



PIEDMONT COLLEGE

Course Name: Senior Seminar

Course Prefix and Number: SOSC 4480

Section: 01

Term: Spring 2020

Class Time & Place: Thursdays, 6:00pm-8:30pm, 210W Commons

Campus: Athens

Course Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None

Course Description: This course integrates the student's knowledge through reading, writing, and discussion concerning current developments in the social sciences. This is a capstone experience for social science majors.

Course Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Name: K. Anne Watson (Annie)

Instructor Email Address: kwatson@piedmont.edu

Office: NA

Office Phone: NA

Office Hours: By appointment

Textbook & Class Materials: All materials will be provided on Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate and apply existing knowledge of your social science field of interest.
 - Apply the appropriate research methodology to a new and interesting research question.
 - Produce original research using quantitative and/or qualitative social science research methods.
 - Gain effective writing techniques and skills, specifically developed to communicate scientific research.
 - Develop professional skills, included writing resumes, graduate school applications, and interview skills.
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Minimum Technology Requirements for Online or Hybrid Courses: Minimum technology requirements for online and hybrid courses may be found by clicking "Technology Requirements" on the Distance Learning page of the Piedmont College website available at the following URL:

<https://www.piedmont.edu/distance-learning>

Grading Scale: Grades will be calculated on the classic scale, from 0 to 100 points, with letter grades ranging from A to F.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Grading System:

Points Summary

- Research paper (40 points, in stages)
- Capstone presentations (20 points)
- Professionalization exercises (10 points each for 20 points)
- Capstone exam (10 points)
- Attendance and participation (10 points)

Research Paper (40 points, in stages)

The final project for this class is an independent research project on the topic of your choice. The end product will have the following form: **introduction, literature review, theory, analysis, results, and conclusion**. You will be working on various pieces of this assignment (and turning them in) over the course of the semester. The due dates for each piece are listed below; each assignment is due at the beginning of class. **All research project pieces must be submitted as Word documents to Canvas, as well as printed out and brought with you to class. Starting with the submission of your literature review, each submission should include all previously submitted sections.**

- January 23: Research question (1 points)
- February 20: Literature review (3 points)
- February 27: Theory section (3 points)
- March 5: Research design (3 points)
- March 26: Results (3 points)
- April 9: First draft (5 points) and memo (1 point)
- April 30: Final draft (20 points) and memo (1 point)

Your paper will be a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages. Title and reference pages do not count toward this length. It should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. **Remember to cite all of your sources, both in-text and in a formal works cited**

page. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Resources for APA and Chicago citation guides will be provided to you, although other styles are also acceptable.

Capstone Presentation (20 points)

Whether you are aiming for a career in policy, law, or academia, knowing how to present your research is a valuable skill. In this course, you will be required to present your research project in a public forum. Each student will give a formal 10 to 15-minute presentation with an additional 3-5 minutes of Q&A. Each presentation will be required to use PowerPoint or equivalent. The rubric used to grade this presentation will be posted to Canvas in advance. Further details to follow.

Presentations will take place April 30th during our regular class period.

Professionalization Exercises (10 points each for 20 points)

You will complete two professionalization exercises, an IRB application for research (regardless of whether you are going to submit a real one or not for your final paper's research) and a professional résumé for potential future employment or graduate school. These exercises are each described in detail on their own assignment sheets on the course website.

- February 6: IRB Application Approval
- April 23: Resume

Capstone Exam (10 points)

Each Student will be required to take an exam in their major field. This exam is used to test your knowledge of your academic field. It will be helpful for you to review your introductory textbook for an overview of your discipline and its theories and tenets. There will also be a study guide for you to look at. I suggest you look at study guide carefully, as it was created specifically for your exams.

The capstone exam will be administered in class on Thursday, April 16th.

Attendance and Participation (10 points)

Attendance and participation are a necessary condition for satisfactory achievement in this class. The best way for you to learn is to engage with the material and to debate and discuss it at length with your peers. Thus, excellence in participation means more than just talking a lot in class; rather, it requires that your participation be high in both quality and quantity. As such, you get one unexcused absence for any reason with no penalty. Each unexcused absence following that will result in a zero for attendance and participation for that class day. **With each absence (excused or unexcused), you will be required to complete a quiz on the material you missed, so that I can be sure you are keeping up with the content on your own. Your grades on these quizzes will be incorporated into your attendance and participation score.**

Class Policies:*Cell Phones and Other Noise-Making Devices*

All cell phones and other devices that make noise should be turned off or put on silent upon entering the classroom. Repeated unnecessary disruptions of class caused by such devices may negatively affect a student's grade. Laptops should be used for class-related activities only. In the event that you need to keep your phone ready for personal reasons, please let me know before class.

Class Discussion and Debate

Political debates and discussions can become quite heated. This passion is part of what makes the study of politics fun. However, the fun ends where personal attacks and disrespect begin. All students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their classmates. Disrespectful language and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Communicating with the Instructor

My primary method of communicating with you outside of class time/office hours will be through e-mail. You have each been assigned an email address by the university and will be held responsible for regularly checking this account. Assignment changes, important dates, and other valuable information may be sent to this account over the course of the term. Please check it daily. I do my best to answer e-mails within 24 hours (but rarely answer e-mails at night or on weekends).

