



Cornell University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library

## More about Senior Seminar Papers

Rev. October 27, 2010

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- Contents:
1. Background & History
  2. Arrangement & Storage
  3. Searching for Past Senior Seminar Papers
  4. Accessing Electronic Full-Text Papers
  5. Obtaining Copies of Past Senior Seminar Papers
  6. Citing Senior Seminar Papers
  7. Other Considerations

### 1. Background & History

#### What are Senior Seminars?

Every 4<sup>th</sup>-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) student at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine is required to enroll in a one-credit course titled, "Fourth-Year Seminar", VTMED 5612 (573). This course:

Gives the student the responsibility and opportunity of selecting and studying a disease entity on the basis of a case or series of cases, or to conduct a short-term, clinically oriented research project under the direction of a faculty member. In either case, an oral report will be presented at a weekly seminar. A written report is also submitted within 2 weeks after the seminar. All participants are encouraged to foster an atmosphere in which discussion, exchange of ideas, and the airing of controversial opinions might flourish.

Fall and spring. 1 credit. Required component of Clinical Rotations (Foundation Course VI). First-, second-, and third-year students and all faculty and staff members are also invited and encouraged to attend. S-U grades only. Dr. Mary C. Smith, chair of the Senior Seminar Committee.

First, second, and third year D.V.M. students may take the VTMED 6724 course titled, "Senior Seminar", to receive 1 credit for attending 14 of the senior seminar sessions

presented during an academic year.

### **When Were Senior Seminars First Begun?**

When a new curriculum was implemented for the class entering in the fall of 1945, fourth-year students were required to take a credit course #202 called “Clinical Conferences”.

“These conferences will be attended by all members of the fourth-year class and by staff members representing not only the clinical but the preclinical or basic sciences as well. Students will be required to present reports on their studies of selected cases from the clinics, and these will be criticized and discussed by the faculty members. In this way the special knowledge and viewpoints of the anatomist, biochemist, physiologist, pathologist, bacteriologist, and parasitologist, as well as that of the clinicians, will be brought to bear on problems of diagnosis and therapy”. (New York State Veterinary College Announcement for 1947-1948 Sessions. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, 1947, pg: 32.)

However, it was not until 1949 that papers were prepared and submitted by most students in the fourth-year class. Some of these early seminars lack author’s names and are thus listed as “anonymous” and several students authored more than one paper in 1950 and 1951.

Since 1965, these presentations and papers have been called Senior Seminars.

## **2. Arrangement & Storage**

### **How Are Completed Print Senior Seminar Papers Handled and Stored?**

After the final print versions have been completed, date stamped, and turned in to the Senior Seminar secretary throughout the year, they are forwarded to the Veterinary Library at the end of the spring semester.

The Veterinary Library sends the printed papers in folders to Library Technical Services in Olin Library for cataloging and records are added to the Library Catalog. When finished, the print copies are sent to the Annex Library for permanent storage.

All seminar papers are assigned the uniform call number, SF 610.1.

Within this call number, the papers are arranged chronological by graduation year.

Within each year, the seminars are generally in alphabetical order by student’s name.

Thus, the Annex Library has a complete collection of print senior seminar papers from 1947 to present. They are listed as being held by:

Kroch Library Rare & Manuscripts (Request in advance)

### **What Happens to the Electronic Version, PowerPoint Presentations, Summary Handouts, and Videoclips?**

During the academic year, the one-page summary handouts are listed each week on the course schedule. In addition, the PowerPoint presentations and videoclips are posted on the course web site as they are turned in. Electronic versions of the senior seminar papers are given to the Veterinary Library on CD-ROM or sent to [vetref@cornell.edu](mailto:vetref@cornell.edu)

At the end of each semester, senior seminar documents are added to eCommons@Cornell which is a permanent digital repository maintain by the Cornell University Library at <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/> or <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/2099>

### **What Is Available Electronically In Full-Text in eCommons@Cornell?**

PDFs of all senior seminar papers from 2002/2003 to present and some selected earlier papers are available electronically in full-text from eCommons. Additional older papers will be added on a one-by-one basis as requested.

PDFs of most PowerPoint presentations from 2005/2006 are accessible in eCommons.

PDFs of one-page summary handouts and any associated videoclips or other supplemental items are provided from 2008/2009 to present. Some earlier videoclips since 2005/2006 may also be included if they were submitted by the student.

The Library Catalog offers convenient links to full-text held in eCommons for 2008/2009 and later seminars.

Note: Access to senior seminar files stored in eCommons is accessible only to Veterinary College students, faculty and staff because some papers may contain potentially confidential client information.

## **3. Searching for Past Senior Seminar Papers**

### **How Are Senior Seminar Papers Found in the Library Catalogs?**

Most senior seminars from 1949 have been cataloged and are thus searchable in the Cornell University Library Catalog at <http://catalog.library.cornell.edu/>. As of June, 2010, about 4,350 seminar papers are listed in the Library Catalogs.

