

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
WRITING, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS

Dr. Steven Thomas
office phone: x3193
office: Quad 352-B
office hours: odd days, 12:30—1:30 pm,
and by appointment

FYS 101—56A, spring 2010
time: even days, 2:40—3:50
place: SJU Quad 447

GOALS FOR COURSE

- Develop research skills and strategies for evaluating sources of information
- Write a long research paper
- Learn how to present clear arguments while engaging different points of view
- Practice public speaking
- Understand how writing and argument function in the world
- Explore career possibilities and job market strategies
- Investigate the relationships among careers, the practice of writing and research, and democratic governance

TEXTS IN BOOKSTORE

- Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*
- McLean, Schultz, and Steger, eds., *Social Capital: Critical Perspectives on Community and “Bowling Alone”*
- Wang Hui, *China’s New Order: Society, Politics, and Economy in Transition*

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Careers

Report on CSO (2-3 pages and oral presentation)	5%
Analysis of Apparatus of Communication (3-4 pages)	10%
Archaeology of a Profession (4-5 pages)	10%
Civil Society, Professionalism, and the Job Application	5%

Major Research Paper

Memo: Finding an Issue (1-2 pages)	5%
Taking Sides (2-3 pages)	5%
Annotated Bibliography (10 sources)	5%
State of the Debate Essay (6-8 pages)	10%
Position Paper, draft #1 (10-12 pages)	5%
Oral Presentation (5 minutes).....	10%
Position Paper, final draft (11-12 pages).....	10%

Regular in-class essays	10%
Class participation	
Attendance, pop quizzes, in-class activities.....	5%
Discussions – leadership and participation.....	5%

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK

All written work should be submitted on-line to Moodle. I expect you to choose a style (MLA, APA, or Chicago) and correctly follow its guidelines.

All written work should follow the default settings for most word processing software: one- inch margins and 12 point Times New Roman font.

Detailed explanations of each written assignment will be posted on Moodle.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Half of your class participation grade is based on attendance, pop quizzes, and in-class activities. There are no make-ups for missed in-class quizzes or essays.

The other half of your grade is based on in-class discussions. Each of you will partner with one other classmate and be responsible for leading an in-class discussion (date to be assigned later), but I will grade not just the leader but the whole class. In other words, everyone in the class will get the same grade for that day’s discussion.

POLICIES

Any act of plagiarism can result in an F for the course and can go on your permanent academic record. Please see The College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University’s official policy on plagiarism here: <http://www.csbsju.edu/catalog/2003-2005/Academic_Programs/Rights_and_Responsibilities/002.htm>.

All students have the right of non-discriminatory access to the programs at the colleges. If you have a disability and require special consideration, you must inform me as soon as possible.

I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time during the semester and will inform you of all changes in a timely manner.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 12 (Tue) Introductions
- Wednesday, 7:20 pm, screening of *Erin Brockovitch* in Quad 346
- Jan. 14 (Thu) *Bowling Alone*, ch.1
 movie: *Erin Brockovitch*
- Jan. 18 (Mon) Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and the NAACP (moodle)
 in-class party
- Jan. 20 (Wed) *Bowling Alone*, ch.2-4
- Jan. 22 (Fri) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 5-6
- Monday, 7:20 pm, screening of *Norma Rae* in Quad 346
- Jan. 26 (Tue) movie: *Norma Rae*
 Social Capital, ch. 11
- Jan. 28 (Thu) **due: Report and Presentations on Civil Society Organizations**
- Feb. 1 (Mon) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 7-8
 Social Capital, ch. 2
 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, II, ii, 4-5 (Moodle)
- Feb. 3 (Wed) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 9
 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, II, ii, 6-7 (Moodle)
 Felicia Wu Song, excerpts from *Virtual Communities: Bowling Alone, Online Together*, pp. xi—12 and 133—137 (Moodle)
- Feb. 5 (Fri) in-class workshop on apparatus of communication
- Feb. 9 (Tue) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 10-13
 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, II, ii, 8(Moodle)
- Feb. 11 (Thu) **due: Analysis of Apparatus of Communication**
- Feb. 15 (Mon) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 14-16
 Social Capital, ch. 7
- Feb. 17 (Wed) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 17-22
- Thursday, 7:20 pm, screening of *North Country* in Quad 346

Feb. 19 (Fri) movie: *North Country*
Sharon Timberlake, “Social Capital and Gender,” *Journal of Management Development* (2005) (Moodle)
“Briefing: Women in the Workforce,” *The Economist* (2 January 2009) (Moodle)

Feb. 23 (Tue) **due: Archaeology of a Profession**

Feb. 25 (Thu) Career Services website and CSO websites (Moodle)
Guest: Erica Rademacher from Career Services

Feb. 27—Mar. 7 SPRING BREAK

Mar. 8 (Mon) workshop on professionalism, civil society, and resumes/cover letters

Mar. 10 (Wed) **due: civil society, professionalism, and the job application**
Introduction to research paper and how to find a topic

Mar. 12 (Fri) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 23-24
Social Capital, Introduction

Mar. 16 (Tue) **due: memo on issues**
workshop on topics

Mar. 18 (Thu) **due: taking sides**

Mar. 22 (Mon) *Social Capital*, ch. 1, 3, and 4

Mar. 24 (Wed) meet in Clemens Library computer lab **at CSB campus**
research workshop with librarian Molly Ewing

Mar. 26 (Fri) **due: annotated bibliography**
workshop on research strategies

Mar. 30 (Tue) *Social Capital*, ch. 5-6 and 9-10

Apr. 1—Apr.5 EASTER

Apr. 6 (Tue) strategies for state of the debate

Apr. 8 (Thu) **due: state of the debate essay**
finding a position and an apparatus of communication

Apr. 12 (Mon) *Social Capital*, ch. 12
China's New Order, Preface and Introduction

strategies for writing position paper and engaging other points of view

- Apr. 14 (Wed) *China's New Order*, pp. 41-77
workshop on position paper
- Apr. 16 (Fri) *China's New Order*, pp. 78-115
workshop on position paper
- Apr. 20 (Tue) **due: position paper draft #1**
- Apr. 22 (Thu) *China's New Order*, pp. 116-137
due: outline of position paper draft #1
strategies for oral presentations
- Apr. 26 (Mon) Oral Presentations
- Apr. 28 – Scholarship and Creativity Day
- Apr. 29 (Thu) Oral Presentations
- May 3 (Mon) **due: position paper draft #2**