SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR.

Welcome Back. This course is the second part of the Capstone program in Political Science. The main aim of the course is for each student to produce a polished, final Capstone Research Project, which will be presented at a joint Capstone Presentation event late in the semester (along with History, Sociology, and Criminal Justice students). So, the bulk of the work in this class will be focused on each student’s Capstone project. I have, however, also assigned for (mostly short) books which explore the issues of power, authority, and legitimacy in contemporary democracies and authoritarian states. Our regular class time, which will be limited, will focus on discussing these books. Otherwise, research and write!

COURSE OUTCOME:

- Each student will produce a final Capstone Research Project, which will be presented in a Poster Session as well, that meets the standards of the Political Science Program.

COURSE READINGS:


COURSE OUTLINE:

The course structure will be very flexible. This is meant to be a general guideline.

1. **Touching Base – August 27-September 7.** After an initial meeting, the next two weeks will focus on one on one meetings with each student to discuss the state of their research project.

2. **Thinking About Power, Authority and Legitimacy – September 10-21.** During these two weeks, we will discuss the Lukes and Scott books.

3. **Research and Write – September 24-October 19.** No regular class meetings.

4. **Authoritarianism and Democracy: Where are We? – October 22-November 2.** During these two weeks (in which Fall Break occurs on Monday, October 29), we will discuss the Tang and Levitsky/Ziblatt books.
5. Research and Write – Nov. 5 until end of Semester.

DRAFT OF FINAL CAPSTONE PROJECT DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12. I will return your drafts with comments by the end of that week.

FINAL CAPSTONE PROJECT DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7. (Yes, Pearl Harbor Day! Hopefully your project does not suffer the same fate as the US Pacific Fleet in 1941.)

CAPSTONE POSTER PRESENTATIONS – Date and Time TBD.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Your grade for this course will be based primarily on your Final Capstone Paper.

2. Each student will also be required to submit two (2) 8-10 papers, each of which will be a critical review of one of the four books we are reading. More details and dates on this to come.

HOW TO FIND ME:

New Office – 228 Old Main
Office Phone- 724-946-7304.
cohenes@westminster.edu
Office Hours - My Regular Office Hours will be the following:

- Monday and Wednesday – 11:45 am – 12:30 pm and 2:00 – 2:50 pm
- Friday – 11:45 am – 12:30 pm.
- And By Appointment.

I will also be on campus regularly on Tuesdays, and will reserve this time primarily for Capstone students.

[If things get bad, I’ll be at the Dartmouth Arms, York Rise, North London, the Harp Tavern, Lower Quay St. Sligo, Ireland, or the Bar at the Hotel Berna, Milan, Italy, near the Central Rail Station.]