Field Research Methods  
Professor Adam Auerbach

This course prepares students for independent field research. Students will acquire methodological skills and data collection strategies that have broad application to both academic research and international program evaluation. The course covers a range of field methods, including ethnography, archival research, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and field experiments, as well as the theoretical, logistical, and ethical aspects of field research design.

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Language, Symbols, Practices, and Identities in International Studies Research (two sections)  
Professor Boesenecker

This course will focus on the theory and application of discourse analysis – the way in which our worlds are constructed and understood through language, symbols, practices, and identities, and the ways in which each of these elements structures politics and societies – in international studies research. After examining the history and evolution of discourse analysis in the social sciences students will develop a research question, literature review, and research design for their own independent research projects (building on the material first examined in SISU-206). As students research and refine their individual projects we will also examine examples of discourse analysis drawn from diverse substantive and geographical areas in international studies research. Students will also receive training in NVivo qualitative analysis software. By the end of the course each student will have produced a full independent, scholarly research project – an original research paper and a presentation – that should serve as the basis for future research, conference presentations, and even potential publication.

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Commodity Chain Analysis (two sections)  
Professor Adam Diamond

Commodity chains are composed of the social relationships, physical assets, governance structures, and technological processes involved in raw material extraction, processing or manufacturing, distribution and marketing of a particular commodity. This class engages with the theory and practice of commodity chain analysis. Analyzing where, by whom, how and under what conditions a given commodity moves from initial conception to final sale helps us understand how the modern global economy works, and how its structures and processes lead to highly varied outcomes for different regions, populations, and environments.

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Discourse, Hegemony, Ideology, Nationalism  
Professor Ali Erol

This course introduces the concepts of discourse, ideology, hegemony, and their relationship to the society at large—with a specific focus on nationalism. The course starts with a theoretical exploration of these concepts and their place in larger scholarly debates, and then moves on to building up skills to critically engage ideological texts in an in-depth manner using critical discourse analysis (CDA). This is a methods course with intensive reading of primary sources, writing and analysis. Throughout the course, students will not only be
exposed to essential readings in critical language studies, but will also learn the basics of qualitative research design. Ultimately, the efforts of the students will culminate in a research paper that only lacks the appropriate literature review.

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**Action-Research Strategies**  
*Professor Johnathan Fox*

Action-research is a key component of evidence-based public interest advocacy efforts. By targeting spotlights on “who gets what” and “who is doing what to whom,” transparency can inform citizen engagement to hold powerful institutions accountable. This course will address a wide range of strategies for using research to inform policy debates, drawing extensively on the professor’s first-hand experience. Case studies will include both quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as levels of analysis that range from the local to the global (with a primary focus on the Americas). Policy issues addressed include environmental justice, human rights, fair trade, development policy, natural resource management, voter participation, immigrant rights, US foreign policy towards Central America, and open government.

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**Olson Scholars Research Seminar**  
*Professor Laura Field*

This section of SISU-306 is specifically designed for Olson Scholars. In addition to providing you with support and feedback for your original research project, the goal of this section is to provide an opportunity to reflect critically about the relationship between social science research and ethics. As you proceed through 306, you will be expected to work more and more independently with your mentor, while class time will generally be devoted to more theoretical questions. With the help of texts from antiquity through to the present, we will discuss questions such as: What kinds of things can we have knowledge about? How do we know what we know? What motivates/drives us as researchers, and why does this matter? What ethical assumptions are contained in our alternative approaches to research? Can we transcend these? Consideration of these broad questions will help you to think more deeply and critically about your own role as a young researcher on the global stage. Throughout the semester there will also be class time set aside for consultations, writing workshops, and student presentations of research.

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**The Euro Crisis and the European Union**  
*Professor Randy Henning*

The European debt crisis of 2010-2013 has profoundly challenged the European Union and its currency the euro. The euro area, moreover, must adopt new reforms in its institutional architecture in order to surmount problems that continue to plague its member states. This course is devoted to European integration and the causes, responses and consequences of the euro crisis. As the sequel to SIS 206, the course asks students to conduct a research project related to this topic and using the research methods developed there. Case studies (“small-n neo-positive “studies) and qualitative methods will be emphasized in this course and are expected to be used in most of the research papers.
Research on U.S. Foreign Policy  
*Professor David Mislan*

Students in this section of SISU-306 will investigate the politics behind U.S. foreign policy. They will learn how to use case study methods to test hypotheses informed by existing theories of foreign policymaking.

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Modern World Order in Historical Context  
*Professor Mirjana Moravini*

Global in scope and comparative in its research approach, this course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to use qualitative research methods in the social sciences—such as historiography, ethnography, case studies, counterfactuals, discourse analysis, and archival research. The course aims at further acquainting students with the nature of political science as an intellectual enterprise that is soundly grounded in a broader historical context.

