

**RSP 400.001/497.001**  
**Senior Seminar**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2015**

**Instructors:** Dr. Ricky Dobbs  
**Class Time:** F 9:00-9:50  
**Class Location:** SS 309  
**Office Location:** OSS 141  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5878  
**Office Fax:** 903-468-6077  
**University Email Address:** Ricky.Dobbs@tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*None required*

**Course Description:** Senior Seminar allows RSP students to use their knowledge, skills, and experience gained in the program to strengthen the program for future groups of RSP students and offer service to the University community.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will envision, plan, organize, execute, and evaluate projects intended to strengthen the program and help the wider University community.
2. Students will meet regularly with the instructor during each phase of their project development.
3. Student projects will provide an informative and helpful presentation product which will be evaluated by their intended audience.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

**Instructional Methods:** Class meetings are mainly for organizational purposes and also to facilitate student project development and improvement. There will be a several full-group meetings during the semester, but most class meetings will be used to monitor progress on projects.

**Assignments:** This is a project-based course. The projects are extended individual or small group efforts that should be done in a series of steps unique to each project. There are five projects total. I have already assigned you to a project. You will be receiving project descriptions in addition to this syllabus.

The project list is below:

Logistical Action Planning (LAP)—Laura Shelton  
News You Can Use (NYCU)—Cody Joyce, Cody Strube  
“If I Knew Then What I Know Now”(If I Knew)—Jacob Sheard  
Regents’ On The Road (ROR)—Kaleb Brimer, Joann Campbell, Josh Jenkins, Sarah Wray  
Focus Group Group (FGG)-- Paul Carlson, Chrissy Lewis, Heath Parker, Katrina Schoenfeld

*Project Phases:* Each project, whether group or individual, has five phases: vision, plan, organize, execute, and evaluate. The pieces help guide you through the production of the whole. Each phase is worth twenty-five points for a total of 125 or 31% of your course grade.

*Vision:* You or your group responds to the project description with a set of ideas about what you want to accomplish.

*Plan:* You or your group breaks your project into segments, explains each, and sets a target date for completion of each.

*Organize:* You or each individual in your group determine what you need and who is responsible for getting/doing it.

*Execution:* You follow through on your plan in a methodical if not literal way. You produce a finished product.

*Evaluate:* You devise benchmarks that will tell you whether or not you have successfully completed your project. That evaluation is *audience based*. So, whatever you hoped to accomplish, you find out from your audience whether or not you accomplished it.

What needs to happen for each phase will vary based on the particular project, but the goal is the same. You move from a vision to a plan. You organize how you will accomplish the plan, and your execution of that plan produces a project. Your project recipient is the ultimate judge of your work.

*Project Final:* The sum total of your finished project also receives a grade. This is your prize for completion of all the steps. It allows you to retrieve your grade if a piece or pieces of the project did not go well as you learned what was expected. Your final project grade is worth 125 points or 31% of your course grade.

*Discussion/Attendance/Participation:* You need to attend general class sessions, as well as group or individual project meetings with me. Come on time, be ready to think/talk, and you will be rewarded. This piece is worth 75 points or 19% of your grade.

*Final Examination:* A take-home final will be issued and it must be turned in at the designated final examination meeting time. We will have a final activity that day. More details later. This element is worth 75 points or 19% of your grade.

## **Grading**

A = EXCELLENT 360 or more Points  
B = GOOD 320-359 Points  
C = **AVERAGE** 280-319 Points  
D = POOR 240-279 Points  
F = FAILURE less than 240 Points

**Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.**

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

My preferred form of interaction is in person during office or before or after class. I invite you to contact me by e-mail to make appointments if you cannot come to office hours. I can be reached more easily by e-mail than by phone.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

*Attendance:* Roll will be taken each session. This is a course for which you receive credit and a grade. Your attendance is an expression of your professionalism and buy-in. Excused absences include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance OR any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor. Excuses must be turned in, in writing, to the instructor upon return to class.

*Cheating:* Plagiarism, appropriating or otherwise using the work of others, avoiding or aiding others in avoiding class requirements or other activities that contravene ordinary standards of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Students who cheat will be punished one or more of the following: point penalty, failure of the assignment in question or failure for the course. If you are in doubt about whether or not your conduct constitutes cheating, you had better ask the instructor. Do not find out the hard way. There are *no excuses*.

*Slacker Clause:* **Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.**

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### *ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu  
 Student Disability Resources & Services

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The schedule below shows planned weekly topics. In a perfect world, all things will go well, and there'll be no change from this schedule. We live in an imperfect world, and so, there may be disruptions. If the schedule has to be altered, it will be altered with proper notice and always in a way that benefits students before me.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who's Present?</b>
Friday	September 4	Syllabus/Expectation Setting	EVERYONE
Friday	September 11	Touching Base	EVERYONE
Friday	September 18	Vision and Plan	LAP, NYCU, "If I Knew"
Friday	September 25	Vision and Plan	ROR, FGG
Friday	October 2	Organize	EVERYONE
Friday	October 9	Execute	ROR, FGG
Friday	October 16	Execute	ROR, FGG
Friday	October 23	Execute	LAP, NYCU, "If I Knew"
Friday	October 30	Evaluate	ROR, FGG
Friday	November 6	Evaluate	LAP, NYCU, "If I Knew"
Friday	November 20	Present to Dobbs	LAP, NYCU, "If I Knew"
Friday	November 27	Present to Dobbs	ROR, FGG
M-F	November 30- December 4	Be prepared for travel meeting	NYCU, "If I Knew"
Friday	December 4	Deadline for Road Presentation	ROR
Friday	December 4	Final Exam Questions Distributed	EVERYONE
Wednesday	December 16	Final Exam Due in Class	EVERYONE