American Studies 630: M.A. Research Seminar      Wed. 2:30-5:20; HEAV 206

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, by appointment

Course Description:

This seminar is designed to support the completion of your M.A. thesis project. We will meet as a group to discuss your research plans and workshop drafts of your writing. You also will meet with me on an individual basis for advising sessions whenever you or I find it necessary to do so. We also will stay in regular email contact throughout the semester to help facilitate your progress and address any research or writing issues that may arise.

Requirements:

- **Timetable and annotated bibliography.** Timetable should include a description (1-2 pages) of your topic and/or thesis as well as descriptions (1-2 paragraphs) with due dates for each projected stage of research and writing. Annotated bibliography should include 2-3 line descriptions of all potential sources you’ve identified thus far. Due Jan. 25.

- **In-class oral progress reports (10-15 minutes).** These should include a description of your topic and/or thesis along with any research findings or work accomplished to date. Reports should also identify any questions or problems you’re having and provide some indication of the next step you will take in your research or writing.

- **Email progress reports** (same content as in-class oral reports) sent to me by noon on Wednesday of the weeks we do not meet. Arrange one-on-one conferences with me whenever you are ready. Also, I will contact you if I think a conference is necessary.

- **Participation in all writing workshop sessions:** you must read the work of your fellow students and offer substantive comments and suggestions.

- **Full draft** of thesis due March 31. Submit it to me, your classmates, and your chair/major advisor (if that person is not me).

- **Final version** of thesis due May 3.

Grades:

Complete all the above requirements, and you’ll receive full credit and an A. Fail to complete all the requirements, and you’ll likely receive no credit and an F. Only in rare instances would some other grade be appropriate for this course.