Politics 404: Senior Honors Seminar  
Spring 2015

Kristina Mani  
Mondays 2:30-4:20pm  
Peters 101

Professor Mani  
Office: Rice 205  
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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm and Thursdays 1:00pm-2:30pm. Sign up for office hours at http://tinyurl.com/34ywc3f

The honors seminar in the Politics Department is an integral part of the honors program for seniors writing their theses and taking the written and oral exams. It does not substitute for a close individualized relationship between adviser and student, which remains the core of the honors program in the senior year. The individual honors advisers remain the primary people responsible for supervising the thesis and preparing the students for the exam. The Honors seminar complements the system of honors advisors by providing opportunities for collective deliberation and creating a framework for common discussion of how to prepare and write a major piece of research in political science. Main elements of the Spring Term course will include: preparation of the précis, preparation for the field exams, and workshopping drafts of sections of the honors thesis.

The honors seminar is required for all senior honors students in the Politics Department. It is a two-semester course (POLT 403 in the fall and POLT 404 in the spring). Students have the option of taking the class for 1 full credit (equivalent to 4 credit hours) or for 1.5 full credits (equivalent to 6 credit hours) each semester. The full credit option is 403F and 404F. The 1.5 credit option involves registering for 403F + 403H in the fall and 404F + 404H in the spring.
### Schedule for Honors Seminar Spring 2015

(we may schedule additional sessions if needed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes (readings, workshopping)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Strategizing the Précis I</td>
<td>Bring key syllabi from your field-related courses. Meet with your adviser re Précis well before the next session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Strategizing the Précis II</td>
<td>Bring advanced draft of your Précis for discussion.</td>
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<td>2/20</td>
<td><strong>Précis due to advisers and Mani.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/23</td>
<td>Research Presentations</td>
<td>Students present a section/chapter of thesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Research Presentations</td>
<td>Students present a section/chapter of thesis.</td>
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<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Final Drafting Issues</td>
<td>Meet as necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10-12</td>
<td><strong>Field Exams</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Strategizing the Orals</td>
<td>Meet as necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/25-26</td>
<td><strong>Orals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td><strong>Thesis Due</strong></td>
<td>Submit to first and second readers, and copy Mani.</td>
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### KEY DATES for 2014-15

- November 10, 2014: prospectus (thesis title and description) due
- February 20, 2015: precis due
- April 10-12, 2015: written exams
- April 25-26, 2015: oral exams (tentative dates)
- April 27, 2015: thesis due
- May 4, 2015: department recommendations due to Honors at Graduation Committee

Revised: 1/28/15