

Political Science 4984-01: Senior Seminar in Political Science

Online
hmbaye@westga.edu

The Senior Seminar in Political Science is designed as a capstone course that provides a broad overview of the major fields of political science: Comparative Politics, American Politics, International Relations, Political Thought, and Methods.

Outcomes and Goals:

On essay examinations, in the term paper, homework, and in oral presentations, students will demonstrate:

- the ability to synthesize and summarize a text in written summaries and on exams
- advanced analyses of a topic to be chosen in concert with the Professor
- the ability to apply learned theories in alternate contexts

Grading:

A total of 1000 points will be available.

-- Two exams worth 200 points each will consist of a short answer section (short, three to four sentence IDs) and essay questions. These are writing to communicate activities.

-- Six quizzes worth 50 points each will be worth a total of 300 points.

--A research project (including an 14-16 page research paper) will be worth 300 points:

25 points will be distributed via a topic submission in Module 2

75 points will be distributed via the annotated bibliography due in Module 6

200 points will be possible with the term paper itself, due in Module 8

Term research project:

Students will be required to write a minimum 5000 word term paper. The paper is to be a formal research paper: thesis driven, with citations and a bibliography.

I have extremely high expectations on the quality of the paper and each of you should understand that grammatical and spelling errors, as well as poor organization, incorrect information, insufficient or poor sources, and unsupported theses will result in a reduced grade. All papers will be submitted to Turn It In. All papers should be *carefully* edited.

Papers which are short will be docked: for 250 words a paper is short, you will automatically have 10 points taken off. Works cited, headers, titles, etc DO NOT COUNT in the word count. The paper must contain a word count and must be turned in in a Microsoft word-readable file so that I can check your word count. The paper WILL be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin; ALL papers must be submitted online via the dropbox. **I will catch you if you plagiarize, and I will fail you.**

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:

Quizzes, exams, and other assignments are **NOT GROUP ACTIVITIES** and should be completed by each student individually. **Any student using another's work, and any student who furnishes that work to another student, will fail this class and will not graduate.**

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination. Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism is “the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion” (Faculty Handbook, State University of West Georgia, August 2004, page 75). If you copy and paste, or use someone else’s words, I will *catch you* and you will *fail this class*.

If you plagiarize your term paper, your essay, or any of your quiz answers, whether in whole or in part, you will fail this course.

Class policies

Read the instructions in each module.

Ask course related questions in the discussion board called “Ask Your Professor,” not via email (unless it’s personal!). If it is personal (for example, grade or absence related), please use the class mail tool. Do not email me unless you cannot access the course. I will not respond to emailed questions about the class. ALL CLASS COMMUNICATION HAPPENS INSIDE THE CLASS.

University Policies:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of class activities

Below you will find the schedule of class activities. All activities and assignments in each module are due on the “due date”. Quizzes will close automatically after noon on each “due date”. Discussions will be closed manually at the same time. Drop boxes will cut off automatically as well.

Attendance and Participation:

This seminar is the **Senior Seminar** in Political Science, and as such it is meant to be a capstone experience – meaning it is part gateway to the world outside the university, and part exit interview prior to your departure. The senior seminar serves these multiple purposes: (1) to

acquaint you with some topics that the seminar leader thinks you should become familiar with before we confer a degree on you; (2) to allow you to flex the intellectual muscles you've been strengthening through four (or more) years of undergraduate education; and (3) to encourage you to reflect upon and evaluate your undergraduate political science major.

With these descriptions in mind, you should be aware that this seminar requires you to do **all** of the reading and complete all of the assignments.

Required texts:

1. Carr, Edward Hallett 1939. *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939*. New York: Harper and Row.
2. Armstrong, Karen. 2002. *Islam: A Short History*. New York: Random House
3. Yergin, Daniel. 2009. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*. New York: Free Press.
4. Jentleson, Bruce. 1997. *With Friends Like These: Reagan, Bush, and Saddam*. New York: Norton.
5. Lynch, Mark. 2012. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. United States: Public Affairs.

Schedule of class activities

Begin Date	Due Date	Module	Assignments	Book Readings
Module 1 contains the syllabus and the "Ask Your Professor" discussion board. Please read the syllabus as soon as you have access to the class.				
August 14	August 28, Noon	Module 2	Quiz for Module 2	Read all of Carr
August 28	September 11, Noon	Module 3	Quiz for Module 3 Paper topic	Read all of Armstrong
September 11	September 25, Noon	Module 4	Quiz for Module 4	Yergin 1-15
September 25	October 9, Noon	Midterm (Module 5)	Exam	
October 9	October 23, Noon	Module 6	Quiz for Module 6 Annotated Bibliography	Yergin 16 - epilogue
October 23	November 6, Noon	Module 7	Quiz for Module 7	All of Jentleson
November 6	November 20, noon	Module 8	Quiz for Module 8 Term Paper	All of Lynch
November 20	December 11	Final (Module 9)	Comprehensive Exam	