

Philadelphia University School of General Studies College Studies Program  
**Contemporary Perspectives : L 911 Spring 2006**  
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OFFICE HOURS: Tues 1-3 and by appointment

**SEMINAR PROJECT ASSIGNMENT: FINAL DUE DATE FRI APR 21**

Submit Group Meeting Log with final draft

Preliminary due dates: **Fri Feb 24:** Seminar Project Formal Proposal

**Wed Mar 25/Thu Mar 26:** Draft of Individual Contributions

**Wed Apr 5/Thu Apr 6:** Complete draft for peer and instructor review

**Country options:** Choose countries in Asia/ Africa/Latin America.

Purpose: The purpose of the Seminar Project is to allow students to apply the professional and technical skills and outlook that they have developed through both their major coursework and College Studies coursework, to develop a solution for a particular “real-life” case study problem. Students will work in multi-professional teams to identify a specific example, at a local and/or institutional level, of the impact of global movements and trends within a specific country. Students will research the general and regional background of the global movement or trend, its origins including those factors that contribute to its growth, and its general effects within the chosen country. Students will also identify and discuss the ways in which a specific and current case study manifests those general effects. Students will then develop a plan for a solution to a specific aspect of the local problem to which they will apply their particular professional expertise. Each project submission will include both co-authored and individually authored sections, and should include visual and/or technical material where appropriate.

Sources required: project teams should avail themselves of multiple sources. These sources should include scholarly trade, and newspaper articles, opinion pieces (paper sources or accessed through Gutman Library databases) books and appropriate websites. Any paper with nothing but webpage sources will be given a zero. Any paper in which webpage sources outnumber articles will be returned for further work.

**Each submitted project must include the following sections:**

- 1. General introduction.** A brief introduction to your group’s topic, in which you provide an overview of the contents of your paper and introduce a statement of your thesis, for which you will build an argument based on evidence throughout the remainder of the paper.
- 2. General and regional discussion of global issue,** including general history of its growth and consequences globally and regionally in the country you are studying. The content should address historical and political and cultural factors that have encouraged the issues’ or trends’ development; minimal background on the region/country and presentation of impact in that region/country;.

Sources for this section should include scholarly articles, scholarly books, appropriate websites.

3. **Discussion of the specific case study** that establishes the problem the project team will address, and that will show how the global issue/trend is manifested, and discusses what the implications are, at this local level.

Sources for this section should include relevant historical background on current conditions in your country that are directly relevant to your topic current news articles and scholarly articles that provide specific information about the region and case study, and very focused and directly relevant websites that address the specific case.

4. **Project Proposal.** In this section, group participants will present the general proposal that their team will work toward in order to develop a local solution to the specific problem generated in this locale by manifestations of the global issue or trend. The proposal will indicate the relationship between the individual contributions.

Sources for this section should include news-based, trade-based, and scholarly publications, as well as narrowly focused websites, that allow the group to point to precedents where other professionals in fields like yours have made comparable efforts to solve such a problem.

5. **Proposed Individual Contributions of Project Participants.** Following section 3, each individual group member will include a 5-7- page discussion of their own professional contribution to the project plan, including general discussion about how their professional training and expertise will enable them to make their contributions.

Sources for this section, as for the previous one, should include news-based, trade-based, and scholarly publications, as well as narrowly focused websites, that allow the group to point to precedents where other professionals in your own or a related field have made comparable efforts to solve such a problem. Publications and websites of major professional or trade organizations, as well as publications and websites of nongovernmental organizations may be helpful here.

6. **Concluding section** that cites the results of precedent case studies, proposes follow-up work, and assesses the likelihood of success based on your sources.

**In-class workshops.** We will spend class time discussing the approach to, and content of, each section. Workshops will be held during class time that will address the nature of doing group projects, problems associated with the writing of writing co-authored sections, and integration of individual with co-authored sections.

**Bibliography** for each project will be submitted as a single Works Cited section. Thus, all articles and sources, whether cited in co-authored or multi-authored, will be cited in the text using MLA style in-text parenthetical citations and will be presented in alphabetical order in the Works Cited section.

