Syllabus

Course Description
This course is designed to enable you to develop a topic, conduct research and write the project seminar paper required for graduation. You will receive assistance in fine-tuning your topic, finding research sources, and organizing and revising your essay. This class will give you the opportunity to strengthen your analytical abilities and research skills and refine your academic writing style.

The sources for your research must include peer-reviewed works from professional journals. It is not adequate to use research from pop-culture websites on the Internet or media such as popular magazines.

Your papers may be based solely on review of existing bodies of research or may also use empirical analysis. If you plan to run an experiment or conduct a survey and collect your own data to include with a review of literature on your topic, be sure to consider the timeframe of the course. It is difficult to plan, collect and analyze data in ten weeks (for an online course) and even more difficult to do so in six weeks (for a summer-session, on-campus course). Therefore, this approach is not recommended. If you are taking this course in the spring or fall on-campus, with longer semesters, you may propose such a study for consideration. However, it is more feasible to limit the paper to the review of established research rather than trying to add your own findings in a limited time.

Throughout the semester, students will share paper proposals and discuss steps in the editing process. There are also weekly assignments that will improve your writing, research and paper formatting skills. At the end of the semester your research must be presented to the class through an oral presentation (with or without a visual component).

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this course you should have improved your communication, research, and writing skills by producing an articulate paper that demonstrates professional writing standards. In the process, you should have:

- Learned how to formulate a paper topic and open-ended questions as evidenced by a well-written research proposal.
- Gained experience conducting academic research.
- Honed skills in synthesizing research.
- Demonstrated ability to use an established publishing style according to professional standards (MLA is instructor’s preference)
- Worked collaboratively with peers to discuss the writing process including the development of topics, revision of writing, and recognition of strengths and weaknesses of the paper.
- Applied editing skills as evidenced by multiple revisions in response to instructor and peer reviews of the paper throughout the course.
- Prepared and delivered a short oral presentation on your research.

Recommended Texts

I recommend that you purchase one of these books. In addition to the text it is also recommended that you use The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), a valuable, free resource at [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/). You also have access to the university's Writing Center, both on campus and on-line, for tutorial help with your writing. I encourage you to take advantage of this excellent resource. One of our classes will be a library session taught by a Stony Brook librarian. This is an extremely important class; it will enable you to learn about the comprehensive resources available to you.

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Grading and Graduation Requirements

- Only grades B or higher will satisfy the graduation requirement for this class.
- If your grade is below a B, you are permitted to register for the class again and continue working your paper. PLEASE NOTE: A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation and Project Seminar grades will figure into your final GPA.
- Students may retake the class as often as necessary to earn credit for graduation.

Project Requirements

- You can write on any topic that has been established through a body of scholarly research. It need not be related to your occupation or your Stony Brook major.
- This project cannot be a copy of work that you have already submitted in another course. (The exception is if you are repeating project seminar in which case you may continue working on your previously submitted paper.)
- The paper should be approximately 25 pages with one-inch margins (side, top and bottom); 12pt. Times New Roman (or Times Roman) font, and double-spaced lines. The documentation must conform to the stylistic guidelines set forth by the Modern Language Association (or, as assigned by your instructor, the American Psychological Association Style Guide or the Chicago Manual of Style).
- Your paper must involve research of professional, peer-reviewed sources and properly formatted documentation of sources as well as close attention to the standards of written English (grammar, spelling and punctuation). We will discuss your work at its preliminary stages and throughout its development.
- You will need to submit the rough copy of your paper through Safe Assign and respond to comments and instructions after it is reviewed. Optimally, rough drafts should be completed and submitted approximately two-thirds of the way through the semester (fourth week during summer on campus, seventh week during online courses, tenth week during spring and fall on campus).
- After you make the recommended revisions, your final copy will be reviewed and you will be instructed to either submit your paper to SPD or make further revisions.
- If the paper is complete and approved, it must be submitted to the School of Professional Development through a link in Blackboard. During the last week of class you must give an oral presentation of your research.
- If your grade for this course is below a B, you will have to register for project seminar again in order to fulfill graduation requirement.

Good luck, Project Seminar Students!

I am rooting for you to complete the class successfully.

Please know that I will be available to help and guide you throughout the semester!
I) Academic Honesty

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of all academic and scholarly work. Therefore the University views any form of academic dishonesty as a serious matter and requires all instructors to report every case of academic dishonesty to the SPD Committee on Academic Standing, which keeps records of all cases. All work submitted or posted by students in this course must be their own. Submission of writing or ideas which are not the original work of the student (and not properly referenced) is considered plagiarism. Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism, so if you have any questions about the proper acknowledgement of sources, be sure to ask your instructor who can advise you about various electronic tools available to assist you in self-screening your work.

For detailed information, refer to SPD’s “Policies and Procedures Governing Academic Dishonesty” available at www.stonybrook.edu/spd/assets/pdf/dishonesty.pdf.

II) Stony Brook University Disability Support Services Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or dss@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or visit their website at http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

On Campus Support: Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: Evacuation Guide for People with Physical Disabilities

III) Critical Incident Management:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

IV) Course Content:

Course material accessed from Blackboard, SB Connect, SB Capture or a Stony Brook Course website is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of Stony Brook's Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Codes.