Senior Seminar  

Thursday – 1:10pm to 4:10pm  
CSB 168  

Instructor:  Professor William M. Rodgers III  
  wrodgers@ejb.rutgers.edu  
  732-932-4100, x6203  
  Heldrich Center Office, 30 Livingston Avenue, Room 203  
Office Hours:  Tuesday, 1:00 to 2:00pm and by Appointment  

Course Description  

The Senior Seminar serves as the capstone experience in the planning and public policy program. It is a small seminar in which participants work closely with your peers and me to identify research questions, develop and implement their research design, produce a 25 page manuscript and present it in a public forum.  

The primary objectives of the semester are to further develop your analytical, problem solving skills, spark your intellectual curiosity, apply the methods and literature you have learned in previous classes, and strengthen your research, writing and presentation skills. The thesis provides you with an excellent opportunity to engage in discussions that have piqued your interest in earlier courses and help you identify future career interests.  

Past students have found this experience useful while searching for a job and applying to graduate school.  

Major Course Objective: Conduct scholarly policy-related research  

Helpful Resource and Information  

  (https://sakai.rutgers.edu/).  


Reardon, Denis. 2006. *Doing Your Undergraduate Project*.


Citations:
The Chicago Manual of Style Online. 
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html (free 30-day trial – use it wisely!)

Writing Assistance:
Each campus has a Learning Resource Center: http://lrc.rutgers.edu/contact.shtml.

**Grading Policy**

Your grade will be based on the following elements:

- **15%** Participation in Periodic Group and Individual Meetings with Professor Rodgers
- **20%** Proposal and Interim products
- **25%** Presentation
- **40%** Final Paper

Students are required to attend all classes, meetings, and meet all deadlines. If you have a conflict, I will be much more sympathetic to your situation if you are professional in how you handle the situation. That is, be proactive. If you have an emergency, after the event has passed, please provide the appropriate documentation.

Final papers will not be accepted after the semester’s completion and incomplete or temporary grades will not be assigned.

**Integrity Policies**

Academic and intellectual integrity is not only at the center of the policymaking process, but are also values of the Bloustein and Rutgers communities. Because of this, we will hold all students to the following standards:

- Prompt arrival at all course sessions and meetings (Attendance will be taken)
- Attendance, participation, and respectful behavior in all classes and meetings
- No use of cell phones and instant messaging during classes and meetings
**Statement on Academic Honesty**

All members of our community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. We view a violation of academic honesty as a breech of trust, and will result in a “Fail” in this class, as well as possible suspension or expulsion from the institution. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course materials and instructors.

**Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)**

**Week 1**  
September 3, 2015

Course description: objectives, expectations, grading, and reading

Students describe 2 to 3 research questions/areas of interest

Developing a Research Question (Rodgers)

**Week 2**  
September 10, 2015

Students present 2 to 3 potential questions

How to conduct a literature review (Rodgers)

**Week 3**  
September 17, 2015

No Formal Class – Meet in pairs with Professor Rodgers to discuss literature review

**Week 4**  
September 24, 2015

Students present iteration #1 of “Literature Review Table”

**Week 5**  
October 1, 2015

Students present Iteration #2 of “Literature Review Table”

Identification and choosing methods and data (Rodgers)

**Week 6**  
October 8, 2015

Students present proposed methods and data sources to class
**Week 7**    **October 15, 2015**

Start Analysis – No Formal Class Meeting

Individual Meetings with Rodgers

**Week 8**    **October 22, 2015**

Presentation of 1st refinement of argument/hypothesis/claim and preliminary evidence

**Week 9**    **October 29, 2015**

Continue Writing – No Formal Class Meeting

**Week 10**    **November 5, 2015**

Draft due to classmates and instructor: Tuesday, November 3, 5:00pm

Class Feedback Session

**Week 11**    **November 12, 2015**

Circulate draft manuscript to classmates and Professor Rodgers

**Week 12**    **November 19, 2015**

Class Feedback Session

How to develop a presentation (Rodgers)

**Week 13**    **November 26, 2015**

**NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week 14**    **December 3, 2015**

Students present draft presentations

Comments on manuscripts

**Week 15**    **December 10, 2015**

Research Presentations

Submit Manuscript