**NOTE: Groups should meet at least 6 times outside of class, at least twice prior to the submission of the project proposal, and at least 4 more times prior to the submission of the final project.**

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## **SEMINAR PROJECT PROPOSAL: DUE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24 FOR ALL SECTIONS**

Purpose. The purpose of the seminar project proposal is to clearly present the various components of the proposed project, to outline the topics that will be discussed, to allocate the responsibilities of each project team member, and to allow individuals to present their own proposed contributions to the group project.

The chief part of the work for the proposal will be to search Gutman Library databases and the World-Wide Web to find resources that are appropriate and useful for your project. As for every formal writing/research assignment for the course, you must use a balanced set of sources tht include scholarly, trade, and news publications, web-based sources, and traditional printed materials if helpful. All sources for each individual section should be presented at the end of that section, in a bibliography of standard MLA format. All bibliographies will be merged for the final project.

Specifications: Approx 6-8 pages, with brief summaries of both co-authored and individually authored sections, and standard bibliography of sources to follow each section. 10-12 pt. readable font, MLA style in-text parenthetical citations.

For each numbered section below, refer to the actual Seminar Project Assignment to understand the relation between the proposal and the actual project section.

1. General introduction. Your final introduction will need to address the actual content of the project papers. In the proposal you should simply present and lightly sketch out crucial facts about the global trend, country, case study, the goals of the project and individual submissions.
2. Global issue—historical background: rise of issue/trend, when and where originated and why, what causes it, how has it been addressed; emphasis on region and country of focus. Here a brief general discussion will suffice, supplemented by the bibliography of sources your group has identified and the direction future research will take..
3. Case study: The group should spend some time researching local events, conditions, institutions, “stories,” in the country, identifying a current crisis and/or development that might be addressed by the professional skills of the group members. Again, include bibliography of sources, which will likely be chiefly newspaper or news journal sources, but might include other scholarly sources. Use BBC news on line, as well.
4. Project Proposal. Students in the group should be able to articulate the ways in which the group project will address the problems of the global/region issue..
5. Individual Proposals of project participants. In this section individual students will outline their own contributions to the project. Research should address current issues confronted by

professionals in your field generally, information about professionals in your field in the region/country selected, and involvement of members of your profession in public affairs.

6. Conclusion. This will not be fully developed in the proposal; in the final version the conclusion will allow you to assess the successes and failures of the process and the likelihood of the projects success.

## Contemporary Perspectives: L911 Spring 2006

Kimmelman: SEMINAR PROJECT ANCILLARY ASSIGNMENTS

**GROUP MEETING LOG:** Seminar Project: 25 points.

**Due: Friday April 21** with Seminar Project submission, but submitted separately and independently by each student to the instructor.

The Seminar Project requires your group to meet at least 6 times during the course of preparing the project, at least twice prior to the submission of the project proposal, and at least 4 more times prior to the submission of the final project. You are required to maintain a "Group Meeting Log" which you will submit

Groups should meet at least 6 times outside of class, at least twice prior to the submission of the project proposal, and at least 4 more times prior to the submission of the final project.

The purpose of maintaining the group meeting log is twofold: to develop in students a self-conscious sense of responsibility to the group project and to their own role within it and to provide the instructor with a sense of the overall success (or not) of the group effort and each individual's contribution to it. The log should not be a gripe sheet, but rather a carefully detailed account of the group's dynamics and of its progress toward its goals. The instructor hopes to see not only a record of the obstacles and snags besetting the groups, but an account of how group members identified problems, confronted them, and found solutions.

You may hand-write or type the meeting log. During each meeting, students should take notes concerning decisions made, the process by which those decisions were made, and the role they themselves and other individuals made. Taking responsibility, and giving credit when its due, both to oneself and to others, should be a part of the log. The best time to write up the formal entry would be within 24 hours of the meeting, but not necessarily immediately afterward. Especially if there was conflict or discomfort during the meeting, a few hours' meditation on the events, and their likely impact on the group dynamics and project itself, would be helpful.

Each log entry should include the date, time and place of the meeting, and those in attendance, as well as the basics outlined above. If specific tasks have been allocated to specific individuals, this information should also be recorded. There should be at least six entries, for each of the six required meetings, but obviously if your group meets more frequently you will have more entries. You are not limited to the topics mentioned above, of course; but remember, this is neither an exercise in creative writing nor a gripe session. Use the log as a tool to both record and improve the group's work toward the project goal.