

**EIP Sophomore Seminar
General Studies 391B
Autumn 2004**

Mondays 3:30-4:50pm

Denny 216

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Office hours: By appointment

Seminar: **a.** A course of study pursued by a group of advanced college or graduate students who do independent research under the guidance of a professor. **b.** A meeting of such a group. **c.** A meeting for an exchange of ideas.

OBJECTIVES

The broad purposes of this seminar are to help you explore your academic and professional interests, as well as to help you develop your research interests and skills. In this course, you will have the chance for a yearlong exploration of a research project and post-baccalaureate options. The course provides you with an arena where you can develop an understanding of the structure and system of research; identify how research influences your undergraduate experiences; develop strategies and techniques for maximizing your undergraduate research experience; explore your academic and professional interests; and gain exposure to a variety of different graduate and professional programs.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is a credit/no credit class. Please know now that the class is offered for 1-4 units, but what level of units you choose is up to you. We will expect the same amount of involvement from each other, regardless of the number of units. For this quarter, you will receive credit if you:

- *Attend 8 of 10 class sessions (in other words, you are allowed two unexcused absences)
- *Turn in reflection essays as required
- *Turn in other assignments as required

Reflection essays are NOT diary entries or free-writes. Instead, reflection essays give you a **structured** chance to **purposefully** reflect on what you have learned or questioned in class. Reflection essays also provide space for you to think about your own academic and professional goals. You will be asked to write responses to a series of questions about research, about graduate and professional schools, as well as about thoughts related to our classroom discussions and readings. These are **not tests**, they do not evaluate factual information you have gained, and they will not be graded. We will use them to provide you with a chance for reflection, and to provide us both with an evaluation of class effectiveness.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The seminar will meet for the whole academic year at this day and time. At the beginning of each quarter, you will receive a syllabus for that quarter. This syllabus covers the Autumn 2004 quarter.

DATE	CLASS
Oct 4	Seminar Introductions and community building What is EIP? What is the McNair Program? Overview of this quarter and the year Assignment: Reflection essay #1 "Responsibility" (<i>Due next class</i>)
Oct 11	What is research? Types of research methods Briefly review scope of projects, and how they will be carried out VISIT: TBA
Oct 18	The research question: "Asking something old in a new way, and/or asking something new in a long forgotten way." Begin to work on research proposal VISIT: TBA
Oct 25	The literature review, where and how to find literature VISIT: TBA
Nov 1	Conceptual framework: The role of theory in research VISIT: TBA Assignment: Locate two studies that can inform your work (<i>Due next class</i>)
Nov 8	NO CLASS/LIBRARY TIME
Nov 15	Methodology discussion (i.e., "Big Questions") VISIT: TBA
Nov 22	Triangulation in research: using multiple research methods DUE: Research question VISIT: TBA
Nov 29	Ethics, responsibilities of researcher (re-visited) Human subjects review board VISIT: TBA Assignment: Reflection essay #2 "Responsibility" (<i>Due next class</i>)
Dec 6	Feedback on research questions and proposals Overview of next quarter
December 17	RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE AT THE LATEST!