

Dr. Kathleen Knight

Office: 402 Lehman, office hours: W 11-2, Th 2-5, otherwise by appointment 854-4877

E-mail: kknight@barnard.edu

A note about communicating: I will use your official Barnard e-mail for general communications to the class. If you do not use it regularly, make sure you check for announcements.

Overview: The purpose of this two semester seminar is to produce an original research paper (thesis) to satisfy the requirements for graduation from Barnard College with a major in Political Science. Most of the time the seminar requirement will be satisfied by individual meetings between the student and instructor at assigned times. Several general class meetings will also be held so that students can benefit from the each other's ideas and experiences. Each research paper is expected to have an individual author, however, students may combine and share research and data collection responsibilities as long as the individual contribution of each student is explicitly defined.

General Schedule for Fall 2001 and Spring 2002

Sep 4 4:10pm 22 Lehman Introductory meeting and preliminary scheduling of individual sessions.

Sep 11 4:10pm 22 Lehman General meeting and preliminary discussion of research topics and issues of research design. Confirmation of individual session schedule.

Assignment due Sep. 11 -- Write a brief (1-2 page) statement of your major research interest, identify (2 or 3) books or articles central to defining the question, suggest additional possible data resources, or strategies to continue your search. Prepare questions about your own research interests that might also be useful to others to ask during class.

Week of Sep. 18 -- 402 Lehman Individual meetings. (Individual meetings continue throughout the rest of the semester.)

Sep. 25 5pm 402 Lehman Research Proposal Due Detailed requirements for the research proposal will be discussed during the meetings of Sep. 11 and 18.

Oct. 2 4:10pm 22 Lehman General meeting to discuss research design issues.

Oct. 10 5pm 402 Lehman Revised Proposal Due

Oct. 31 5pm 402 Lehman Major progress report due. Exact nature of progress report will be determined individually. It could be a data collection and preliminary analysis; detailed outline of case study material; interviews; etc. In all cases it should include at minimum: revised statement of research design and methodology; report on specific progress, first cut at analysis and full bibliography.

Nov. 5-6 College holidays.

Nov 13 5pm 402 Lehman First draft of research report due. This is equivalent to one-third or one-half of the written work necessary for the completion of the thesis as required by the department.

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving.

Nov. 25 4:10pm 22 Lehman General meeting to discuss findings and exchange ideas.

Dec. 12 5pm 402 Lehman Revised draft of research report due.

Spring 2002 (BC 3712)

Week of Jan. 22 -- 402 Lehman Individual meetings resume and continue through week of Apr. 9.

Feb. 5 4:10pm 22 Lehman General meeting - formal progress reports.

Mar. 5 5pm 402 Lehman First draft of complete thesis/essay due.

Apr. 9 5pm 402 Lehman Final draft of thesis/essay due.

Apr. 16 4:10pm 22 Lehman General meeting - final presentation of research.

After this time you will be deeply involved in graduation activities and very grateful that your thesis is finished.

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