

**Honors 498: Research Methods Course Syllabus**  
**Tuesdays 6-9pm**  
**EHFA 247**

**Professor:** Ms. Margaret Fain, Librarian.

Office: 1<sup>st</sup> floor Kimbel Library      Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm M-F

Phone: 349-2410

e-mail: [margaret@coastal.edu](mailto:margaret@coastal.edu)

(e-mail is the best way to contact me as my schedule changes daily)

**Goals and Objectives:** At the end of the semester, each student will be prepared for Honors 499. Each student will have a signed Senior Thesis Proposal for Honors 499. The thesis proposal will include a thesis and abstract, detailed description of the research methodology and an annotated bibliography of no less than 15 scholarly resources on the topic. Students will have developed and started their project for their Honors Senior Thesis; they will be able to conduct an extensive literature survey on their topic and effectively present their ideas in written and oral formats.

This class has a **BLACKBOARD** site, all class communication will take place there, make it a habit to check it daily.

**Texts:**

Selected required readings for this class are located in BLACKBOARD and are listed in your syllabus. Style manuals are available at the information desk in Kimbel Library.

**Class Attendance:** It is essential that you attend class and you are responsible for all materials covered in each class session. 3 or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic F.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on the required assignments, as listed in your syllabus and includes attendance and class participation.

**Structure of Assignments:**

The goal of this class is to prepare you for the research project you will be conducting in Honors 499. This is your opportunity to select your project and advisor, narrow your focus, learn your research methodology and begin researching your senior thesis.

**Assignments** are listed in the syllabus with their due dates. Assignments must be turned in **on time**, as they are cumulative in nature. Late assignments will be reduced at least one letter grade. Assignments are available on BLACKBOARD.

**Plagiarism:** You are conducting original research and I expect your writing to be original as well. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual ideas and not tolerated in this class. Anyone turning in plagiarized material will receive an F for the class.

## Honors 498 Syllabus:

- Tues. Aug. 26 Introduction to class. Overview of course objectives and aims. Identifying an advisor and viable research projects
- Tues. Sept. 2 Topic definition, research methods: data collection, survey groups, timing. Proposal discussion.  
**Due: citation style for major**  
**Bring ONE article related to your topic to class. READ it before class.**
- Tues. Sept. 9 **Kimbel Library Instruction Room**  
Literature review: subject indexes/databases.  
Annotated articles overview  
Interlibrary Loan
- Tues. Sept. 16 **Kimbel Library Instruction Room**  
Literature searches, first drafts.  
**Due: First set of three annotated research articles by 12:00 pm Wed. Sept. 17**
- Tues. Sept. 23 Discussion of first set of annotated items. Proposal overview  
Oral presentation overview. Presentation and public speaking skills. Contract discussion and research proposal elements.  
**Reading : "Scholarly Presentations" Rajan**
- Tues. Sept. 30 Research appointments this week. Send rough draft of your proposal to Ms. Fain before your appointment
- Tues. Oct. 7 Critique guidelines.  
Article presentations (5 minutes)
- Tues. Oct. 14 **Kimbel Library instruction room.**  
Literature search.  
**Due: First Proposal Draft**
- Tues. Oct. 21 **Due: Second set of five annotated research articles.**
- Tues. Oct. 28 Proposal Review.  
Literature review overview  
Oral presentation guidelines.  
Personal critiques  
**Due: Second Proposal Draft**
- Tues. Nov. 4 No class. (CCU Holiday)  
**Faculty contract and Final proposal due by 6 pm Wed, Nov. 5.**
- Tues. Nov. 11 Oral presentations of proposals.  
**Due: Peer critiques**
- Tues. Nov.18 Individual appointments.

**Due: Third set of five annotated research articles**

- Tues. Nov. 25      No class (CCU Holiday)
- Dec. 2              Wrap-up and class evaluation.  
**Final two annotated research articles and full works consulted list.**
- Dec. 9**              Exam week. No exam for this class. **Personal critiques are due by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 9**
- Dec. 15- Jan. 14      Winter break. Write first draft of literature review.

**Grading Scale:**

1. Citation style	100
2. First set of annotated articles, minimum 3 articles	100
3. Second set of annotated articles, minimum 5 articles	100
4. Third set of annotated articles, minimum 5 articles	100
5. Fourth set of annotated articles, minimum 2 articles	100
6. Full works consulted list	100
7. Rough draft proposal	100
8. First draft proposal	100
9. Second draft proposal	100
10. Final draft proposal	100
11. Faculty contract	100
12. Article analysis presentation	100
13. Oral presentation	100
14. Peer Critique	100
15. Personal Critique	100
16. Attendance and Class participation	100

1600 pts total

**Grading on Assignments:**

A	93-100
B+	86-92
B	80-85
C+	75-79
C	73-77
D	68-72
F	under 68

**Grading for Semester:**

A	1488-1600
B+	1376-1487
B	1280-1575
C+	1200-1279
C	1168-1199
D	1088-1167
F	under 1087