

**Senior Seminar – Political Science  
(PSI 4492)**

Peter Schimert

Wed: 12:30-14:00

Office Hours: Mon: 14:00-15:30 and by appointment

**Methods:** Discussion and writing.

**Goals:** Developing and writing a senior thesis.

**Outcome:** The student will be required to write a roughly 30-40 page research paper on a subject of interest to him or her. The paper must include a central problem or question to be addressed, a coherent thesis and a sustained logical argument in defense of this thesis. The student will be expected to make a public oral presentation of his work at the end of the semester and answer questions about the research.

**Requirements:** Attending the class meetings, turning in the brief written assignments participating in the discussions, consulting regularly, completing the brief oral presentations, and writing a senior thesis. Since this course is designed to foster research skills, all mpapers will be research papers with proper citations and bibliographies.

**Handbook:** Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*.

**Please Note:**

1. **Attendance in this class is mandatory.**
2. **Missing class will result in the reduction of your grade.**
3. **Turning in assignments in late will also result in the reduction of your grade. The penalty is one grade per day that the assignment is late.**
4. **All assignments must be turned in on paper when they are due. Assignments cannot be turned in electronically.**
5. **Repeated absence from this class will result in failure.**
6. **If you plagiarize, you will fail.**
7. **Students are expected to come to consultations regularly. Those who do not will be penalized.**
8. **All written work must have footnotes and bibliography, which follows proper form based on Turabian. I will not accept it otherwise.**

**Evaluation:**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Short written assignments | 10% |
| Interim report            | 10% |
| Oral Presentation         | 10% |
| Senior seminar paper      | 70% |

**Schedule of Classes:**

Sept. 06 – Introduction

Sept. 13 – Developing a Thesis

Sept. 20 – Preliminary Thesis Statement and Bibliography due (1-2 pages)

Sept. 27 – Periodicals Report due (2-3 pages)

Oct. 04 – Secondary Literature Report due (2-3 pages)

Oct. 11 – Primary Sources Report due (2-3 pages)

Oct. 18 – Thesis Proposal and Bibliography due (2-3 pages)

Oct. 25 – Consultations

Nov. 01 – \* \* \* **All Saints Day! No Class!** \* \* \*

Nov. 08 – \* \* \* **Interim Reports due (8-10 pages)** \* \* \*

Nov. 15 – Consultations

Nov. 22 – Consultations

Nov. 29 – Consultations

Dec. 06 – \* \* \* **Papers Due (in Two Copies)! Oral Reports** \* \* \*

**Please Note! This class will be conducted in strict observance of the honor code and all written work must be pledged and signed before it is graded.**