Late Work

The late submission of assignments will result in a 10 percent reduction in points per day it is late, unless alternative arrangements are made with the instructor. *If you are worried about meeting deadlines or if something comes up, please come talk to me.*

Make-up Policy

If an excused absence will cause you to miss an assignment or exam, please communicate that with me as far in advance as possible (given the circumstances). We will work together to schedule a make-up as soon as possible.

Changes to the Syllabus

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations by the instructor may be necessary. As such, I reiterate the absolute necessity that you (1) come to class and (2) regularly check your e-mail.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1	January 9	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus	
Week 2	January 16	Ethics and Research	IRB Proposal Guidelines, Dietrich and Murdie	
Week 3	January 23	Asking the Right Questions	Brancati Ch. 3	Research Question
Week 4	January 30	Finding the Right Answers	Piedmont Library Guides (“Gathering Research” and “Journals and Magazines”)	
Week 5	February 6	Writing Strategies	OWL (“Concision,” “On Paragraphs,” “Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing”) and CSU (“Maintaining Your Focus”)	IRB Approval and CITI Completion Report
Week 6	February 13	Analyzing the Literature	Brancati Ch. 4	
Week 7	February 20	Making an Argument	Brancati Ch. 6	Literature Review
Week 8	February 27	Choosing the Correct Research Design	Brancati Ch. 7	Theory Section
Week 9	March 5	Qualitative vs. Quantitative Methods	TBD	Research Design
Week 10	March 12	NO CLASS (Spring Break)		
Week 11	March 19	The Results Section	USC (“The Discussion”)	
Week 12	March 26	Data Visualization	UNC (“Figures and Charts”)	Results
Week 13	April 2	Professional Development	OWL (“Introduction to Resumes,” “Work Experience Section,” “Resume Design”)	Rough Draft
Week 14	April 9	Paper Workshopping	None	Resume
Week 15	April 16	Capstone Exam		
Week 16	April 23	Practice Presentations and Workshopping	None	Presentation Draft
Finals	April 30	Capstone Presentations and Final Drafts Due		

Piedmont Policies:

The Learning Center exists to help our students reach their various academic goals. The Learning Center offers academic support in all areas, including accounting, foreign languages, math, science, and writing. Our tutors are selected by department chairs, trained in the art of tutoring, and monitored to provide the individualized attention our students need to achieve their personal best. We offer by-appointment or walk-in hours during both working and after-business hours. For more information, please visit: <https://www.piedmont.edu/learning-center> or call 706-778-8500, ext. 1503 (Demorest) or 706-543-6973 (Athens).

Accessibility and Accommodations: It is the College’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. Should you choose to disclose a disability, contact your professor and Disability Support so that possible accommodations can be discussed. Accommodations are

designed to minimize the impact of a disability and ensure access to programs for all students with disabilities. Piedmont College, professors and staff make every effort to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. The Disabilities Support Staff can be reached at disabilityservices@piedmont.edu or 706-778-8500, ext. 1504.

Statement on Academic Integrity: Students must be familiar with the College Academic Integrity Policy. Plagiarism, the intentional or unintentional use of another's words or ideas as one's own, will not be tolerated. Instructors must send any Academic Integrity concerns directly to the dean who is responsible for the discipline in which the course is taught. See Catalog at <https://www.piedmont.edu/catalog> for complete policy.

Student Email Policy: All Piedmont College students are required to use their Piedmont Lions email account (see Catalog at <https://www.piedmont.edu/catalog> for complete policy). Since the Lions account is the official communications channel of the College, students are responsible for all information distributed to them through their account. Students are expected to check it daily.

Withdrawal Policy: Within the first several days of a term, students may add and drop courses with the permission of their advisor. The ranges for drop/add vary depending on the term (Fall, Spring, or Summer) and duration of the class (8 week or 16 week). Students should check the academic calendar for specific information. After this time, students may withdraw from a class. Please refer to the College Catalog at <https://www.piedmont.edu/catalog> for the particulars regarding the withdrawal policy.

Starfish®: We Care About Your Success! We have partnered with Starfish Retention Solution, creating a platform for communication and resources focused on supporting your efforts throughout your educational journey. During the semester you may receive emails or texts from Starfish® regarding your course grades or academic performance. Please pay attention to these communications and consider taking the recommended actions. They are sent to help you be successful! In addition, your instructor may: (1) request that you schedule an appointment by going to Starfish, or (2) recommend that you contact a specific campus resource, such as tutoring or counseling. You may also be contacted directly by one of these services. You can quickly connect to many resources using Starfish. We hope you will choose to use the tool to support your success, we will be!

Piedmont College Library is dedicated to student success both on- and off-campus. The Library's website (library.piedmont.edu) offers the fastest, simplest solution to finding the authoritative sources you need. In addition to our online catalog, you will find valuable resources for every subject and discipline: journal citations and full-text articles, books and ebooks, study guides, encyclopedias, streaming video, and more. Overwhelmed? Need help navigating? No problem: reference assistance is available via chat or email.