Dr. MARTÍN
FALL 2007
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Dept. Website: www.fiu.edu/~socant; Teaching assistant: Colleen Supanich (cupa001@fiu.edu)
Office Hours: Tues. after class in classroom; Th. 11:30AM-12:30PM or by appointment via e-mail.

Course Goals:
The Capstone Seminar is designed for SOC/ANT. majors so that they may demonstrate their competence as social scientists. Students' major goal in the Capstone is to show an ability to apply research methods and social science theories to a research question or issue. Students are required to expand upon and refine a research project initiated in a previous course (preferably research methods). A final paper must be written and power point presentation must be given in a public forum at the end of the semester. The paper and presentation must be of sufficient high quality that it would merit consideration for publication in a social science journal or serve as a formal research report for an institution or organization.

Required Reading:
The following text is available from the FIU Bookstore.
Booth, Wayne, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams

Grading Policy:
Students earn grades based on the following formula:
Annotated Bibliography & Research Topic Paper (weighted equally) = 25%
Power point Presentation = 25%
Final Paper = 50%

Nota Bene: All assignments must be handed in to me personally. No email assignments or papers are accepted or will any delivered to my office or mailbox. Please note that grades are not negotiable. I will be glad, however, to review any graded work to analyze how a student's performance could be improved.

Research Topic Paper:
Students must write a three page research topic paper that (1) summarizes their research topic (2) reviews work they have already competed on the topic and (3) proposes what further work they need to complete on the topic for the final paper.

Annotated Biography:
Students must identify and review at least 10 bibliographic sources relevant to their research topic. Among these 10 sources, they must identify and review at least 3 different theoretical perspectives. Students must write a one paragraph summary for each of the 10 relevant bibliographic sources. Be sure to discuss the main point of the source, how it is relevant to your research topic and how it may alter the design of your research project.

Final Research Paper and Power Point Presentation:
The final research paper must be between 10 and 20 pages in length. It must contain (1) an opening abstract that summarizes the main points of the paper and notes how it furthers knowledge on the topic (2) a summary of the literature review on the topic (3) a discussion of the research methodologies employed in the research (4) a discussion of the theoretical issues
relevant to the research (5) a discussion of the research results and their scholarly significance and (6) a conclusion that summarizes the main points of the research.

The power point presentation must be 10 minutes in length and cover (1) main goal of the research (2) a brief mention of the relevant theories and methodologies used in the research and (3) the research results.

Professional Standards:
On-time attendance is required for all classes. Absence from class, late arrival to class, unprofessional behavior during class and failure to complete assignments on time will result in a lower grade.

Plagiarism Policy:
Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism includes not only copying directly someone’s words but also using their ideas and insights without citation. Please consult the FIU Student Handbook to understand definitions of plagiarism and the university policy for punishing violations.

Class Schedule and Due Dates: (8/28/07)

August 28: Introduction of students and selection of research topics. Explanation of syllabus.

Sept. 4: No class. Reading time for The Craft of Research and formulation of research topic papers.

Sept. 11: Research topic papers due; class discussion of The Craft of Research, pp. 1-113.

Sept. 18: Class and individual discussion of research topic papers.

Sept. 25: No class. Time for preparation of annotated bibliography.


Oct. 9: Class and individual discussion of annotated bibliography.

Oct. 16: No class. Time for preparation of final paper and power point.


Oct. 30: Class and individual discussions with students on projects.

Nov. 6: Class power point presentation of research projects.

Nov. 13: Class power point presentation of research projects.

Nov. 20: Class power point presentation of research projects.

Nov. 27: Ms. Supanich supervises class in final preparation for power point presentations.

Dec. 4: Power Point Presentations. Final papers due from presenters.

Dec. 11: Power Point Presentations. Final papers due from presenters.