HD 4980

SENIOR HONORS SEMINAR
Monday, 12:20 – 1:10, Spring 2015

Instructor: Professor Anthony Ong
E-mail: ado4@cornell.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 2 – 3 pm (or by appointment)
Office: MVR 242
Phone: 255-9993
Classroom: HEB 101

Course Description:
This second semester of the honors seminar will focus on the results and discussion sections of your thesis. We will review best practices for presenting findings, and discuss how to create effective graphs and tables. We will also write outlines and then drafts of the results and discussion sections. Finally, students will present their results in a poster at CURB Spring Research Forum in April and will practice their oral defense.

Attendance in the seminar is required, as is completion of all assignments. You cannot pass the course if you have more than two unexcused absences in a given semester and if you fail to submit assignments that reflect high quality work. You will receive one S/U credit for HD 4980.

Remember also to enroll in HD 4990 with your thesis advisor for the spring semester. Be realistic about how much time is needed to complete your thesis. Remember - research often takes MUCH LONGER than expected (1 credit = 3 hours of work per week). **You must manually add HD4980 and HD4990 by the add deadline.**

Academic integrity:
Cornell University asks us to emphasize the material covered in the Academic Integrity Handbook and how it applies to the course. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own independent and original work.

Grading for fall semester
Attendance & participation 25%
Assignments & presentation 25%
Completed theses 50%

*Assignments: For each assignment, you must document feedback from your thesis advisor (this can be an email or edits to your document). Include this feedback with each assignment.

*Poster/talk for CURB: Submit your poster and/or talk for CURB, to be presented on April 16th.

*CURB Presentation: You are REQUIRED to present your research at the spring forum of the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board on April 22, 5:30-7pm. A critical part of conducting research is in disseminating the findings to the scientific community. Participating in the spring forum will allow you to share your work with other undergraduate students conducting research and will give you critical
practice in talking about your work to a broad range of audiences (e.g., those you know your work well and those who may know nothing about your research). **The spring forum will be held in the Duffield Hall atrium.**

**Practice of oral defense:** Every student will give a practice oral defense. As before, briefly introduce the research question to be explored, the relevant background literature and your hypothesis. You should also review who were your participants, how they were recruited, the measures or tasks, and the exact procedure of your study (videos of the procedure can be a very effective way of explaining your methodology). This is an opportunity to get feedback on your presentation and gain practice answering questions. If you have a scheduling conflict with your assigned date, please find someone in the seminar to switch with you and then let me know.

**Thesis and oral defense:** Email your committee members to schedule your thesis defense. Your defense should be scheduled NO LATER than **May 13.** Email your committee your thesis, at least one week prior to your defense.

**Your final thesis:** Once you have passed your oral defense and have made the requested changes to your thesis, email me the final version of your thesis. Due date is NO LATER than **May 20.**

**Statistical workshops:** CSCU offers statistical workshops. I encourage you to sign-up and attend the the workshop listed below.

| Getting Started with Data Analysis | Wednesday, March 4, 2015 | 6:00PM-8:00PM | Mann Library - Stone Computing Lab |

**Assignments for the Spring 2015 semester:**

**Jan. 26**  **Welcome back:** Syllabus overview

**Feb. 2**  **Results section:** **Assignment Due February 23**

**Assignment:** Provide a summary of your hypotheses and include a 1- to 2-page outline of your results section. The outline should include the descriptive and inferential statistics you plan to conduct. This outline will serve as a guide as you begin to write your results section. Please bring a hard or electronic copy of this assignment to class on February 23 but also submit an electronic copy via email. Please share this outline with your thesis advisor and include feedback when submitting this assignment.

**Feb. 9**  **Tables and Figures:** **Assignment Due February 23**

**Assignment:** Select the main findings of your study and consider how they are best presented visually to your readers. Pick one or two findings to present in a figure. The type of figure should be based on the type of data. You may instead, or in addition, present your findings in a table. Please bring a hard or electronic copy of this assignment to class on February 23 but also submit an electronic copy via email. Please share your table(s) and figure(s) with your thesis advisor and include feedback when submitting this assignment.
Feb. 16  FEBRUARY BREAK

Feb. 23  Discussion section: Assignment Due March 2

Assignment: Although your data collection may still be ongoing (perhaps even preliminary, write as complete a draft of your results section as possible. You can leave blank the specific statistics if you do not have them (simply fill in this information once you have completed data collection). Include in your draft table(s) and figure(s) where appropriate. Please share this draft with your thesis advisor and include feedback when submitting this assignment.

Mar. 2  Creating a Conference Poster: Assignment Due March 9

Assignment: Provide both an outline of the points and references you will describe in your discussion section. The goal of this assignment is help you to see the flow of points. The first paragraph or two should be a summary of your findings. Progressive paragraphs should connect your results with previous research. Subsequent paragraphs should address the implications, any limitations, and directions for future research. Please bring a hard or electronic copy of this assignment to class on March 9 but also submit an electronic copy via email. Please share this outline with your thesis advisor and include feedback when submitting this assignment.

Mar. 9  Practice Oral Defense: Zoe

Assignment (Due March 16): Write the first full draft of your discussion section. The discussion should be in APA format and should also include a reference section. Please share this draft with your thesis advisor and include feedback when submitting this assignment.

Mar. 16  Practice Oral Defense: Katelyn

Assignment (Due March 23): Following the guidelines and sample abstracts provided by the CURB website, submit a copy of your abstract.

Mar. 23  Practice Oral Defense: Brian

Mar. 30  SPRING BREAK

Apr. 6  Practice Oral Defense: Devon

Apr. 13  Practice Oral Defense: Amy

Apr. 20  Practice Oral Defense: Grace

Apr. 27  CHARTER DAY

May 4  Practice Oral Defense: Chelsea