

## **Honors Tutorial Course**

**GOV 679B  
Spring 2023**

**Unique # 38350  
Tuesdays 3:30-6:30pm**

**Professor Dana Stauffer**  
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**Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:45-2:00pm,  
Thursdays 12:45pm-2:30pm**

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide support for students as they write their honors thesis. The course will consist mainly of self-directed writing and research, supplemented by bi-weekly peer reviews. Each student will craft a semester plan and set checkpoints and deadlines appropriate to their individual projects. It is expected that you will also stay in close touch with your supervisor, and keep your supervisor apprised of your progress. We will finish the semester with presentations of your theses. As students, your main goal for this course is to finish your thesis. Writing a significant paper is difficult, but the benefit of such a small class is its flexibility. As always, you are encouraged to bring your concerns to me and I will help you find a solution, or connect you with people who can.

### **Course Flags**

- **Independent Inquiry**

This course carries the Independent Inquiry flag. Independent Inquiry courses are designed to engage you in the process of inquiry over the course of a semester, providing you with the opportunity for independent investigation of a question, problem, or project related to your major. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from the independent investigation and presentation of your own work.

- **Writing**

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking,

Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**There are no required texts, but I strongly recommend the following books on writing:**

1. *The Elements of Style*. By William R. Strunk and E.B. White. Pearson: 1999.
2. *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*. By John R. Trimble. Pearson: 2010.
3. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. By William Zinsser. Harper: 2016.
4. *Rebel with a Clause: Tales and Tips from a Roving Grammarian*. By Ellen Jovin. Mariner Books: 2022.

## **Grading**

Your course grade is based on the following components:

- Advisor's recommended grade
- My assessment of effort and overall project (which would only be used to raise, not lower a recommended grade).

**I DO use plus and minus grades as follows:** 92.5 and up = A, 89.5 and up = A-, 86.5 and up is a B+, and so on.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Notification of a need for disability accommodations must be given to the professor at least 14 days prior to a paper due date or exam.

## **Accommodations for religious holidays**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

## **Academic Honesty**

In all of your work for this course, you are expected to know and to adhere to University of Texas policies regarding academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course. Please familiarize yourself with the University honor code.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

## **Title IX**

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](#).

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **We are Responsible Employees and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with us, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email [advocate@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:advocate@austin.utexas.edu). For

more information about reporting options and resources, visit [titleix.utexas.edu](http://titleix.utexas.edu) or contact the Title IX Office at [titleix@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:titleix@austin.utexas.edu).

## Course Schedule

On Day 1, we will divide the class into two groups. One will be group A; the other will be group Z. On the days when we have individualized meetings, students will sign up for a meeting slot in Canvas. On other days, each group will present reports of their progress and/or submit work for peer review.

January 10	Introductions
January 17	<b>Assignment due: 1 page semester plan (all)</b>
January 24	Individual Meetings, Group A
January 31	Individual Meetings, Group Z
February 7	<b>Checkpoint 1: First Self-Assigned Assignment Due (all)</b>
February 14	Updates/peer review Group A
February 21	Updates/peer review Group Z
February 28	Updates/peer review Group A
March 7	Updates/peer review Group Z
March 21	<b>Checkpoint 2: Second Self-Assigned Assignment Due (all)</b>
March 28	Updates/Peer Review, all
April 4	Presentation Preparation, all
April 11	<b>Presentation week; COMPLETED DRAFT DUE</b>
April 18	Peer Review/Editing/Alternate Presentation Date
<b>April 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FINAL DRAFTS DUE</b>