

Bowie State University
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of History & Government

Spring Course Syllabus and Schedule of Learning Activities
Capstone Seminar in Political Science 2

Course No. & Section: Govt 463-101

Schedule: Thursday @ 4:55-7:25 p.m.

Class Location: MLK Room 250 & BSU ANGEL

Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 p.m., by Appointments

Instructor: Benjamin O. Arah

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Course Description: This course is a review of some of the major philosophical and political questions to enable the successful completion of a senior thesis paper.

Course Prerequisites: The prerequisite is junior or senior standing.

The Required Texts:

The Chicago Manual of Style. (latest ed.). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Turabian, Kate L. (latest ed.). *A Manual for Writers of Term papers, Theses, and Dissertations.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Daily readings of national newspapers: *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Additional reading assignments will be assigned and placed in the Reserve Collection of the Thurgood Marshall Library at Bowie State University.

Disability Policy Statement for Accommodations: Students with any form of disability and would like to be considered for accommodations should immediately communicate their interests to Dr. Michael S. Hughes [Coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS) & Academic Advisement Specialist]. His office in the new Business/Graduate Studies Building (Room 1328), and he can be reached (301) 860-4067. It is also important to share such an interest or desire for ADA assistance with the instructor of the course.

Instructional Modes: The methods would include these graded learning activities:

- traditional lectures with assigned readings and handouts
- in-class/online participation/discussion using the weekly conferences or forums

- individual and/or study group/collaborative presentations
- viewing and interpretive analysis of the relevant/appropriate CD/Video-tapes
- written assignments on developing thesis drafts for critical review and feedback
- (possibly) inviting outside professionals and experts as guest lecturers or speakers.

Learning Objectives or Outcomes: The course is designed to enable students achieve the following objectives and/or outcomes:

1. Gain the ability to read and interpret political science texts with high level of competence
2. Become familiar with some of the writing methodologies
3. Develop excellent note-taking and organizational skills necessary for effective writing
4. Improve their writing skills and successfully complete this course
5. Learn how to use the repository research resources in the libraries
6. Become proficient with the new research tools and methodologies such as computer and other media technologies (Blackboard, ANGEL)
7. Master the proper research (political science) methods for documentation for thesis papers or dissertations as required in the course

Note: Students will write and submit a graded thesis paper of no less than 25 pages, typed and double-spaced (using either the *Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style*) by the end of the semester

Students Requirements:

A) Attendance

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually
2. Students are required to sign the role at each class session, and a record of attendance will be maintained; and
3. It is the responsibility of the students to make up all work missed during any period of absence.

B) Written Assignments

1. Students are to write and submit (as at when due) through the designated Dropboxes parts of the thesis for critical review and feedback.

C) Class Participation

1. Students will be required to participate in class discussions.
2. Class participation should reflect a good grasp of the arguments in the text.

Evaluation

A) Methods

There will be opportunities for students to write and submit parts of the thesis for evaluation and feedback. There will also be a Term Paper with Oral Presentation for 20% and

- a) Each student will be required to submit a term paper of no more than 25 pages long, and double-spaced
 - b) Students will be required to write outlines and synopsis of the thesis paper for in-class review and discussion, and the instructor will provide a feedback in a timely manner
 - c) An outlined of each paper is required; and
 - d) Students will be required to give oral presentations of their thesis papers in-class upon completion
1. Term Paper or Thesis' Procedures and Deadlines: Students are required to follow these procedures and deadlines in completing their term papers:

Procedures

Deadlines

Selection of Topic	September 29, 2011
Submission of Outline	October 15, 2011
Submission of Various Written Drafts	November 8, 2011
Submission of the Completed Thesis Paper	December 7, 2011

Note: Deadlines will be strictly enforced

2. The Oral Presentations of the term papers will be evaluated as follows:

a) Clarity of thesis statement	5%
b) Organization and coherence of presentation	15%
c) Conclusion & Evaluation	5
<u>Total:</u>	<u>20%</u>

3. The final or completed thesis papers will be graded as follows:

a) Clarity of thesis statement	5%
b) Organization & coherence	15%
c) Depth of research demonstrated by citations & analysis	40%
d) Footnotes & Endnotes format	10%
e) Bibliography format	10%
f) Oral presentation	20%
<u>Total:</u>	<u>100%</u>

B) Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1. Oral Presentations	30%
2. 5 Written Drafts of the Thesis	50%
3. Final/Completed Thesis Paper/Project	20%

The numerical equivalents of the letter grades are as follows:

90+ = A
80+ = B
70+ = C
60+ = D
50+/- = F.

Some Important Announcements: Information & Dates:

English Proficiency Examination: After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.

Technical Assistance: For technical questions or instructions, please call (301) 860-4357 or (301) 860-HELP and someone, possibly Mrs. Mariann Hawken (the Blackboard Administrator), will help you. For additional information, check and click on the Tech/OIT Support via the Course Menu.

Course Modifications: The instructor reserves the right to make some necessary adjustments and appropriate changes or modifications) to course with your consent and due communication.

Inclement Weather: In cases of inclement weather, please tune in to a local radio or television station and also monitor for BSU announcements. The area media may announce whether BSU will be opened or closed, but such an announcement depends on the severity and degree of weather inclemency. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for the information or call (301) 860-4000.

Units of Instruction & Schedule of Learning Activities with Reading Assignments

Weeks/Dates	Learning Modules & Objectives	Required Reading Assignments
Weeks 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and the Syllabus • Course Overview and Expectations • Discussion of Possible Topics 	Handout and Discussions
Weeks 5-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment of Mentor and Topics • Writing the Paper Abstracts • Selection of Bibliography • Writing the Drafts 	Handouts, Review and Conferences
Weeks 11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing Research • Developing the Topic • Writing the Drafts • Meeting with Faculty for Feedback • Students' Oral Defense of the Thesis • Completion and Submission of Thesis 	Handouts, Review and Conferences