



POLITICAL SCIENCE 415

SENIOR SEMINAR, PART II: Writing & Presenting Your Political Analysis

Monmouth College, Spring 2016

Meetings by Appointment

Professor Nathan P. Kalmoe

Office: CSB 332

Office hours: Monday through Friday 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and by appointment

Email: nkalmoe@monmouthcollege.edu

Course Description & Objectives

The senior seminar represents a capstone experience for Political Science majors, pulling together much of what you have learned and applying skills you have honed over the past three years. This is a year-long course worth half a credit each semester. I'll be sure to keep your workload appropriate for a half-credit class. By the end you'll produce a 25-30 page research paper. That's daunting, but we'll work through it step by step.

In the fall, you chose a research topic, wrote a research plan, and completed a literature review on your chosen topic. You also learned basic elements of political science research and practiced skill-building exercises.

The Spring semester is devoted to writing and presenting your paper. You will send a research abstract to the Illinois State University undergraduate Political Science conference. If your proposal is accepted, you will travel with the rest of the class to present the paper at ISU in April. In addition, all of you will present your findings at Scholars' Day on campus. I'll meet with you individually to track your progress throughout the semester. We'll occasionally convene for practice presentations and writing feedback, but we will not meet regularly as a class.

This will be a challenging course: writing a major research paper is hard work, and you'll be learning new skills and ways of thinking for it. The reward will be more than a degree in political science and more than just a better understanding of the political world. You'll have skills and a set of analytical lenses that you can apply and build on as a professional and as a citizen engaged in the political world.

Required Reading

There is no required reading, but I encourage you to reflect on readings from the fall as you write your paper.

Class Resources: Fall semester materials, fellow students, me
(<https://nkalmoe.wordpress.com/senior-seminar-part-1/>)

Requirements

Your overall course grade will be determined by the following:

Office visits	5%
Assignments	10%
Analysis & Results Draft	5%
Rough Draft	10%
Conference Paper	20%
Presentations	20%
Final Paper	30%

OFFICE VISITS (5%)

Meet with me every 2 weeks with an update on your progress, or send at least one page summaries your activities (not your writing itself). It is your responsibility to keep track of these contacts.

ASSIGNMENTS (10%)

You will write a 1-page revised hypothesis & justification, due Jan. 22

You will write an abstract summarizing your paper's topic, theory, hypothesis, anticipated results, and why it's important, due Jan 29. This will determine your participation in the Illinois State conference.

You will provide substantial comments on a draft paper by another student, due March 29.

You will give a practice presentation for your conference talk in mid-April.

And you will write a 600-700 word summary describing your changes in response to peer, professor, and conference feedback, and describing your revision process.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS DRAFT (5%)

The section that needs the most new attention in your paper is the analysis. (Most other sections have already been drafted.) Submit a draft for my feedback on Feb. 26.

ROUGH DRAFT (10%)

Submit a complete rough draft of your paper on March 22. This should adhere to all requirements described for the final version of the paper. There should be minimal typos of structural problems. All your analysis and all paper sections must be complete. This is basically your complete paper, but it will need substantive and stylistic revision to be better.

CONFERENCE PAPER (20%)

This is the revised version of your rough draft, which you will send to be discussed at the conference. You will be evaluated on the quality of your revisions.

PRESENTATIONS (20%)

You will be evaluated on your poster and oral discussion of you project for Scholars' Day, along with your presentation at the Illinois State conference.

FINAL PAPER (30%)

Your final paper will be evaluated once more, considering especially the revisions you have made and the overall quality of your work on this project for the semester. Details will be posted on our class website at the start of the semester.

Course Time Expectations: (hours may vary week to week)

Paper & presentation activities **6 hours/week**

Grading

Grade scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (<60). A's are reserved for excellent and exceptional work, B's suggest your work is very good, C's range are for satisfactory work.

I am a resource for you, along with your classmates. **If you have questions** about reading material, lecture content, quizzes, quizzes, or exams, I encourage you to **talk with other students, come to office hours, and/or make an appointment with me.** I will respond to emails within 24 hours, but usually much sooner. **Please include "Senior Seminar" in the subject line so I can prioritize your email.** This class will challenge you, but I will help you meet it.

COLLEGE INFO:

Academic Honesty

Quizzes, exams, & papers must be the student's own work. Plagiarism, i.e., copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying—from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source—is dishonest.

At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally – will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://department.monm.edu/stuserv/student-handbook/academic.htm>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit;
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor;
4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

It is my policy to enforce the College's academic regulations concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions on this, please see me.

Disability Services

Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should the Disability Services at tlc@monmouthcollege.edu in the Teaching and Learning Center on the 2nd floor of Poling Hall, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations. Please meet with me early in the semester to discuss the implications related to this course and bring your documentation from DS. I will work with you to make the necessary arrangements. For more information: <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/disability-services>

Writing Center

USE THIS GREAT RESOURCE!

The MC Writing Center offers unlimited, free peer tutoring sessions for students at MC. Peer writing tutors work with writers from any major, of any writing ability, on any type of writing assignment, and at any stage of their writing processes, from planning to drafting to revising to editing. They are on the 3rd floor of Mellinger Teaching and Learning Center, open Sunday-Thursday 7-10pm and Monday-Thursday 3-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment necessary! Learn more on the Writing Center website: <http://blogs.monm.edu/writingatmc/writing-center/>

College Counseling Services

Monmouth College Counseling Services assists students in addressing personal, social, career, and study problems that can interfere with your academic progress and success. All services are free and can include individual and group counseling, crisis consultations, and wellness groups. The Counseling Center is in the lower level of Poling Hall, and you can schedule an appointment there, by calling Student Affairs at x2114, or by email hfisher@monmouthcollege.edu or cbeadles@monmouthcollege.edu. The website is: <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/residence-life/counseling-services> In an emergency, please immediately call 911 and campus security at 309-337-5708.

A Personal Note

As you finish your time at Monmouth College, please take care of yourself and your friends, and always be considerate to others. By supporting each other and looking out for one another, we can make college great for everyone.

Sketch of the Spring Semester:

1. Jan 22: 1 page hypothesis & justification
2. Jan 29: abstract due
3. Feb 26: Methods & results draft due
4. March 22: Draft due (add intro, discussion, & conclusion, revise other sections)
5. March 29: Peer draft feedback due
6. April 5: Submit final conference paper
7. **April 12: Practice #1 presentations & feedback**
8. **April 19: Practice #2 presentations & feedback** Scholar's Day posters due
9. April 26: Scholars' Day presentations
10. April 22: Illinois State conference (all-day trip)
11. May 4: Final version of paper due

Syllabus Revisions: This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor with written or verbal notice given in class.