

Political Science 461 – Senior Thesis in Political Science Literature Review (45%)

Due: Wednesday, November 8 by 5:00pm

Hard Copy due: Faculty Mailbox | Building 94-304

Digital Copy due: Blackboard

No late assignments will be accepted.

Exchange session #2

- Submit a digital draft by Sunday, November 5, 11:59:59PM (mag@cpp.edu)
- Bring a full draft of your literature review to class on Monday, November 6

Parameters:

- 8-10 pages
- 1 – 1.25” margins
- Double-spaced
- 12-point, Times New Roman font

In general, the literature review discusses *how* existing academic scholarship helps us understand your research. In your final thesis, you will introduce your research question and argument, perhaps discussing its overall importance. The next section reviews the existing literature in approximately 8-10 pages. In your review of the literature, you should identify a clear and sensible way to organize your analysis.

Introduction

Research. In the first page, accomplish the following *very briefly* (less than a page):

- a. Transition from the introduction (proposal) to the literature review
- b. Identify the thematic connection between your literature you have uncovered

Overview. What’s the road map for your reader? Briefly summarize the scope of your literature review by explaining how it will be organized at the end of your introduction.

Body

How does existing literature address your question and argument? The majority of the literature review should respond to this question. Every literature review is different. However, given your topic, your literature review should be carefully constructed and well organized. **Use subheadings to organize your thoughts.**

In-text citations. Remember to cite the literature throughout. Dependent on your chosen citation style, use parenthetical citations, footnotes, or endnotes. Although the department does not have an official style, I would recommend that you use MLA format.

Works Cited/Bibliography

Which specific sources have you used to construct your literature review? Make sure to cite *at least 20 sources* in a works cited section. The majority of these sources should be academic (books, scholarly journals). You may use popular sources (newspapers, magazines, Internet sites, data sources, etc.), but this should be extremely purposeful. Of your 20 sources, no more than 3 popular sources will be counted for credit. If your topic is not well researched by academics or is an extremely recent event, it is okay to use more popular sources.

Writing

Have you proofread your paper? Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure will significantly figure into your grade for the literature review. Make sure to use an academic voice and avoid informal writing.