**POLS 450: Senior Honors Tutorial (Fall 2022)**

Meeting Times: TBD   
Instructor: Andre P. Audette   
Email: aaudette@monmouthcollege.edu   
Andre’s Office: CSB 330   
Politics Party Time (office hours): 2-3pm Monday-Friday, and by appointment

**Course Description**

In this course, you will write an honors essay under the supervision of a member of the Political Science faculty. If you do so successfully (earning a B+ or higher), you will qualify for departmental honors. The main task is to utilize your proposal to carry out a full-length research project in the course of a semester, resulting in a scholarly paper of 7000+ words and a formal presentation.

**Course Objectives**

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to better:

Think and write in a social scientific framework   
Utilize independent research skills in your field   
Write an academic research paper   
Analyze, reason, and construct knowledge about topics within the field

**Required Texts**

You are not required to purchase any texts for this course. All readings will be made available via email.

**Course Requirements**

To help you achieve the course objectives, final grades will be assessed through the following evaluations:

Abstract (5%)   
Rough drafts (10%; 5% each)   
Full draft (10%)   
Presentation (10%)   
Final draft (65%)

**\*Further information on these course requirements will be distributed in class\***

1

***Abstract***   
The abstract of the paper provides a succinct overview of your research question, methods, findings, and the significance of the project. It presents that information to an informed public and will be shared prior to your public presentation.

***Rough drafts***   
Twice this semester you will submit a rough draft of your research paper. This is an opportunity to get feedback on your research in a low-stakes assessment. The first rough draft should be about 50% completion of the project. The second should be about 75% completion of the project.

***Full draft***   
Ahead of your presentation, you will prepare a full draft of the paper. This is not the final copy, but will demonstrate that you are prepared to present your work to the scholarly community. It is also an opportunity for feedback on your work.

***Presentation***   
In the final weeks of the semester, you will prepare and deliver a professional presentation of your research to other political science students, professors, and members of the campus community. You should plan for your presentation to involve a PowerPoint of about 10-15 minutes and a time for questions from the audience.

***Final draft***   
The culmination of your work is a research paper of no less than 7000 words, following the academic style explained last semester and provided to you in the rubric. Your final draft should incorporate feedback provided in the rough drafts, full draft, and presentation.

Congratulations on adding to our scholarly understanding of the topic! 

**Course Engagement Expectations**

Class or individual meetings (1 hours/week) Direct work on project (9 hours/week)

Total: 10 hours/week

**Grade Scale**

A (93-100), A- (90-92.9), B+ (87-89.9), B (83-86.9), B- (80-82.9), C+ (77-79.9), C (73-76.9), C- (70-72.9), D+ (67-69.9), D (63-66.9), D- (60-62.9), F (<60)

2

**Course Policies and Additional Resources**

***Academic Honesty***   
It is your responsibility to be familiar with and uphold the academic honesty policy of MC, as defined in the Scots Guide (https://www.monmouthcollege.edu/offices/student-affairs/academic-regulations/). Any student found to have violated these policies of academic integrity will receive a failing grade on the assignment and may be subject to further penalties by the College, including suspension or expulsion. If you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism or any of the other policies, please come talk to me.

***Late Work/Extra Credit***   
An important part of academic and career preparation is the ability to meet deadlines and fulfill the requirements of your work. If you must be late with an assignment, please contact me before the deadline and propose a new due date, which we can negotiate. Otherwise late work will be assessed a penalty of a half letter grade per 0-24 hour period it is late. Additionally, there will be no extra credit given on an individual basis.

***Accessibility Services***   
If you have a disability or had academic accommodations in high school or another college, you may be eligible for academic accommodations at Monmouth College under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Monmouth College is committed to equal   
educational access. To discuss any of the services offered, please call or meet with Jennifer Sanberg, Associate Director of Academic Support & Accessibility Services. The ASAS office is located in the ACE space on the first floor of the Hewes Library. They can be reached at 309-457-2257 or via email at academicsupport@monmouthcollege.edu.

***Writing Center***   
The Writing Center offers tutoring for writers from any major, of any writing ability, on any type of writing assignment, and at any stage of their writing process, from planning to drafting to revising to editing. The Writing Center is located on the main floor of the Hewes Library. No appointment is necessary! Visit   
https://www.monmouthcollege.edu/offices/writing-center for the latest information on hours of operation and writing center workshops.

***Student Success at Monmouth College***   
Student Success & Accessibility Services offers FREE resources to assist Monmouth College students with their academic success. Programs include supplemental instruction for select classes, drop-in and appointment tutoring, and individual academic coaching. Their office is here to help all students excel academically, so everyone can work toward better grades, practice stronger study skills, and manage their time better.

3

***Counseling Services***   
Monmouth College provides cost-free, professional and confidential counseling sessions to support you and to help you manage challenges that may impact your personal and academic success. The Counseling Center is located in the upper level of Poling Hall, offices 204 and 216, and the hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm. To request a confidential appointment online, go to https://titanium.monmouthcollege.edu/ or email   
counselingcenter@monmouthcollege.edu, Cindy Beadles at   
cbeadles@monmouthcollege.edu or Tom Caudill at tcaudill@monmouthcollege.edu.

**COVID Statement**

This semester presents many uncertain circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic. The policies and schedule outlined in this syllabus are subject to change, and I will do my best to provide advance notice for any such changes. Likewise, should your ability to fully participate in the class change over the course of the semester, please reach out to me and we can discuss the best options for moving forward. We’re all in this together!

**Questions, Concerns, Comments**

Because this course requires a fair amount of independent work, you should always feel free to reach out with questions, concerns, or comments about your work. I am a resource for your work on this project, so don’t struggle alone!

**Course Outline and Schedule**

\*Reading assignments are to be completed before the date they are listed.

*Week of Aug. 29th – Hi, what’s up with your project?*

Discuss meetings with other faculty members, literature for your topic Preliminary discussion of data collection and analysis

*Week of Sept. 5th – Outlining the paper, introduction, and literature review*

Knopf – Doing a literature review   
Read and annotate at least 5 sources for your project

*Week of Sept. 12th – The literature review and scholarly background to your project*

Read and annotate at least 5 additional sources for your project

4

*Week of Sept. 19th – Checking in on methods and data*   
 Discuss initial outline of the paper   
*Week of Sept. 26th – Putting the pieces together*   
 **ROUGH DRAFT 1 DUE (focus on intro, literature review, data & methods)** *Week of Oct. 3rd – Feedback on rough draft and outlining next steps*   
*Week of Oct. 10th – Writing, formatting, fine tuning of papers*   
 Read and annotate at least 5 sources this week   
*Week of Oct. 17th – A short assignment after a short week*   
 **ABSTRACT DUE**   
*Week of Oct. 24th – Check in on next steps*   
*Week of Oct. 31st – Getting more done*   
 **ROUGH DRAFT 2 DUE (focus on initial results and progress since draft 1)** *Week of Nov. 7th – Feedback on rough draft and two weeks of work*   
*Week of Nov. 14th – Updates on your work*   
*Week of Nov. 21st – Thanksgiving for having it all done*   
 **FULL DRAFT DUE BY NOON ON NOV. 21ST**   
*Week of Nov. 28th – Sharing your work*   
 **PRESENTATIONS**   
*Week of Dec. 5th – The end*   
 **FINAL DRAFT DUE BY NOON ON DEC. 7TH**

5