

Syllabus / ENV-400

Senior Thesis Seminar - II

Spring semester 2022

Lecturer: Mairambek Nurgaziev, Associate Professor (PhD)

E-mail: nurgaziev_m@auca.kg

Class schedule: Lectures / Seminars: 9:25 - 10:40 on Monday / 9:25 - 10:40 on Wednesday

Course description:

The Environmental Studies Senior Seminar-II brings together majors with different course backgrounds to analyze environmental problems using an interdisciplinary approach. Time in the course will be devoted to three main goals. (1) Reading about and discussing selected environmental problems and how society has responded to these issues. (2) Understanding the methods and techniques that are used to produce and disseminate the information that shapes environmental debates (including scientific knowledge, policy recommendations, historical analysis, and public communication). (3) Developing and completing an independent research project. At the end of semester, students will focus mostly on completing their research and writing of the thesis. Each student will be required to present the results of their research to their colleagues at the end of the course.

CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:

Students should feel free to keep in touch with me and to ask for guidance throughout their research. There are no formal office hours, but I will be available on request, either immediately after the class, or by appointment via the email. There will be several days in the semester during which we will have no classes. Students should spend this time working towards the completion of their research. I will be available for consultation during these times, unless otherwise specified.

Research assignments

An important component of the seminar is the completion of original and independent student research. Students who choose to write an honors thesis may expand this research project into their Environmental Studies thesis during the semester.

Your research goal is to create a product that could move the debate by clearly stating and answering a question. The specific topics and format will be developed in discussion with course leaders and thesis committees (if applicable). As noted in the schedule, the goal of the seminar is to approach this potentially daunting task in stages. You are responsible for planning ahead and staying on top of these deadlines in order to finish your thesis on time.

ASSIGNMENT POINTS

Mid-term test and final examination	20 and 30, total 50 (maximum)
1 presentation and one home or class assignment	10 (maximum for each), total 30
Active participation, note-taking	5 each 2
Bonus for attending classes	10

Withdrawal of grades in case of poor attendance without reason

Minus 5 for each failure to attend

A 100-95	B- 76-71	D+ 47-42
A- 94-89	C+ 70-60	D 41-36
B+ 88-83	C 59-54	D- 35-30
B 82-77	C- 53-48	F < 30

Work and attendance: The work and attendance of all students will be monitored. Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars. Attendance is regarded as a part of the course. This is for the benefit of the students and helps to ensure that they are coping with the work and managing to comprehend all the information and complete all the tasks given to them. Students must come to class on time not to disturb others, being more than 10 minutes late is counted as an absence. Students are not allowed to use any mobile devices or portable computers in class. Students are not allowed to use any mobile devices or portable computers in class, this is considered as a “negative” participation and participation points be deducted for that.

Documentation of reasons for absence: Any valid reasons for absence should be reported to the Instructor as soon as possible. Legitimate excuses are the following: illness, confirmed by a doctor's note next class; a death in the family; participation in conferences or seminars with preliminary notification of the Instructor and submission of the relevant supporting documents. Unless the correct procedure is followed no allowances can be made.

Textbook and readings

Required texts for this seminar include *How to Write a Better Thesis* (2014, David Evans, Paul Gruba, Justin Zobel), Third Edition. *Practical Research Methods* (Dr. Catherine Dawson, 2002). All are available on the e-course website.

Intellectual Responsibility

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be reported to the SSC.

Online course tools: In a force majeure situation, the course can be conducted mainly using the Zoom program, if necessary, additional tools such as Webex, Whatsapp and Skype will be used.

Course materials: No text required. Most course information will be available on-line at the e-course website.

Research and class schedule

Nº	Months	Class	Readings
	During the semester	Improving and Completing Thesis Writing	Lecture materials and research articles
1	Jan	Developing and writing a viable research proposal	2014, David Evans, Paul Gruba, Justin Zobel), Third Edition
2	Fb	Data analysis / laboratory work	<i>Practical Research Methods</i> (Dr. Catherine Dawson, 2002)
3	Mar	Discussion and feedback: the preliminary results of the empirical work	2014, David Evans, Paul Gruba, Justin Zobel), Third Edition
4	Mar	Midterm Exam: (Research Performance) Based on preliminary final results	
5	Apr	Towards Completing a research thesis	2014, David Evans, Paul Gruba, Justin Zobel), Third Edition
6	May	Final exam: Presentations of the thesis research (Final results)	