

**Political Science 4780**  
**Research Seminar in Newfoundland Politics**  
(Preliminary Outline)

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Fall 2007  
Office: S-2029

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Monday 0915-1015  
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**Course Objectives**

This course has two purposes. First, to assist senior undergraduate students to develop and sharpen their research skills; second, to apply these research skills to selected aspects of Newfoundland politics.

**Format**

The course will meet as a seminar once or twice per week. Attendance is expected at all seminars. Students will be expected to discuss required readings and their own research in class and to be prepared to submit their own work for discussion by other students. All assignments must be typed or word-processed.

**Grading Format**

Exercise	Description	Mark
1	Freewriting of research paper problems	5
3	Brief Statement of Topic	5
5	Research Questions and Hypotheses	5
6	Challenging Sources	5
7	Generating Arguments from Facts	5
8	Generating Counter-arguments	5
	Preliminary Bibliography	10
11	Prospectus (outline)	10
12	Summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting	5
	Rough Draft	15
	Analysis of Rough Draft	5
	Draft Paper (no grade)	
	Final Paper	25

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. All assignments and papers must be handed in when due at the start of the seminar. Any late assignments will be penalized 5 marks per day starting at the beginning of the seminar. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.
2. Exercises must be handed in at the seminar and late exercises will not be accepted, thus the grade for that exercise will be 0.
3. Chicago format style and footnoting must be used.

**Texts**

The following texts are available in the bookstore. While specific readings will be assigned for class discussion, these books should also be considered as useful references for this and other courses.

Maner, Martin. *The Research Process: A Complete Guide and Reference for Writers*. 2 ed. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2000.

Strunk, William, Jr. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York: Allyn & Bacon, 1999.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1996.

**Research Topics**

Research for this course must be confined to post-Confederation Newfoundland and focus on a specific aspect of one of the following topics: the House of Assembly, the executive, the civil service, interest groups, political parties, the electoral system, elections, or political recruitment. Since this is an election year, students are strongly encouraged to focus their research on provincial elections and the electoral process. Such research might consist of a thorough analysis of one provincial election (e.g., candidates, leaders, party platforms, issues, results), a comparison of two or more elections, or an analysis of changes to the electoral boundaries.

**Assignment Schedule and Required Readings (Revised January 29, 2007)**

<b>Date</b>	<b><u>Topic and Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment Due</u></b>
Week 1	Introduction to research and writing Maner, Introduction and Chapter 1 Strunk and White, Introduction	Sep 10 Hand in Exercise 1 Discuss Exercise 2
Week 2	Selecting a topic Maner, Chapter 2	Sep 17 Hand in Exercise 3 Hand in Exercise 5
Week 3	Developing an argument Maner, Chapter 3	Sep 24 Hand in Exercises 6, 7, and 8
Week 4	Finding sources Maner, Chapter 4	Sep 26 CNS Library Session Oct 01 Hand in Preliminary Bibliography
Week 5	mid-term break (Oct 8 – 10)	
Week 6	Preliminary Outline Maner, Chapter 5	Oct 15 Hand in Exercise 11 (Preliminary Outline)
Week 7	Gathering information and citation procedures Maner, Chapters 6 and pages 244-267	Oct 22 Hand in Exercise 12 using Chicago format instead of MLA
Week 8	The rough draft Maner, Chapter 9	Oct 29 Hand in Rough Draft ( <u>two copies</u> )
Week 9	Revising the rough draft Maner, Chapter 10	Oct 31 Discuss Rough Drafts Nov 05 Discuss Rough Drafts
Week 10	Editing Maner, Chapter 11	Nov 12 Hand in Draft Paper
Week 11	Special Problems Maner, Chapter 12	Nov 19 Draft Paper returned
Week 12	Mechanics Maner, Chapter 13	
Week 13		Nov 28 Final Paper due

## Guidelines for Preparing Assignments

### **Preliminary Bibliography**

1. No longer than two typed pages
2. List the major works to be initially consulted
3. Use proper bibliographic format

### **Preliminary Outline (exercise 11 Prospectus)**

The preliminary outline should be no more than 5 typed pages and must include the following:

1. Proposed title
2. Concise statement of the topic or theme
3. Central research question
4. Subsidiary research questions or hypotheses
5. Brief review of relevant literature
6. Procedure for research and analysis
7. Bibliography.

### **Rough Draft**

The rough draft should be about 10 pages in length, exclusive of the bibliography. It should have the same standards of presentation as a formal paper. Its content should generally be as follows:

1. Title.
2. Abstract (one page or less).
3. Statement of the research problem:
  - a. Concise statement of the topic or theme:
    - 1) Purpose and objectives;
    - 2) Theoretical or practical significance and context;
    - 3) Focus and scope (or limits).
  - b. Central research question:
    - 1) One-sentence statement of the research question (possibly a hypothesis);
    - 2) Theoretical or conceptual framework to be used
    - 3) Specifications of concepts and variables, including definition of terms;
    - 4) Operational definitions.
  - c. Subsidiary research questions or hypotheses.

- d. Review of relevant literature.
- 4. Procedure for research and analysis.
  - a. Sources of information and authority.
  - b. Research design and analytical techniques

This should include the methods of data collection, documentary sources, informants to be interviewed, or other research approaches. The strategy and feasibility of your methods should be made clear.

- 5. Preliminary outline of the final paper by chapters or sections.
- 6. Appendices:
  - a. Bibliography and references;
  - b. Draft questionnaires or interview formats.
- 7. Prepare two copies (one for another student to critique).

### **Rough Draft Discussion**

Each student will prepare a short (about one page) critique of another student's paper using the "Revision Questions for Peer Collaborators" on page 302 of Maner. The critique is to be handed in for grading after the seminar.

### **Draft Paper**

The draft paper should bring together all of the work done to this point. The length should be about 25 pages and the paper should be written in formal essay style. The draft paper is due on November 12 and will be assessed and returned on November 19. The draft paper will not be graded, but the comments and suggestions will hopefully help you in completing the final paper. Draft papers will not be accepted after the class of November 12.

### **Final Paper**

The final paper is due in class on November 28. Late papers will be penalized 5 marks per day starting at the end of the seminar. Papers more than one week late will not be accepted.