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Instructor: Christian Ponce de Leon
Gates Blake 217
Office hours: Monday 10:00-12:00
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Senior Seminar Public Policy
PBPL 29800
Autumn 2007

Course meets on Monday, 1:30 pm – 4:20 pm
Rosenwald Hall (RO) 432

Please check Chalk website weekly for syllabus updates

Course Description:

This course is designed as a workshop to help you develop and write a high-quality research paper that will satisfy the requirements of the B.A. in Public Policy. To accomplish that, this course will focus on the process of writing your B.A. thesis: developing and refining your research questions, identifying different research methodologies, and writing a plan to assist you in the research and writing process. We will discuss how to write the paper and what it should look like. The preceptors and the other students in the seminar will also help you express your ideas as clearly as possible.

While the class only meets formally during the fall, our work together will continue throughout the year as you research and write your B.A. paper. At the end of the fall quarter you will have developed a detailed outline for your paper. Using the feedback on the assignment, you will be expected to produce a final draft—NOT A ROUGH DRAFT—of your paper during winter quarter. Your grade for the fall quarter will be based on these and other assignments as described below. The written assignments during the fall quarter build on each other and aim to achieve the following course objectives:

- You will select a relevant policy topic, develop research questions, and select a methodology to gather evidence to address your research questions.
- You will plan and pace your research and writing. You will produce a research plan to serve as a guide for your work in the winter and spring quarters.
- At the end of fall quarter, you will submit a detailed outline of your paper.
- During winter quarter you will continue your research and write a final draft of your B.A. paper.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation. Students are required to attend all class sessions. Each student is expected to read (before class) the items listed for each session. In addition, each student should be prepared to present and defend his or her own assignment and/or discuss another student's assignment. The specific rules of the "game" will be discussed during class.

Assignments. Each assignment is submitted twice. The first draft of each assignment is submitted on Friday by noon on Chalk website. The first draft of the assignment will be available for everyone to read. We will discuss the first draft of the assignment in class on Monday and the student will submit a reviewed draft of the assignment on Wednesday by e-mail. Only the instructor will review this second draft.

Detailed Paper Outline. All students are required to submit a detailed paper outline on or before Monday December 3, 2007

Final Draft. All students are required to submit a final draft on or before Monday February 11, 2008

Grading:

The overall grade for the course will be calculated using the following weights:

Attendance and Participation	45%
Assignments	20%
Outline	10%
Final Draft	25%

Final grades will be assigned as a percentage of total points using the scale below:

A	94.0-100	B+	87.0-89.9	C+	77.0-79.9	D+	66.0-69.9
A-	90.0-93.9	B	84.0-86.9	C	74.0-76.9	D	60.0-65.9
		B-	80.0-83.9	C-	70.0-73.9	No credit	< 60

Note: The final grade for this course will not be submitted until the end of the winter quarter, with the submission of a draft. See an instructor immediately if this will be a problem. Thus, you should view this course and the BA paper as an ongoing process that continues throughout the school year. We will meet on a weekly basis in the Fall, and periodically in Winter and Spring dates TBA. Additionally, I will hold office hours during the entire academic year and encourage you all to talk or get help when you need it.

Other Deadlines:

Final Honors B.A. Papers due Early May 2008 (TBA) by 5pm to Gates-Blake 217
(to second reader and to Department Office)

Final B.A. Papers due Early May 2008 (TBA) by 5pm to Gates-Blake 217 and Department
Office

Course Materials:

Articles and papers are posted on chalk website. The following book is on reserve at Regenstein
and has been ordered at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Booth, W. C., G. G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams. 2003, *The Craft of Research*, Chicago, IL: The
University of Chicago Press

Course Outline:

Week 1. Introduction to the Course

[Monday, September 24] No readings assigned

[Friday, September 28]

Submit first draft of Assignment 1

Week 2. Developing Research Questions

[Monday, October 1]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Chapter 3 (From Topics to Questions) and Chapter 4 (From Questions to problems).

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 1. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, October 3]

Submit second draft of Assignment 1

[Friday, October 5]

Submit first draft of Assignment 2

Week 3. Developing Research Questions

[Monday, October 8]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Chapter 5 (From Problems to Sources) and Chapter 6 (Using Sources).

