

SUNY, Potsdam College
Department of Politics

Politics 400: Senior Seminar

Fall 2018
MW 4:00-5:40
Satterlee Hall 116

Daniel Lempert
Office: Satterlee Hall 309B
lemperds@potsdam.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:15

Course Description and Objectives. This is the capstone seminar in the Politics Department. Our goal is to develop, write, and present an original piece of political science research.

Course Structure. This course will be taught as a seminar, with minimal lecturing. The bulk of class time will be student-led discussion; our goal will be to help each other develop our research projects. Frequently, even outside the context of formal assignments, I will ask you to bring your progress to class sessions for discussion.

Grading. Course grades will be based on the following components.

In-class participation (active and prepared); completion of preliminary assignments: 40%

Presentation of Results (including poster itself): 20%

Final Draft of Paper 40%

Grading Scale. The grading scale is standard. 92-100: 4.0; 90-92: 3.7; 88-90: 3.3, etc.

Extra Credit. There may be opportunity for extra credit, worth 2% of your final grade. I will give details in class, and post information on Moodle.

Late Paper Policy. Due to the cumulative nature of this course, my late assignment policy is stricter than usual: 5% off per day (or fraction thereof) late; no credit for assignments more than a week late. No late poster presentations can be accepted, since the entire Politics faculty attends on a set date.

Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes. Only absences for medical reasons, certified by a doctor, and absences for religious holidays will be considered excused. Coming to class on time and prepared is crucial. At my discretion, I will administer unannounced quizzes covering the readings.

Assistance. As always, I am happy to provide any help that you need. My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. Please check by my office or email if you'd like to meet outside of office hours.

Academic Honesty. Please review the Honor Code:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/honorcode/index.cfm>

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). Any case of cheating, plagiarism, or other academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, where it will be handled according to college policy. The default penalty for plagiarism is the 0 on the plagiarized assignment or 1.0 grade reduction in the course for a first offense (whichever reduction is greater), and a 0 in the class for any subsequent offense.

Accommodations/Disability. I rely on Accommodative Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you are a student with a disability who will require accommodations in this course, please meet with Accommodative Services in Sisson Hall Room 111 for assistance in developing a plan for accommodations. If you are already working with Accommodative Services, please set up a time to meet with me, or come by during office hours, to discuss accommodations. For more information, visit the Accommodative Services website at <http://potsdam.edu/support/oas>.

Textbooks Required:

Baglione (B), *Writing a Political Science Research Paper*, 3rd ed (2nd ed. OK), 2017/2012. Sage/CQ Press.

Schedule of Readings and Topics. Readings are to be read before the session below which they are listed. I will put Baglione chapters down on the syllabus, with due dates, but I think you should go ahead and read the book—especially: chapters 2-5 and 7-8—ASAP (in the first two weeks of class).

Your individual project will determine the pace at which you proceed through the paper-writing steps. I encourage “working ahead.” The deadlines here are the latest practical date for turning in paper components. I am happy to grade and return assignments that are turned in early.

Week 1, Monday, 8/27.

Bring (poli sci) paper of your choice to class, ready to discuss research question, theory, hypotheses, measurement, data (including data sources), analysis, and results. Email paper to me by 2 PM. No Class 8/29 (W) and 9/3 (M).

Week 2, Wednesday, 9/5.

(Re-)Read Baglione Ch 2 for Wednesday

Week 3, Monday, 9/10

(Re-)Read Baglione Ch 3 for Monday and Ch 4 for Wednesday

Week 4, Monday, 9/17.

(Re-)Read Baglione Ch 5

Week 5, Monday, 9/24.

(Re-)Read Baglione Ch 7 for Monday. *Due Weds, 9/26: Literature review.*

Week 6, Monday 10/1.

(Re-)Read Baglione Ch 8 for Monday—earlier if possible.

*No class 10/8(M). **Week 7, Wednesday, 10/10.***

Due Weds, 10/10: Complete research design.

Week 8, Monday, 10/15.

By Monday or before, (re-)read Baglione, Ch 6

Week 9, Monday, 10/22.

Week 10, Monday 10/29.

Week 11, Monday, 11/5.

Read Baglione, Ch 9 for Monday—earlier if possible

Week 12, Monday, 11/12.

Due Weds, 11/14. Complete first draft of paper.

Week 13, Monday, 11/19. *No class 11/21(W).*

Posters due this week.

Week 14, Monday, 11/26.

In class poster-presentation “dress rehearsal” M &/or W. Real poster presentations will be mid-week or after.

Week, 15, Monday 12/3.

Paper Final Draft Due 12/6, Thursday by 4:00 P.M.