

Political Science 485-2 (CRN 10511)
Fall 2004

Instructor: Mr. Cullen
Buckman 306
Office hours: MWF 11:00-1:00 and by appointment.

The senior seminar is a capstone course that aims to bring as much of your political science curriculum as possible into focus for reflection and discussion. This semester our common readings will focus on issues of liberty, diversity, and democracy. Our routine format will be intensive discussion of the readings, which presupposes careful preparation and probing reflection on your part before, during and after each class. Every student will be responsible for framing issues, initiating and advancing discussion, and making connections among the readings and arguments as we proceed through them over the semester. At times you will be assigned a more formal role in this process. You will bring to each class a short written (typed) response to the reading for that day (1/2-1 page). These are to be handed in at the end of class; be sure to keep a Word document containing all your responses. There will be periodic quizzes on the readings. Missed quizzes will not be made up. There may also be short writing assignments from time to time to help you frame your thoughts on a particular issue.

Since we meet only once a week, it is imperative that you attend every class; unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade. Travel for a college-related purpose [including athletic competition], or illness are examples of excused absences.

You will write a 12-15 page research paper on a topic of your own choosing but one that relates to the current presidential election contest. You may not select a topic that you have written on (or will write) for another course. By **September 14** you must submit a one-paragraph description of your paper topic. By **September 28** you must submit a one page description of your topic along with a bibliography of several scholarly sources.

You will be assigned a Tuesday in November or December to present your paper. At least three days before your presentation you must submit a copy of your paper to your discussant and to me; you will also send a 1-2 page summary of the paper to the rest of the class via email (10511@rhodes.edu). Your paper will be graded and returned to you after your presentation and you will have until the end of the following week to revise and resubmit your paper. Both versions of the paper will count equally in your final paper grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Walter Berns, *Making Patriots*
Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point*
Charles Murray, *What It Means to be a Libertarian*
Jeffrey Rosen, *The Unwanted Gaze*
Andrew Sullivan, *Same Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

12- 15 page research paper	35%
Class participation	20%
Examination on Seminar Readings	25%
Seminar Presentations, Quizzes, etc	20%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

August 31	Introduction
September 7	Analyses of the Republican National Convention Write a two page analysis of the convention and sample the analyses of the Republican and Democratic pundits and bloggers
September 14	<i>The Unwanted Gaze</i> Paper topic due
September 21	Andrew Sullivan, <i>Same Sex Marriage: Pro and Con</i> , Introduction and Chapters 3-6, 8
September 28	Charles Murray, <i>What It Means to be a Libertarian</i> Revised Paper Topic Due
October 5	Walter Berns, <i>Making Patriots</i>
October 12	Malcolm Gladwell, <i>The Tipping Point</i>
	<i>Fall Break</i>
October 26	Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Lecturer Gary Jacobsen (attend previous night's lecture)
November 2	Election Day Analysis 7:00-10:00PM
November 9	Essay Examination
November 16, 23, 30	Research Paper Presentations
December 7	