

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
WRITING, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS

Dr. Steven Thomas
office phone: x3193
office: Quad 352-B
office hours: odd days, 1:00—2:15 pm,
and by appointment

FYS 101—54A, spring 2011
time: even days, 2:40—3:50
place: SJU Quad 365

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”*

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%

Class participation

Attendance, pop quizzes, in-class activities.....	15%
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/Academics/Academic-Catalogs/2009-2011-Catalog/Programs/Rights/Plagiarism.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. 18 (Tue) | Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement—how did it work? |
| Jan. 20 (Thu) | <i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch.1
What is “civil society”? Look up on internet and come to class with examples. |
| Jan. 24 (Mon) | <i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch.2 – 4
What's a professional association and why doesn't Putnam talk about them? |
| Jan. 26 (Wed) | come to class prepared to discuss several options for the civil society organization that you will research this semester
<i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 5
<i>Social Capital</i> , ch. 11 |
| | Screening of <i>Norma Rae</i> , Wednesday and Thursday at 7:15 pm in Alcuin AV-1 |
| Jan. 28 (Fri) | discuss movie <i>Norma Rae</i>
in-class writing and discussion: why was it hard for the union to form? |

Feb. 1 (Tue)	<i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 6-7 What are professional journals and why doesn't Putnam talk about them?
Feb. 3 (Thu)	due: Report and Oral Presentations on Civil Society Organizations
Feb. 7 (Mon)	<i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 8 – 9 Felicia Wu Song, excerpts from <i>Virtual Communities: Bowling Alone, Online Together</i> , pp. xi—12 and 133—137 (Moodle)
Feb. 9 (Wed)	<i>Social Capital</i> , ch. 10 Vrontis et al., “Website Design... an Effective... Promotional Tool” (Moodle)
Feb. 11 (Fri)	in-class group oral presentations evaluating a company or NGO's website bring your own journal to class
Feb. 15 (Tue)	in-class workshop on apparatus of communication <i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 10 – 12
Feb. 17 (Thu)	<i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 13 <i>Social Capital</i> , ch. 9
Feb. 21 (Mon)	due: Analysis of Apparatus of Communication
Feb. 23 (Wed)	<i>Bowling Alone</i> , ch. 14 – 15 <i>Social Capital</i> , ch. 6
Feb. 25 (Fri)	Sharon Timberlake, “Social Capital and Gender,” <i>Journal of Management Development</i> (2005) (Moodle) <i>Social Capital</i> , ch. 7 introduction to final research paper and how to find a topic
Mar. 1 (Tue)	library day
Mar. 3 (Thu)	due: Archaeology of a Profession
Mar. 7 (Mon)	CSBSJU Career Services website and your CSO websites and journals guest: Erica Rademacher from Career Services come to class having found some internships/jobs that you can apply to
Mar. 9 (Wed)	workshop on professionalism, civil society, and resumes/cover letters bring your own drafts of application materials
Mar. 11 (Fri)	due: civil society, professionalism, and the job application
March 12—20 Spring Break	
Mar. 22 (Tue)	due: memo on issues workshop on topics <i>Social Capital</i> , Introduction
Mar. 24 (Thu)	due: taking sides

- Mar. 28 (Mon) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 16 – 18
Social Capital, ch. 5
- Mar. 30 (Wed) meet in Clemens Library computer lab at **CSB campus**
research workshop with librarian Molly Ewing
- Apr. 1 (Fri) **due: annotated bibliography**
workshop on research strategies
- Apr. 5 (Tue) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 19 – 20
Social Capital, ch. 8
- Apr. 7 (Thu) in-class workshop: strategies for state of the debate
- Apr. 11 (Mon) **due: state of the debate essay**
finding a position and an apparatus of communication
- Apr. 13 (Wed) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 21 – 22
Social Capital, ch. 1
strategies for writing position paper and engaging other points of view
- Apr. 15 (Fri) workshop on position paper
- Apr. 19 (Tue) *Bowling Alone*, ch. 23 – 24
Social Capital, ch. 12
- April 21—25 Easter Recess
- Apr. 26 (Tue) **due: position paper draft #1**
- Apr. 28 (Thu) workshop on strategies for oral presentations
- May 2 (Mon) **Oral Presentations**
- May 4 (Wed) – Scholarship and Creativity Day
- May 5 (Thu) **Oral Presentations**
- May 9 (Mon) **due: position paper draft #2**