**SSCI E-100B: Graduate Research Methods and Scholarly Writing in the Social Sciences**

**Proseminar – Book Review Assignment**

**Due**: March 21, 2016 by email

**Length**: 1,000 words (send assignment as a file in Word)

**Assignment**: Choose an academic book related to your topic of research interest, ideally published in the last 12-24 months. Make sure you receive instructor approval for the book choice. Read the book and write a review according to the following format.

**Format**: The most important part of the book review is explaining the main argument of the book. If you can find the golden question and golden answer, that makes the review even more useful. After laying out the argument, give a summary of the books evidence and how the author builds the argument. You might also want to highlight the evidence used, the structure of the book (chronological, thematic,…), or even the style of writing. Once you given a good overview of the book’s elements, then you should share your critique of the book, which can touch on anything from the main argument to minute details. This is an important demonstration of your reading acumen and understanding of the subject. Finally, you should share your recommendations of the book. Is it a worthwhile read? What is it contributing to the field? Who might be interested in this kind of book? What makes good book reviews even better is your ability to contextualize the book within the larger field. How does this book contribute to our understanding of the subject?

**Purpose**: When writing this assignment, keep in mind that the main purpose of a review is as an academic service to others who are interested in the topic. You want to give the reader the necessary overview of the argument, contents, and evidence used in the book and then provide a critique and recommendation. Based on the review, academic readers can decide whether reading the whole book would be a worthwhile investment.

**Post-Assignment**: After you receive comments from the instructor, you are expected to submit your book review to an academic journal. Along with the grade and comments, you will receive a journal recommendation and a link to the submission site. This is an important part of the review process and the very reason why you are encouraged to choose a newer book.