

Lewis-Clark State College
Course Syllabus
Social Science 499
Senior Research
Fall 2009

Professor: Chris Riggs
Office Location: Spalding 303
Office Hours: Mon & Wed from 9:00-10:15 am and 3:00-4:15 pm
Tues from 1:30-2:45 pm
whenever you catch me in the office
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Overview

This is a senior “capstone” course for the social sciences. Students will be asked to complete a series of social scientific research activities that will culminate in the creation of a research portfolio and a scholarly paper that will be presented to an audience.

The paper and presentation should reflect the culmination of what the students have learned in their previous courses, and should be of a quality that is close to graduate level work. The course is not intended to teach students how to research, but rather to enhance and build upon existing research skills and to provide evidence that the students have developed substantive research skills during the undergraduate studies.

Purposes/Goals

The purposes and goals of the course include the following

- conduct research
- think analytically
- understand and apply theories, concepts, and categories
- read and analyze scholarly works
- write a clear, concise, and organized paper
- give a clear, concise, and organized oral presentation
- demonstrate knowledge of one or more of the social sciences
- understand and evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence

Class Format

We will sometimes meet as a full class. However, most of our interaction will be one-on-one discussions – in person or via email or phone -- about individual progress on the research project. There will also be a meeting during which the students will present their research to the class and other students, staff, faculty, and interested persons.

Assignments

The assignments for the course are all related to the development of a research paper and oral presentation. They are worth a total of 1070 points.

Please submit assignments **electronically** to ckriggs@lcsc.edu. Doing so will allow for evaluating and returning assignments more quickly. Emailed assignments that are not sent to the correct email account by the deadline for whatever reason will be considered late.

The assignments and point values are as follows. Details will be provided in a separate handout. Due dates are provided below under “Class Schedule” (starting on p. 3).

- Topic Proposal – 10 points
- Preliminary Bibliography – 20 points
- Tentative Thesis/Hypothesis – 20 points
- Disciplinary Classification – 20 points
- Analysis of Piece(s) of Qualitative Evidence and Quantitative Evidence – 50 points
- Social Science Concept/Theory Discussion – 50 points
- Literature Review – 100 points
- Partial Draft - 150
- Full Draft - 200
- Final Draft – 350
- Presentation - 200

Academic Dishonesty

Class policy is the same as that of the college. As explained in the LCSC Student Handbook: Code of Conduct: <http://www.lcsc.edu/student-services/SHBcodeofconduct.htm>

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding. Academic Dishonesty includes:

a) Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term "academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.

b) Fabrication—intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise.

c) Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.

d) Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statement of another person as one’s own without acknowledgment.

As a rule of thumb, if you use three or more of same words in the same order as your source, you should put the words into quotations. Remember that citations are required not only when you use the same words as your source, but whenever you use information and ideas that are not your own. The main exceptions are those things considered “common knowledge” (such as Franklin Roosevelt was elected U.S. president in 1932).

Anyone found to have engaged in any of the above activities or related activities will fail the course, and/or may be subject to additional sanctions imposed by the college.

Special Accommodations

Students with a documented need for special accommodations should please consult with me as soon as possible.

Class Schedule

Please note that “Class Meeting” means that we will meet as a whole class. The professor and students will arrange times during the semester to meet individually to discuss the research projects.

Aug 24: Class Meeting
Defining and Narrowing the Topic

Aug 26: Class Meeting
Research Techniques and Issues
Topic Proposal Due

Aug 31: Class Meeting
Library Research – Meet at Library at noon

Sept 2: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Preliminary Bibliography Due

Sept 7: No Class, Campus Closed

Sept 9: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Tentative Thesis/Hypothesis Due

Sept 14: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Sept 16: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Disciplinary Classification Due

Sept 21: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Sept 23: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Analysis of Piece(s) of Qualitative Evidence and Quantitative Evidence Due

Sept 28: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Sept 30: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Social Science Concept/Theory Discussion Due

Oct 5 & 7: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Oct 12: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Oct 14: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Literature Review Due

Oct 19 & 21: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Oct 26: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Partial Draft Due

Oct 28: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Nov 2 & 4: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Nov 9: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Nov 11: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed
Full Paper Draft Due

Nov 16 & 18: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Nov 24-28: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 & Dec 2: No Class; Individual Meetings as Needed

Dec 7: Class Meeting
Presentations

Dec 9: No Class; Individual Meetings if Needed

Dec 14
Final Paper Due