

**IDSVA SYLLABUS**  
**Seminar VI, Part 2**  
**Launching the Dissertation: Topic, Outline, Bibliography**

<b>Course Number:</b>	Course 902.2
<b>Course Name:</b>	Seminar VI, Part 2: Launching the Dissertation: Topic, Outline, Bibliography
<b>Dates:</b>	September 7 -December 18, 2010
<b>Format:</b>	Online & Teleconference
<b>Instructor:</b>	Professor Kim-Cohen
<b>Credits:</b>	3 Credits

**Course Description:**

In Seminar VI, Part 2, the students will begin to shape their field statements and reading lists into a roadmap for the dissertation. The aim will be to stabilize a list of fifteen titles that will guide the Preliminary Oral Exam, while also establishing a broader bibliography of books to be explored in the process of research. Students will hone their dissertation topics, creating a thesis statement, outline, and bibliography, that will guide their research project.

**Learning Objectives:**

Seminar VI, Part 2 prepares the student for the process of initiating a long-term, large-scale research project. The seminar will stress the importance of organization and step-by-step planning. By the end of the course each student will have produced a thesis statement, a detailed outline, and a bibliography intended to act as a roadmap for ongoing dissertation research.

**Course Requirements:**

Professor Kim-Cohen will conduct individual telephone calls every other week, starting the first week of the course. On alternate weeks, starting the second week of the course, we will conduct a group conference call involving all students in the seminar. Each Sunday, two students will post their most recent thesis statement, outline and bibliography. These documents are necessarily works-in-progress. This is an opportunity to use the powerful research resource known as your cohort. On the following conference call, each of the two students will give 10 minute presentations on their recent postings, framing the ideas and avenues of inquiry with which they are most concerned. Presentations should be “seminar-style” – not formal conference presentations, but more casual, conversational presentations of research directions. Over the course of the semester, each student will post and present 3 times.

Written versions of the presentations and thesis statement, detailed outline, and bibliography should be submitted to Professor Kim-Cohen via FirstClass and to IDSVA Submission Storage by December 18. Late submissions will be accepted but not given

credit unless prior arrangements have been made with Professor Kim-Cohen. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis in response to special circumstances.

Submitted documents must be titled with both the document name and email subject line according to the following format:

**famillyname, givenname\_902.2\_assignmentname\_yymmdd**  
(e.g., “Jones, Sally\_902.2\_bibliography\_100223”).

### **Assessment:**

Grades will be determined by assessment of contributions to discussions on Open Class Forum and Seminar Conference Calls (20%); Individual Calls with Professor Kim-Cohen (20%); Written Postings and Oral Presentations (30%); Thesis Statement, Detailed Outline, and Bibliography (30%).

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- 1) Thesis statement: approximately 300 words, describing:
  - a) the ideas, works, thinkers, history, you plan to engage.
  - b) the problematic of your dissertation research: what questions will you answer? what differences of opinion will you negotiate?
  - c) the approach you plan to take in order address your problematic.
  - d) the existing work on this or similar subjects.
  
- 2) Detailed outline
  - a) 3 -5 pages.
  - b) Formatted like this document, with chapters, sections, and sub-sections. The outline should contain:
    - i) 8 – 12 chapters.
      - (1) Each chapter broken into a minimum of three manageable sections, with anticipated number of pages for each section (be realistic).
        - (a) Questions and prospective issues for each section should be dealt with in sub-sections.
  
- 1) Bibliography
  - a) Fifteen titles specific to your dissertation research, for which you will be responsible at the Preliminary Oral Examination.
    - i) You will read the first 12 or 13 of these titles this semester, and the remaining 12 or 13 next semester in Seminar VII – Dissertation: Work Planning, Sustainable Research, First Chapters.
    - ii) Group of essays may be bundled and count as one of your fifteen titles, provided the total page count is equal to a book-length text (approx. 150 pages or more).

### **Research Posting Schedule:**

Each Sunday, two students will post their most recent thesis statement, outline and

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