**Senior Seminar International Relations**
POLI:4800:0001
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Schedule Appointment with Brett: <https://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/brett-cloyd>

**A big idea for conversation**

[Research as Inquiry](http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework#inquiry)**. Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.**

*You can*:

* determine an appropriate scope of investigation;
* formulate questions for research based on information gaps or on reexamination of existing, possibly conflicting, information;
* organize information in meaningful ways (a paper, a bibliography, a presentation, a video);
* synthesize ideas gathered from multiple sources;
* draw reasonable conclusions based on the analysis and interpretation of information.
* seek appropriate help when needed

**Tricks to some of the databases.**

* Look for ways to gather citation information. “Cite Now”, “Citation,” or symbols like “ ” or “C may help you simplify this process for writing you bibliography. More information on the [Citation Management](http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=723644&p=5163162) guide. Consider using a tool like [Mendeley](https://www.mendeley.com/), [Zotero](https://www.zotero.org/) or [EndNote](https://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=723644&p=5163194).
* Explore the search filters, usually on the left hand side of your results. Options like Source Type, Source Name, or Subject can help you get closer to the kinds of results you are seeking.
* Access through the Libraries’ web site to make sure you have access off campus. Most of today’s tools are available under “[Databases](http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/az.php?a=all).”

**Scholarly Articles and Books.**

* [InfoHawk+](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/)
* [Political Science guide for scholarly articles](http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=131973&p=2943559)

**Space for developing a Concept Map.** ([Sample map](https://protogaea.files.wordpress.com/2007/04/weathering-processes-nicholas-lai.jpg)). This is a chance to put down your thoughts in writing. What do you know already about your topic? What kinds of things are related? How are you going to organize your paper? I recommend doing this a couple of times during the semester as you consider the best ways to move forward with your work. Do not aim for perfection at this stage. Just jot down your ideas and be as creative as you like.