

POL-482.01
Senior Seminar
Spring 2008

Time and Location: MWF 2:00 to 3:20 in DH 238

Instructor: Dr. Bradt

Office: 305 Dickey Hall

Phone: ext 8140

e-mail: dbradt@lincoln.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM or by appointment.

Supplemental Text: *The Longman Handbook for Writers and Readers*. You may also consult other writing manuals such as MLA or APA.

Student Learner Outcomes:

- 1.) Demonstrate the ability to develop a narrow, researchable hypothesis or thesis statement.
 - 2.) Review the literature.
 - 3.) Place the research derived from the hypothesis or thesis statement in the context of the literature.
 - 4.) Explain how your research extends the body of literature **or**
 - 5.) Explain how your research disconfirms or contradicts the literature.
 - 6.) Present your research to the rest of the class.
- Remember ideas drive original research and creativity and daydreaming are encouraged--**

Course Description: All majors in the department are required to write a senior research paper under the direction of a faculty member. Topics must be related to one or more of the different areas in the field of political science.

The Research Paper: The paper will be 20 to 40 pages long. It will be typed, double-spaced and will be properly cited.

Academic Integrity

Any violation outlined in parts 1. and 2. of the attached FACULTY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY will not be tolerated. In particular any cheating on exams, quizzes, class projects, or any instance of plagiarism will result in a notice of misconduct that will be sent to the Office of the Registrar and/or failure for the project. Any additional instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Furthermore, students must attend each and every class in this course during the semester (see also **Attendance Policy**).

Attendance Policy:

Per *The Lincoln University Bulletin*, the attendance policy consists of the following:

1. Four absences may result in the automatic failure in the course.
2. Three tardy arrivals may be counted as one absence.
3. Absences will be counted starting the first class meeting following the last day of official registration as per the University calendar.
4. In case of illness, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances, the student must present documented evidence of inability to attend classes to the Vice President for Enrollment Planning and Student Life. However, in such cases the student is responsible for all work missed during those absences.
5. Students representing the University in athletic events or other University sanctioned activities will be excused from class with the responsibility of making up all work and examinations. The Registrar will issue the excuse format to the faculty in charge of the off-or-on-campus activity for delivery by the student(s) to their instructor.

Assignments and Grading:

I will determine your grade by your performance on the following:

LITERATURE REVIEW PAPER:

Ten page paper reviewing ten articles and five books. 15%

ORAL PRESENTATION OF LITERATURE REVIEW:

Presentation 10%

Active listening to other presentations 10%

THESIS STATEMENT OR HYPOTHESIS: 10%

ROUGH DRAFT: 15%

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF ROUGH DRAFT:

Presentation 10%

Active listening to other presentations 10%

FINAL PAPER: 20%

The following scale will be used for the calculation of final grades:

A 95-100; A-, 90-94; B+, 87-89; B, 84-86; B-, 80-83; C+, 77-79; C, 74-76; C-, 70-73; D+, 67-69; D, 64-66; F, 63 or less.

January 11	Introduction to Senior Seminar
January 13	Library with Mr. Chopra.
January 18	Choosing a topic or general subject area.
January 20	What does the literature say? (#2) The literature consists of peer reviewed political science articles found in EBSCO's Academic Elite or older articles in JSTOR or in the hard copies of Comparative Politics and American Political Science Review found in the Library.
January 23	Does the literature seem to be heading in one or maybe two directions or does the literature seem to head in multiple directions? (#2)
January 25	Tentative questions: which direction is most fruitful? Could a line of reasoning that differs from the literature be more fruitful to answer important questions in which you are interested? (#2)
January 27	Unanswered (and unasked) questions or why the literature needs improvement. (#2)
January 30	Building up to the question you want to answer. (#1).
February 1	Ask questions not answered in the literature. (#2)
February 3	Frame questions as hypotheses or thesis statements. (#1)
February 4	Narrowing and operationalization of theses or hypotheses.
February 7	Thesis statement or hypothesis due.
February 9	Literature Review papers due.
February 11	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)
February 14	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)

February 16	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)
February 18	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)
February 21	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)
February 23	Oral presentations of Literature Reviews (#6)
February 25	How to answer your question: research design (#6)
February 28	How to answer your question: research design (#6)
March 2	Qualitative research
March 4	Quantitative research
March 7	Constructing arguments, gathering data.
March 9	Constructing arguments, gathering data.
March 11	Written rough draft due.
March 11	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 14	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 16	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 18	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 21	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 23	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)

March 25	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 28	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
March 30	Oral presentations of rough draft. (#6)
April 1	Summary
April 4	Summary
April 6	Your conclusion: how research is original. (#4) (#5)
April 8	Your conclusion: how research is original. (#4) (#5)
April 11	Final paper due. (#1) (#2) (#3) (#4) (#5)