

The University of Oklahoma
College of Liberal Studies
Study in Depth Prospectus
LSTD 3953 801
October 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 2007
5:30-9:30 pm
Rose State College
Tom Steed Center – Room 205

Professor

Dr. John Duncan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary and Cultural Studies, College of Liberal Studies,
University of Oklahoma

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
College of Medicine
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Contact Information:

Dr. John Duncan
CLS
1610 Asp Ave., Ste 108
Norman, OK 73072-6405
(405) 325-1061

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare the students to research and write their senior capstone “Study in Depth,” a 30-50 page research paper that is a necessary condition for graduation from the program in CLS. **The capstone paper is not written for this course, but at the end of the student’s program –this course helps the students develop the skills to write that paper.** In this course, students will examine how to define a research question, conduct preliminary research and limit the topic, evaluate research materials, develop a thesis statement, put together a logical argument, and draw sensible conclusions. They will learn how to evaluate sources and find weaknesses in arguments. This course will help develop critical thinking skills and the ability to organize a longer paper.

Textbooks

1. Lester, James D., *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* (11th Edition); Longman, 2004; ISBN-13: 978-0321236463; ISBN-10: 0321236467.
2. Weston, Anthony, *A Rulebook for Arguments* (3rd edition); Hackett Pub. Co., 2000; ISBN-13: 978-0872205529; ISBN-10: 0872205525.

Overview

This seminar will consist of reading assignments, individual papers, group projects, lectures, and class participation. **Attendance is mandatory** and it is critical that each student arrives at class prepared to **intelligently discuss** the topic and **meaningfully contribute** to the class. Class time will be broken up with various structured (and some unstructured) activities, including presentations, class discussions, case studies, videos, and lectures. In-class time will be allocated for team activities and projects. Students may be required to complete some out of class projects.

Requirements

1. **Reading Assignments.** Students will be expected to have completed assigned readings before class and be prepared to intelligently discuss the major ideas.
2. **Individual Assignments.**
 - a. Thesis Statement/topic narrowing assignment (100 points);

- b. Literature review assignment (100 points);
 - c. Research Outline assignment (100 points).
3. **Class Attendance/Individual Participation.** Students will be graded on class attendance and informed participation in class discussion and group activities (**100 points attendance/ 100 points participation/ total 200 points**). All absences must be excused and make-up work will be assigned at the discretion of the professor. Bear in mind that there will be no way to make-up missed team activities.

Grading

This seminar will be graded by figuring the total percentage according to the following system:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 65-69 = D
- Below 65 = F

Academic Misconduct:

Any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Cheating: the use of unauthorized materials, methods, or information in any academic exercise, including improper collaboration;
- (b) Plagiarism: the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own, including:
 - (1) direct quotation without both attribution and indication that the material is being directly quoted, e.g. quotation marks;
 - (2) paraphrase without attribution;
 - (3) paraphrase with or without attribution where the wording of the original remains substantially intact and is represented as the author's own;
 - (4) expression in one's own words, but without attribution, of ideas, arguments, lines of reasoning, facts, processes, or other products of the intellect where such material is learned from the work of another and is not part of the general fund of common academic knowledge;
- (c) Fabrication: the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise;
- (d) Fraud: the falsification, forgery, or misrepresentation of academic work, including the resubmission of work performed for one class for credit in another class without the informed permission of the second instructor; or the falsification, forgery or misrepresentation of other academic records or documents, including admissions materials and transcripts; or the communication of false or misleading statements to obtain academic advantage or to avoid academic penalty;
- (e) Destruction, misappropriation or unauthorized possession of University property or the property of another;
- (f) Bribery or intimidation;
- (g) Assisting others in any act proscribed by this Code; or
- (h) Attempting to engage in such acts.

Penalties are listed in the Academic Code. For further information on academic misconduct please refer to the following link: <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>

Disability Issues: Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her or him from fully demonstrating his or her academic abilities should contact Frank Rodriquez (405-325-1061) as soon as possible to discuss the accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities. For further information on disability issues please refer to the following link: <http://www.dsa.ou.edu/ods/index.html>

About the Professor:

Dr. John Duncan is an Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary and Cultural Studies in the College of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma. He has worked with CLS as a professor since 1997 and is the recipient of their 2003 "Kenneth E. Crook Distinguished Faculty Award," for Excellence in Teaching and Meritorious Service to the University and the 2004 "Superior Teaching Award." John is also appointed as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, OU Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, where he teaches courses on the neurobiology of addiction, psychopharmacology of non-therapeutic drug use, and medical ethics.

Graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a Ph.D. in philosophy, his main philosophical interests are in phenomenology (the study of the structures of human experience), applied ethics, and media and its influences on belief. John is currently working on a book on the relationship between self-identity, belief and autonomy. Additionally, John completed several years of post-doctoral research in biological psychology at the OU College of Medicine.

In August of 2007 John retired after 27 years in law enforcement from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control. Although he worked as an undercover agent for years, the past 13 years were as an agency administrator, where he was responsible for agency direction and vision and programmatic development, specifically in the medical communities. He is the author of much of Oklahoma drug law.

Additionally, John is a consultant for the US Department of State and has traveled throughout the former Soviet Eastern-Block countries helping develop approaches to address issues of ethics and governmental corruption. He has served on a White House Commission that developed model legislation, is currently a member of the Advisory Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, has served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Substance Abuse, was the Vice-Chairman of the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Policy Board, and is a member of the Oklahoma Epidemiological Workgroup.

Throughout his career, John has generated over 6.5 million dollars of grant support. He enjoys teaching at all levels and particularly "non-traditional" students, usually adults who are going back to college while working a full-time job.