

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo

Journalism 460

Senior Project

1. **Catalog Description**

Jour 460 Senior Project

Selection and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Projects typical of problems which graduates must solve in their fields of employment. Project results are presented in a formal report. Minimum 90 hours total time.

2. **Required Background of Experience**

Senior standing and permission of adviser.

3. **Expected Outcomes**

Senior projects usually are investigative research papers which include reviews of the literature, field, surveys, compilations of expert opinion, in-depth interviewing, formulation of hypotheses, or whatever other research tools seem appropriate. They require a minimum of 90 hours of research and writing. They are substantial.

Senior projects should be of publishable quality, as reports in trade magazines, for example, or as research in brief in scholarly journals.

4. **Texts and/or References**

Those reference materials available in, or through, the Kennedy Library.

5. **Minimum Student Materials**

Depend on nature of the project. Materials such as bond paper for original copies, envelopes for submission to the Kennedy Library and such services as typing and Xeroxing should be arranged in consultation with faculty advisers.

6. **Minimum University Facilities**

None required. Students will have access to word processing rooms.

7. **Expanded Description of Content and Method**

Before enrolling in this course, students should consult with members of the faculty as a preliminary step in formulating a concrete proposal.

Immediately after enrolling in the course, students should submit to their senior project advisers a written outline of the proposal to include a single-sentence, working title, a statement of the importance of the study, a description of the method(s) of gathering information, called research, and a topical outline that indicates how the project, when written will be organized. A bibliography, indicating that students have conducted a preliminary search of the literature on the topic, should be attached.

8. **Methods of Evaluating Outcomes**

Senior Projects will be criticized and graded according to standards generally accepted in the Journalism Department for research papers. They will be judged on the basis of the appropriateness of the problem considered, the adequacy and thoroughness of research displayed, the handling of subject matter, the quality of writing displayed and the perception evinced in observations or proposed solutions.

All senior projects must be completed within one quarter. Students who fail to finish their project in one quarter will fail the course and will be required to reenroll in Jour 460 (Senior Project). Under exceptional circumstances, such as documented medical cases, an "I" grade may be assigned.