Objective: The purpose of this course is to prepare students for completion of their senior thesis, which is considered a major capstone project. Students will examine the research process through a focus on basic research techniques, methodologies, and resources, as well as a review of writing style and mechanics consistent with departmental expectations. Upon completion of the first half of the course, students will have: developed a mentor relationship with Dr. Pett-Conklin; completed a literature review; developed a thesis statement and full topic outline; and determined the methodology to be employed on their thesis topic. During the second half of the course, I will be guiding you, and you will be assisting each other toward completion of the final draft of a thesis and powerpoint presentation. Please note: no extensions--no exceptions!!! Late work and evidence of “no progress” will be reflected in your grade at each stage in the thesis production process.

Textbooks


Schedule of Classes and Topics

We Jan 14, 2015
Format of the Course & Grading
Types of Research Papers
Topics--How to Choose One
Brainstorming
Topic Trees
Keeping a Research Journal
Discussion of Andrew Abbot: Chapter 1 of *Methods of Discovery, Heuristics for the Social Sciences*

We Jan 21 Preliminary Topic Discussion
Discussion on Sources
Databases available
Documentation Styles
Citations
Bibliographies

We Jan 28 The Literature Review and the Abstract
(Today you must tell the class what your topic will be--no changes after today)
Topic Tree Due

We Feb 04  General Topic (Question) Finalized
Annotated Bibliography due—20 sources minimum
The Thesis Statement: The Purpose of the Paper
Conducting a Survey to Collect Data

We Feb 11  Organization of the Paper
Finished Form of the Paper
Margins
Page Numbers
Incorporating Figures

We Feb 18  Writing: The Outline and the First Draft
Writing From Your Notes
Writer’s Block & Brainstorming
Revision / Editing (Don’t let your professor do it!!)
Review of Strunk Due

We Feb 25  No Class—see me as necessary

We Mar 04  Roundtable Presentation of Final Outline, Thesis Statement, Research Methodology, and Abstract, Literature Review Due

We Mar 11  SPRING BREAK

We Mar 18  First Draft Due
Discussion of problems and concerns—bring extra copy of your first draft for each of your classmates

We Mar 25  No Class

We Apr 01  Read Sharing

We Apr 08  Individual Meetings

We Apr 15  Powerpoint pointers

We Apr 22  Preliminary Powerpoint Presentation

We Apr 29  Final Powerpoint Presentation, Final Draft Due
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic Tree</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Strunk (2-3 pages)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Draft</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Sharing Contributions</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Powerpoint</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in the Final</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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1000 pts total

In order to achieve the maximum points for each item—work must be done on time and must show evidence of real progress at each stage.

Departmental Policy on Completion of the Thesis

It is expected that students will complete their theses by the date of the end of the semester enrolled. Only under extraordinary circumstances will a student be granted an “EI” or extension of the incomplete grade. Such an extension must be approved in advance by the Director of the Center; and if the “EI” is not converted into a regular grade in the following two months, the student will automatically receive the grade of “F” and will be required to re-enroll in the course the following fall semester—under the same thesis advisor.