framed? How does a feminist methodology change the focus of the conversation in IR? Give several examples of feminist methods used to research specific questions.

Week 7 (21-25 July) Methods Queer, Methods Trans- (historical research, discourse analysis)

Kendall, Gavin and Gary Wickham, *Using Foucault’s Methods* (selections)

Foucault, Michael. *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*

Assignment 7: How does Foucault use history and genealogy as methods in the *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*? What does he conclude about sexuality and the bourgeois? How does Foucault describe power?

Week 8 (28 July – 1 August) (Ethnography, ethical inquiry, critical legal, discourse analysis)

Sedgwick, Eve, *Epistemology of the Closet*, “Introduction: Axiomatic” (1-90)

Smith, George W., “Political Activist as Ethnographer,” *Social Problems*, Vol. 37, No 4, Nov. 1990 (629-648)

Spade, Dean, “Keynote Address: Trans Law & Politics on a Neoliberal Landscape,” *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review*, Vol. 18:2, Spring 2009, (353-373).

Assignment 8: What is a critical Trans perspective? Identify and discuss how Spade uses these intersecting methods of analysis to develop his argument. What are the political consequences of such an analysis?

Week 9 (4-8 August) Transdisciplinary Method (Aesthetic Subjects) (visual and other narrative methods)

Rancière, Jacques, “From Politics to Aesthetics?” (13-25)

Shapiro, *Studies in Trans-disciplinary Method: After the aesthetic turn* (selections)

Dauphinee, *The Politics of Exile*

Assignment 9: Using Dauphinee’s text, develop an argument that indicates how these aesthetic subjects deliver critical insight to political inquiry on issues related to racism, sexism, sovereignty, war, killing, forgiveness, institutions, etc. See chapter six in Shapiro.

Week 10 (11-15 August) Presentations

-Final Project Video Presentation Due Tuesday, 12 August before midnight HST.

-Make a 100-word comment on each participant’s video due Thursday, August 15 before midnight HST
(8/14 Thursday—Last Day of Instruction)

-Reply to comments on your presentation by Friday, August 16 before midnight.

***8/16 Saturday—Final Papers Must Be Submitted to your Laulima
Dropbox Before Midnight, No Late Papers Accepted***