SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this course is to equip the student to do original research in political science. The student will complete a substantial research project under the close supervision of the instructor.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

As a responsible student you will be expected to:

1) Attend class/individual meetings;
2) Participate in class presentations and discussions; and
3) Meet assignment deadlines.

The assignments for this class include:

1) 4 in-class presentations;
2) Annotated bibliography;
3) Literature review;
4) Outline;
5) 2 draft papers;
6) Presentation at the South Carolina Political Science Association Conference;
7) Presentation at Furman Engage!
8) Final paper.

Students who need academic accommodations should notify the instructor as soon as possible.

ETHICAL CONDUCT

Plagiarism is a major offense. A plagiarized paper will receive an “F.” Please consult “Academic Integrity at Furman” for information on plagiarism.

GRADING

Class discussions, the in-class presentations, the two conference presentations, the literature reviews, the paper outline, the first draft of the paper and the general willingness of the student to work hard, take advice, and meet deadlines will constitute 20 percent of the final grade. Late written work will result in a 5 percent deduction. The research paper will constitute the remaining 80 percent.

Two hard copies and one electronic copy of the final draft of the paper are due on Friday, April 20, 2018. Late papers will be penalized one full grade per working day (e.g., “A” to “B”).
COURSE OUTLINE
All Dates and Assignments Subject to Change

Fall Term

Research Question and Research Design

Week 1 (8/23)  First Class; Individual Meetings (8/24, 8/25)
Week 2 (9/1)  No Class
Week 3 (9/6)  Class Presentation: Research Question and Preliminary Research Design (hard copy due); Literature Reviews 1

Literature Review

Week 4 (9/13)  Individual Meetings (9/14, 9/15)
Week 5 (9/20)  No Class
Week 6 (9/27)  No Class
Week 7 (10/4)  Class Presentation: Key Theoretical Contributions
Week 8 (10/11)  No Class
Week 9 (10/18)  Literature Reviews 2; Annotated Bibliography (hard copy)
Week 10 (10/25)  Individual Meetings (10/26, 10/27)
Week 11 (11/1)  No Class

Data and Analysis

Week 12 (11/8)  Literature Review (hard copy); Data and Analysis
Week 13 (11/15)  No Class
Week 14 (11/22)  No Class
Week 15 (11/29)  Class Presentation: Data and Analysis (paper outline due)

Conclusions

Week 16
(12/12, 3:30pm)  Making Sense of Your Analysis

Spring Term

- Draft paper will be due one week before the South Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting (TBA)
- Papers will be presented at the SCPSA Meeting (TBA)
- A revised draft will be due one week before Furman Engaged! (Tuesday, April 3, 2018)
- Papers will be presented at Furman Engaged! (Tuesday, April 10, 2018)
- The final paper is due April 20, 2018