

Pols 465 02

Dr. Randolph C. Horn

Fall 2005

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Class meetings: T 1:00-4:00, DBH 307

Senior Seminar

Phone: 726-2179

Office: DBH 108

Office Hours: M 1-2, T 10-11
& by appointment**Required Readings:**

Course pack and electronic delivery

The New York Times, daily**Course Description:**

This course is for political scientists at the end of their undergraduate careers; it emphasizes interpretive and research skills. While the common readings are thematic they are not intended to limit the scope or depth of the student's experience. The readings provide a focal point for discussion; students are expected to bring different strengths to the class, reflecting their interests. Similarly, students are not required nor even encouraged to carry the same theme into their independent research. Instead, this course provides an opportunity for students to explore issues that are of importance to them.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Students must be prepared for class, completing readings before class meetings.
- 2) Full participation is required. Three cuts will result in an FA. Absences may be excused with appropriate documentation.
- 3) Plagiarism is unacceptable.
- 4) Students performance will be evaluated in these areas:

Class Participation 10%	Grades: In ascending order, greater than 60%= D- greater than 63.3%= D greater than 66.6%= D+ greater than 70%= C- greater than 73.3%= C	greater than 76.6%= C+
Homework 20%		greater than 80%= B-
Literature Review 10%		greater than 83.3%= B
First paper submission 20%		greater than 86.6%= B+
Presentation 10%		greater than 90%= A-
Final paper submission <u>30%</u>		greater than 93.3%= A
100%		

Class participation: Class participation is required.

Homework: Homework refers to written work other than the research project. Students will make one-page progress reports each week and submit two-page synopses for each reading assignment. Progress reports and synopses are due at 9:00 a.m. on class meeting days (i.e. well before class). If you email your assignments, include your name in the filename, e.g. Jane_Doe_Paper_01.doc.

First paper submission: A polished draft of the completed project is due in class in Week 11. This submission is not a rough draft. Students will provide copies for discussants.

Presentation: Each student will present his or her research to the seminar and the political science faculty. Other students will provide constructive criticism and encouragement.

Political Science Field Exam: ~~All students will take this exam. No special preparation is required.~~

Final submission: Final submission of student research is due in class two weeks after the presentation.

Class Schedule		
<u>Week</u>	<u>Session Topic/assignment</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Week 1 8/29	Introductions	
Week 2 9/05	Readings: Elazar	Short Paper Due
Week 3 9/12	Preliminary Topics	Topics (3) Due
Week 4 9/19	Readings: Chilcote	Short Paper Due
Week 5 9/26	Final Topic	1-page Abstract
Week 6 10/03	Readings: Gimpel	Short Paper Due
Week 7 10/10	Literature Review	10-15 Pages
Week 8 10/17	Readings: TBA	Short Paper Due
Week 9 10/24	Fall Break: No Class	
Week 10 10/31	Prospectus, Outline with citations	
Week 11 11/07	First submission due	
Week 12 11/14	Presentations	
Week 13 11/21	Presentations	
Week 14 11/28	Political Science Field Examination (MFT)	
Week 15 12/5	Final drafts due	Last Class (12/7)

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services, located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall (telephone number: 726-4078 or 726-2105). A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

References

- Elazar, Daniel J. 1984 *American Federalism: A View from the States, Third Edition*. Chapters 2, 5, 6. New York: Harper and Row.
- Chilcote, Ronald H 1994 *Theories of Comparative Politics: The Search for a Paradigm Reconsidered, Second Edition*. Chapters 1, 6, 7. Boulder: Westview.
- James G. Gimpel & Jason E. Schuknecht 2004 *Patchwork Nation: Sectionalism and Political Change in American Politics*. Chapters I, II, XV + one state chapter. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.