**Government 4175.001**  
**Independent Study: Senior Seminar**  
**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Fall 2021 (8.23.21 – 12.10.21)**

**Instructor:** Lee W. Payne  
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**Office:** Liberal Arts North 138  
**Department:** Government

**Office Hours:**  
**T/Th:** 10-11AM & 2-3PM  
**W:** 12:00 - 1:00 (online)

**Course Description**

1-3 semester hours. Credit determined by the amount and difficulty of the project undertaken. Individual research for advanced political science students. Prerequisites: PSC 141 and 142, 6 semester hours of upper-level political science, plus PSC 475. Consent of the instructor and department chair required. Junior standing.

**Course Expectations**

The student will complete an original paper researching gun homicide rates in America and gun regulation laws in the states. This will be an empirical research paper. In the course of writing/researching it, the student will identify dependent and independent variables, their level of measurement, and how they are operationalized. The student will identify the proper measures of central tendency and dispersion for each level of measurement, conduct the proper statistical analysis (cross-tabulations, ANOVA, OLS regression, etc.), interpret the proper measures of association (lambda, Cramer’s-V, Sumner’s-D, beta coefficients, etc.), and determine level of statistical significance for the results. The research paper will be 15 pages.

The literature review for the research paper will be developed from the readings included on the syllabus. In addition, the student will provide weekly summaries of each reading source to ensure progress.

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another;
(2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcome #5: The student will create research papers, briefs, or reports.

Additional Points

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Attendance: There is no attendance requirement for this course.

Reading List


