IS123 BA4/PY Research Seminar

Seminar Leader: Tracy Colony
Course Times: Wednesdays 13:30-15:00, Fridays 9:00-10:30
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to support the preparation and writing of the thesis and project year research project. In the seminar we will learn how to structure and carry out academic research. We will focus on the articulation of research questions and the use of secondary sources. The first sessions will be devoted to a general introduction to forms of academic writing. In the second part each student will be asked to write a two page statement of their research question which will be graded and presented in class for feedback. This will also include the presentation of a reading list for the project (drafted in consultation with the advisor) divided into primary and secondary material. In the final section of the course students will present an 8-10 page draft section of their thesis. Thesis advisors will be invited to attend the presentation of drafts.

Requirements

Attendance

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. More than two absences in the semester will result in a reduction of the course grade by up to one grade step (e.g., A to A-). Late arrival counts as an absence.

Assessment

Careful preparation of the assignments and active participation are of crucial importance. Copies of the two page statement and reading list are to be brought to class on the day of presentation and distributed. Copies of the final draft are to be distributed in advance of class so that others have time to read it and prepare comments. Work for the research seminar will be assigned a letter grade which will appear on your final transcript as part of the senior thesis or project module.

Grade Breakdown

Participation 30%
Two Page Statement 30%
Final Draft 40%

Schedule

Week 1:
2.9 Introduction
4.9 How to frame a research question (Introduction and Chapter 1 of “They Say, I Say”)
Week 2:
9.9 Secondary sources and citation (Chapter 3 ‘The Art of Quoting’ in “They Say, I Say”)
11.9 Tools for effective research (Chapters 7 and 8 in “They Say, I Say”)

Week 3:
16.9 Research Question Presentation
18.9 Research Question Presentation

Week 4:
23.9 Research Question Presentation
25.9 Research Question Presentation

Week 5:
30.9 Research Question Presentation
2.10 Research Question Presentation

Week 6:
7.10 Research Question Presentation
9.10 Research Question Presentation

Week 7:
14.10 Research Question Presentation
16.10 Research Question Presentation

Week 8:
28.10 Research Question Presentation
30.10 Research Question Presentation

Week 9:
4.11 Draft Presentation
6.11 Draft Presentation

Week 10:
11.11 Draft Presentation
13.11 Draft Presentation

Week 11:
18.11 Draft Presentation
20.11 Draft Presentation

Week 12:
25.11 Draft Presentation
27.11 Draft Presentation

Week 13:
2.12 Draft Presentation
4.12 Draft Presentation

Week 14:
9.12 Draft Presentation
11.12 Draft Presentation

Week 15:
Completion Week