**Senior Seminar**

Thursday – 1:10pm to 4:10pm
CSB 168

**Instructor:** Professor William M. Rodgers III  
[wmrogers@ejb.rutgers.edu](mailto: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/](https://sakai.rutgers.edu/)).


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 8, 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 15, 2015
Students present 2 to 3 potential questions

How to conduct a literature review (Rodgers)

Week 3     September 22, 2015
No Formal Class – Meet in pairs with Professor Rodgers to discuss literature review

Week 4     September 29, 2015
Students present iteration #1 of “Literature Review Table”

Week 5     October 6, 2015
Students present Iteration #2 of “Literature Review Table”

Identification and choosing methods and data (Rodgers)

Week 6     October 13, 2015
Students present proposed methods and data sources to class
Week 7  October 20, 2015
Start Analysis – No Formal Class Meeting
Individual Meetings with Rodgers

Week 8  October 27, 2015
Presentation of 1st refinement of argument/hypothesis/claim and preliminary evidence

Week 9  November 3, 2015
Continue Writing – No Formal Class Meeting

Week 10  November 10, 2015
Draft due to classmates and instructor: Tuesday, November 3, 5:00pm
Class Feedback Session

Week 11  November 17, 2015
Circulate draft manuscript to classmates and Professor Rodgers

Week 12  November 24, 2015
NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 13  December 1, 2015
Class Feedback Session
How to develop a presentation (Rodgers)
Students present draft presentations
Comments on manuscripts

Week 15  December 8, 2015
Research Presentations
Submit Manuscript