Senior Seminar        Fall 2017
Thursday – 1:10pm to 4:10pm
CSB 168

Instructor: Professor William M. Rodgers III
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848-932-1028
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


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%** Final 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 7, 2017

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 14, 2017

No Formal Class – Small Group Meetings & Complete Out of Class Assignment

**Week 3**  September 21, 2017

Students present 2 to 3 potential questions

How to conduct a literature review (Rodgers)

**Week 4**  September 28, 2017

Students present iteration #1 of “Literature Review Table”

**Week 5**  October 5, 2017

Students present Iteration #2 of “Literature Review Table”

Identification and choosing methods and data (Rodgers)

**Week 6**  October 12, 2017

Students present proposed methods and data sources to class
**Week 7**  
October 19, 2017

Start Analysis – No Formal Class Meeting

Individual Meetings with Rodgers

**Week 8**  
October 26, 2017

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

**Week 9**  
November 2, 2017

Student Presentations of Results

**Week 10**  
November 9, 2017

**Full Draft due to classmates and instructor:** Tuesday, November 7, 5:00pm

Class Feedback Session

**Week 11**  
November 16, 2017 (Tuesday)

Student Updates: How did you incorporate comments?

**Week 12**  
November 21, 2017

Class Feedback Session

How to develop a presentation (Rodgers)

**Week 13**  
November 30, 2017

Class Feedback Session

Students present draft presentations

**Week 14**  
December 7, 2017

Final Research Presentations

Submit Manuscript