

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

Peter Schimert

Tues: 14:15-15:45

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:00-15:00, 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 papers 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. No assignments may be omitted. Assignments should not 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 or MLA. I will not accept it otherwise. The bibliography must be annotated.**

**Evaluation:**

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

**Schedule of Classes**

Week of:

Jan. 30 – Introduction

Feb. 06 – Developing a Thesis

Feb. 13 – Preliminary Thesis Statement and Bibliography due (1-2 pages)

Feb. 20 – Periodicals Report due (2-3 pages)

Feb. 27 – Secondary Literature Report due (2-3 pages)

Mar. 06 – Primary Sources Report due (2-3 pages)

Mar. 13 – Thesis Proposal and Bibliography due (2-3 pages)

Mar. 20 – Consultations

Mar. 27 – \* \* \* **Spring Break! No Class!** \* \* \*

Apr. 03 – Consultations

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

Apr. 17 – Consultations

Apr. 24 – Consultations

May 01 – Consultations

May 08 – \* \* \* **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.**