

SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR (SYG 4972): GC 273B

Dr. MARTÍN

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Thur. 2-3PM in office. Before or after class in classroom.

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 (most easily, the research methods course). A final paper is required as well as a power point presentation 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

2003 2nd ed. **The Craft of Research**. Chicago: U of Chicago Press.

Grading Policy:

Students earn grades based on the following formula:

Annotated Bibliography & Research Topic Paper (weighted equally) = 25%

Power point Presentation = 25%

Final Paper or Proposal = 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 reviewing all coursework 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 completed 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 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 and how it is relevant to your research topic.

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, notes how it furthers knowledge on the topic and describes who benefits from the research (2) an introduction to the topic (3) a summary of the literature review on the topic (4) a discussion of the research methodologies employed in the research (5) a discussion of the theoretical issues relevant to the research (6) a discussion of the research results and their scholarly significance and (7) 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 lowered 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:

Jan. 6: Introduction of students and selection of research topics. Explanation of syllabus. Creation of topical interest groups.

Jan. 13: First draft of research topic papers due; class discussion of The Craft of Research, pp. 1-113. Assignment of date for power point presentations.

Jan. 20: No Class. Research time.

Jan.27: Return of first draft of research topic papers and workshop. Class discussion of The Craft of Research, pp. 114-189.

Feb. 3: First draft of annotated bibliography papers due and class discussion of The Craft of Research, pp. 189-288.

Feb. 10: Return of annotated bibliography papers and workshop.

Feb. 17: Final version of paper proposal and annotated bibliography due. Workshop.

Feb. 24: Return of graded research topic papers and annotated bibliography. Workshop.

March 3: Workshop on research papers.

March 10: Workshop on research papers.

March 17: No class: Spring Break

March 24: No class; paper and power point preparation time.

March 31: Power point presentations due and workshop.

April 7: Power point presentations due and workshop.

April 13 & 14: Power Point Presentations. Three copies of final papers due from presenters at presentation.

