

Political Science 401

Senior Seminar

Fall 2009

TR 9:30-10:45

LH 111

Instructor: Stephen Meinhold, Ph.D.

Office: LH 261

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Phone: 962.3223 or email Michelle Starks 962.3810

Email: meinholds@uncw.edu or Michelle Starks, starksm@uncw.edu

Course Description

The Senior Seminar (PLS 401) is the capstone experience for political science majors. It integrates knowledge from the various subfields in political science, examines the relationship between the study of political science and career choice, and explores the link between the discipline and citizenship.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate mastery of the scope and methods of the discipline of political science.
- Further develop oral competency by presenting information to the class and receiving feedback from the instructor and peers.
- Demonstrate and translate what has been learned as a political science major by analysis of concepts and major public issues facing American citizens and public leaders.
- Apply what has been learned in the major by completing a synthesis project appropriate to the student's interests.
- Polish skills in writing and research that reflect clear and reasoned thinking.

Expectations

In this course, you must abide by the **UNCW Honor Code** and the **Seahawk Respect Compact**.

Requirements

Attend scheduled seminars.

Participate in seminars.

Synthesis project.

Grading

Weekly seminar participation – 40 points

Seminar Papers (2 @ 20 points) – 40 points

Synthesis project and oral presentation – 120 points

Total – 200 points. A, 200-180; B, 179-160; C, 159-140; D, 139-120, F, 119-

Books

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

King, Gary, Kay Lehman Schlozman and Norman Nie. 2009. *The Future of Political Science: 100 Perspectives*. New York: Routledge

Schedule

Week 1 – Course Overview

August 20

Week 2 - Political Science: Then and Now Week #1

August 25-27

Readings:

Easton, David. 1959. "The New Revolution in Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 53(4):1051-1061. <http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/PresidentialAddresses/1969AddrEASTON.pdf>

Dahl, Robert A. 1961. "The Behavioral Approach to Political Science: Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest." *The American Political Science Review* 55(4):763-772. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1952525>

Almond, Gabriel A. 1988. "Separate Tables: Schools Sects in Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 21(4):828-842. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/420022>

Wahlke, John C. 1979. "Pre-Behavioralism in Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 73(1):9-31. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1954728>

Blyth, Mark. 2006. "Great Punctuations: Prediction, Randomness, and the Evolution of Comparative Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 100(4):493-498.

Dryzek, John S. 2006. "Revolutions Without Enemies: Key Transformations in Political Science." *The American Political Science Review* 100(4):487-492.

Week 3 -Political Science: Then and Now Week #2

September 1-3

Readings: *Designing Social Inquiry*, Chapters 1-3

Week 4 - Political Science: Then and Now Week #3

September 8-10

Readings: *Designing Social Inquiry*, Chapters 4-6

Week 5

September 15-17 Political Science Now

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 1-37

Week 6

September 22-24 Political Science Now

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 38-84

Week 7

September 29-October 1 Political Science Now

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 85-139

Week 8

October 5-8: Fall Break/PoliSci Days

Week 9 Political Science Now

October 13-15

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 140-192

Week 10 Political Science Now

October 20-22

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 193-212

Week 11 Political Science Now

October 27-29

Readings: *The Future of Political Science*, Pages 213-255

Week 12 - Presentations

November 3-5

Week 13 - Presentations

November 10-12

Week 14 - Presentations

November 17-19

Week 15 - Presentations

November 24-26

Week 16 – Conclusion/Class Discussion

December 1

Final Exam, December 8, 8-11, Synthesis Project Due