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


Schedule

Week 1 – Course Overview
August 20

Week 2 - Political Science: Then and Now Week #1
August 25-27
Readings:


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