Senior Seminar I

Course Description

A seminar devoted to the balanced execution of projects of excellence (POE). The course will be arranged on an individualized basis to provide the instructor of record adequate time to meet with each student. Students should come to meet with the instructor during the office hours listed above.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students shall be able to express and interpret information concerning the scholarly literature in a chosen field, by creating an annotated bibliography for their POE

2. Students will engage in critical thinking activities, by writing an outline of their POE proposal.

Major Course Requirements

The primary goal of the class is for each student to secure a POE mentor, write an annotated bibliography for your POE, and finish an outline of the POE. Students should begin their research for the POE this term and this should culminate in the final project in spring with HONR 4102. Grading is on a pass/fail basis (pass==70 or above). Students must complete the following tasks to successfully pass the course. Although you can pass the course without starting your field research (if necessary), students in those cases are advised to do so as soon as possible (this includes summer). Students may have already achieved some of these milestones to a degree in the Junior Seminar Course (HONR 3101 & 3102); if so, they can further hone their proposal here, but are not required to go beyond the stated requirements below. All have a dropbox to submit the assignment in Blackboard under Assignments.

1. 15%: Securing a mentor for the POE. It would behoove you to approach faculty about mentoring you in spring/summer. Please submit your mentor, preliminary title, and one paragraph summarizing the project.
2. **15% Meeting with the Director.** The student must make an appointment to meet with me at least once this semester.

3. **35%:** The annotated bibliography can be submitted to the appropriate drop box in our Blackboard classroom by . Students can use any academic style of which they are familiar. You must submit a MS Word document or text file that summarizes at least (10) peer-reviewed journal articles relevant to your POE topic. The structure should be:

   A. Introduction-brief overview of the articles
   B. Purpose- what is the primary goal of the article and gap in the literature it purports to fill?
   C. Methodology and findings- what and how did the authors undertake this study and what did they find?
   D. Conclusion-what value is this article to your potential POE research?

   You will receive feedback on your AB.

4. **35%:** Submission of POE outline. The outline can be submitted to the appropriate drop box in our Blackboard classroom. The outline should consist of the following elements below. If you wish to receive input and feedback, more advanced students can submit a proposal or full POE for review as well (I will be reading it eventually anyway). The outline is due by

   Each section of the outline should be 1-3 paragraphs as needed:

   A. Introduction-brief overview of your POE topic
   B. Problem- using the literature from your AB, explain how pursuing this POE represents original research that fills a gap in the extant literature
   C. Purpose- please build on the problem and explain the value of your study to the literature
   D. Research Questions-formally state the questions you wish to pursue and why this exploration will help you to achieve your purpose
   E. Methodology-illustrate how you plan to pursue the purpose of the study at this time

**Required Readings**
You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. I will make readings available to you in our Blackboard course to assist with your draft of the annotated bibliography.

**Format**
The course will be structured around individualized student-instructor meetings.

**University and Class Policies**
**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-2455.

**Grade Appeals Process:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that she or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf)). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course schedule or material due to instructional needs throughout the semester.*