This collective, interdepartmental course lends practical, methodological, and strategic support to the writing of the Senior Honors Thesis. We will read theoretical works on the process of research and the craft of academic writing, as well as short scholarly texts, upon which we will exercise our own critical readings and analyses. Combining theory and practice, we will learn how to analyze texts, motivate arguments, and develop and support original theses. Writing forms the primary thrust of the course: thinking about writing, strategizing about writing, talking about writing, writing in its own right. Students will engage in regular peer review and critique workshops, presenting and exchanging work with each other at various times throughout the semester.

In coordination with your thesis adviser and Prof. Merjian, you will develop the theoretical and practical basis for your research project. By the course’s end, you will have produced a significant, initial portion of your thesis, and have generated momentum for the spring term and thesis completion. It is a requirement of the course to write and submit a DURF grant proposal. Class participation and collaboration – as well as thoughtful peer review and feedback – are integral, vital elements of this class. Class attendance is absolutely mandatory.