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Game Theory: Political Choice and Strategy in International Affairs  
*(two sections)*  
*Professor David Ohls*

Description: This course explores formal models of strategic interaction among actors in international relations—how citizens, politicians, non-governmental organizations, firms, interest groups, international organizations, and states fight for their interests. It uses (mathematical) game theoretic analysis and equilibrium solution concepts to predict how actors will behave, and applies these techniques to the study of cooperation in international regimes, counterterrorism, trade relations, compellence and deterrence, and war. Students will develop and carry out a research project analyzing strategic interaction on an international topic of their choosing.

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International Courts  
*Professor Chris Rudolph*

In 1989, when the Cold War ended, there were six permanent international courts. Today there are more than two dozen that have collectively issued over thirty-seven thousand binding legal rulings. To many, the rapid rise of international courts represents a broad trend toward the legalization of world politics. This course examines the emergence of international courts, the factors that shaped their formation, the politics of their design, and their impact on international society. These elements will be examined in depth through a study of international criminal courts, including the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, the ICTY and ICTR, and the International Criminal Court. Although the syllabus readings and lectures will emphasize international criminal courts, students will have the opportunity to develop an independent research project on an international court of their choosing. Students will consider the types of scholarship that characterize this vast literature, identify areas where further research is needed, develop a focused research question, and formulate an appropriate research design and methodology.

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Ethnography and DC Diaspora Populations
Professor Susan Shepler

This course will introduce the use of ethnographic research methods to study questions of international relations related to diaspora populations: Why and when do members of diaspora populations send money “home”? Do diaspora populations contribute to conflict or peace in their “home” countries? How are nationalisms changed through the experience of living in the U.S.? How do inter-generational relations within diaspora populations affect reverse brain drain? Ethnography requires the researcher to understand cultural phenomena from the point of view of the subjects of the study by observing and participating in naturally occurring settings. Students in the course will select a research question related to a DC diaspora population, and then become participant-observers among that population to gather ethnographic data. We will discuss negotiating access, taking ethnographic field notes, ethical issues, data analysis and write up. Students will learn NVivo qualitative data analysis software. The final product will be a substantial original research paper.

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Quantitative Methods in International Studies Research (two sections)
Professor Andrew Spath

This course introduces students to quantitative approaches to international relations. It is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to both understand and employ statistical research used in the study of international affairs. As such, students will learn to read and analyze quantitative research with an eye toward scrutinizing quantitative research designs and interpreting statistical evidence. Moreover, students will become competent producers of research using introductory quantitative methods including both descriptive and inferential statistics. All students will work with real data using Stata (a statistical software program) to manage, graph, display, and analyze different types of data. Among other assignments, students will produce either a replication and extension of an existing research study or an original research project.

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The Practice of Ethnography in International Studies (two sections)
Professor Susan Thomas

This course will be an in-depth exploration of ethnographic methodology and its significance to the field of international studies. You will be introduced to some of the key developments, debates, and scholarly works that have emerged from and informed the practice of ethnography. We will pay particular attention to the ethnographic turn in international affairs and what it means for your own research interests. At the same time, the course will familiarize you with each of the fundamental aspects of engaging in ethnographic inquiry and writing, and you will use what you learn in the classroom to “enter the field” and pursue the research projects you designed in SISU-206.

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Quantitative Analysis
Professor Krista Tuomi

This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills to be an informed consumer and producer of “statistics”. It will help you interpret and critique quantitative analyses commonly found in international affairs journals AND enable you to conduct analyses using statistical software (SPSS). By the end of the course you will produce a research paper based on quantitative data.

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Sociocultural Field Research on Deeper Drivers of International Crises & Conflicts
Professor Shalini Venturelli

International crises and conflicts that persist in varied sociocultural and geographic environments often seem resistant to peacebuilding and stabilization initiatives. They also present a significant challenge to conventional theories. This course provides students with the framework and methods to investigate 21st century conflicts and crises in the field, and to identify and analyze the underlying complex drivers of instability. Drawing from lessons of wars and instability over the past decade in regions around the world, the course focuses on a set of complex sociocultural factors and their dynamic interactions that are critical to understanding the deeper motivations, interest and intent of key conflict players. Using field-simulation workshops, secondary and primary source analysis, and guided independent research projects, students develop some core field investigation skills relevant both to international crisis research and to the design of more effective international policy.

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The Quantitative Analysis of Large Sample Data (two sections)
Professor Eugene Walton, Jr.

This course builds on the methodologies and methods covered in SISU-206 by delving deeper into the quantitative analysis of ‘Large Sample’ data. In this applied course we will focus on developing statistical models to explain and predict real world socio-political phenomena. In so doing, students will acquire the skills needed to solve common analytical problems. These include the acquisition, management, manipulation, estimation and interpretation of large sample data, using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will also learn common techniques for displaying and communicating their findings for professional and lay audiences. Each student will build upon their SISU-206 coursework, and conclude the course with the submission of an original research project. While this class requires the use of Stata (a statistical software program), no particular expertise with statistical theory or software is necessary for the successful completion of the course.

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