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 2. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, October 10]

Submit second draft of Assignment 2

[Friday, October 12]

Submit first draft of Assignment 3

Week 4. Sources, Methodology, and Data

[Monday, October 15]

Readings: Choice of: Finnegan, Weisberg, Marshall

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 3. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, October 17]

Submit second draft of Assignment 3

[Friday, October 19]

Submit first draft of Assignment 4

Week 5. Sources, Methodology, and Data

[Monday, October 22]

Readings: Choice of: Finnegan, Weisberg, Marshall

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 4. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, October 24]

Submit second draft of Assignment 4

[Friday, October 26]

Submit first draft of Assignment 5

Week 6. Background / Literature Review

[Monday, October 29]

Readings: TBA

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 5. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, October 31]

Submit second draft of Assignment 5

[Friday, November 2]

Submit first draft of Assignment 6

Week 7. Argument

[Monday, November 5]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Skim Part I (Chapters 1 and 2), and read Chapter 7 (Making Good Arguments), Chapter 8 (Claims), and Chapter 9 (Reasons and Evidence).

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 6. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, November 7]

Submit second draft of Assignment 6

[Friday, November 9]

Submit first draft of Assignment 7

Week 8. Argument

[Monday, November 12]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Chapter 10 (Acknowledgements and Responses), and Chapter 11 (Warrants).

Discussion: Pair discussions on assignment 8. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other assignments and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

[Wednesday, November 14]

Submit second draft of Assignment 8

[Friday, November 9]

Submit a draft of your introduction (will not be graded but will count as participation)

Week 9. Introduction

[Monday, November 19]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Chapter 14 (Introduction and Conclusions).

Discussion: Pair discussions on introductions. Prepare to present your assignment and/or discuss your partner's assignment. In addition, you have to randomly select 4 other introductions and be prepared to make comments on each of them.

Week 10. Planning and Drafting

[Monday, November 26]

Readings: The Craft of Research, Skim Part IV

Week of Exams. Detailed Paper Outline

[Monday, December 3]

Please submit:

- 1) Revised drafts of the pieces you have developed throughout the course:
 - a. Introduction and Problem Statement
 - b. Background/Theory
 - c. Methodology/Data
 - d. References
- 2) An outline of remaining sections, including:
 - a. Results/Analysis/Discussion
 - b. Policy Recommendations/Conclusion

Winter Quarter. Polished Draft of Paper

Due to Gates-Blake 217 by 5pm on Friday, February 11, 2008.

A polished draft of your B.A. paper is the final assignment of the fall course. Using the feedback on your final assignment of fall quarter (a detailed outline of your paper) and the research plan you developed you will work on your research and writing during the winter quarter. I will be available by email and office hours during winter quarter to help you with questions and provide guidance as your research progresses. During the spring quarter, you will work on revising your paper. You will have comments on your draft and continued contact by email and office hours with the lecturers to help you with this final stage of your project.

Winter Quarter. Honors Papers

You must have a 3.25 GPA or above in your concentration to be eligible for Honors. To be of Honors quality, your paper must either teach your reader things s/he did not know or put existing information together in a creative or freshly informative way. Honors papers require two readers. At least one of us will be a reader and you would find the other. The student is responsible for securing a second reader for her/his paper. Both readers must agree that the paper submitted is of honor quality. Disagreements between your readers regarding the quality of your paper will be adjudicated by the department director.

Eligible students who do pursue honors, obtain a second reader, and return an Honors form (with the signature of your additional reader) to a preceptor by Friday, February 11, 2007. Please note that this is also the due date for the rough draft of your paper (see above). Also note that the final BA papers of students seeking honors are due May 9, 2007. Course instructors are available to assist in your decision to pursue honors.

Spring Quarter. Final Paper

The final B.A. paper is due to your reader by 5pm on Friday, May 9, 2007.

Honors papers are due to both readers by 5 pm on Friday May 9, 2007.

An additional copy of your paper must be given to Lee Price in the department office in Gates-Blake.

The cover page for the paper must include the paper title, your name, the date the paper is submitted, and your reader(s) name(s). The second page of the paper must contain an abstract of your paper. This is a concise description of the policy problem, research questions, findings, and recommendations which follow in your paper. The abstract should be approximately 75-100 words in length.