Seminars that are currently missing or unavailable have not been included in the Library Catalog.

In addition to Cornell students, recent papers given by D.V.M. students on rotation from Ross University, St. George's University, and other affiliated institutions are included if a seminar was presented while studying at Cornell.

For clinical case report-type seminars, one or possibly two species-related subject headings have been assigned, such as:

- e.g., Birds---Diseases---Case studies  
 Birds---Surgery---Case studies  
 Cats---Diseases---Case studies  
 Cattle---Reproduction---Case studies  
 Dogs---Diseases---Diagnosis---Case studies  
 Dogs---Fractures---Case studies  
 Horses---Wounds and injuries---Case studies  
 Rabbits---Diseases---Case studies  
 Swine---Diseases---Case studies

For papers dealing with general topics, a single heading has usually been included, such as:

- e.g., Acid-base imbalance  
 Homeopathic veterinary medicine  
 Milk---prices---New York (state)  
 Organophosphorous compounds  
 Pet loss---psychological aspects  
 Salmonellosis  
 Veterinary anesthesia  
 Veterinary drugs---physiological effect  
 Veterinary medicine---Practice

Since 2002/2003, the year entered in the cataloging records is the date the student gave their oral presentation. For earlier papers, the date is the student's year of graduation.

The CU Library Catalog has two versions which contain nearly the same content, but have different interfaces:

- WorldCat Local Catalog
- Classic Catalog

#### WORLDCAT LOCAL

In searching WorldCat Local, simply enter "senior seminar" plus one or more combinations of name, date, species keyword, or subject keyword.

*senior seminar chizmar*  
*senior seminar 2008*  
*senior seminar dogs*

## CLASSIC CATALOG

Senior Seminar papers may be searched in the CU Library Classic Catalog in several ways:

### BASIC SEARCH

Enter **exact** names, titles, or Library of Congress subject headings

*Author / student's name* [as an Author]

This is a quick way of determining a student's graduation year.

*Title of senior seminar paper* [as a Title]

*Senior seminar* [as a Title]

This produces a list of senior seminars as a series.

Papers by anonymous authors precede an alphabetical arrangement by author/student name.

<LC Subject heading> [As a Subject]

### GUIDED KEYWORD SEARCH

Enter **combinations** of search elements, such as: keyword(s) in title, date, or authors.

Enter:

Will produce a list of:

*Senior seminar*

All senior seminars added since 1949 (except those missing) arranged chronologically by year of graduation/presentation, then alphabetically by author/student's name.

*Senior seminar AND <student's name>*

Senior seminar papers only. Theses and other book materials will be excluded.

*Senior seminar AND <date>*

All senior seminars for that year of graduation/presentation.

Arrangement is alphabetical by author/students name.

Note: By looking at the date in the call number it's possible to quickly determine the year a student graduated..

*Senior seminar AND  
<title subject keyword>*

Senior seminars on that subject.  
Note there is no subject heading control so word variations must be considered.

Arrangement is chronological by year of graduation/presentation, then alphabetical by author/student's name.

*Senior seminar AND <animal species>*

Senior seminars about dogs, cats, horses, turkeys, fishes, and other species.  
Please note there is no hierarchy or grouping of similar species, e.g., if you enter "poultry", you will not automatically include "chickens", "turkey", "birds" or "raptors".  
These must be searched separately.

*Senior seminar AND <animal species>  
AND <graduation/presentation year>*

Senior seminars related to the species prepared in that year of graduation/presentation.

#### **4. Accessing Electronic Full-text of Past Senior Seminar Papers**

##### **Are Electronic Full Text Versions Available?**

Senior seminar papers, PowerPoints presentations, one-page summaries, and videoclips are being archivally stored and are accessible online through the Cornell University Library's eCommons@cornell digital repository.

At the present time, only the seminars from 2002/2003 and selected others have been added to the repository at <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/2099>

To find papers in eCommons, first search for "senior seminar", then choose the collection. Now you're ready to search by author's name, date of issue, species, and title.

Click on the links to view PDFs of the summary handout, text of the paper, and PowerPoint presentation. If additional materials, such as videoclips have been submitted along with any separate figures or tables, these will be visible upon clicking on the links.

Note: Due to confidentiality issues, access to senior seminar documents is restricted to Veterinary College students, faculty and staff.

Access by non-Cornell individuals may be obtained by contacting the Reference Librarian at [vetref@cornell.edu](mailto:vetref@cornell.edu) who will submit a request to the CUHA Director for special consideration.

If problems are encountered in viewing any of the items, please contact reference staff in the Veterinary Library at [vetref@cornell.edu](mailto:vetref@cornell.edu) or call 253-3499.

### **Can Print Senior Seminar Reports Be Borrowed?**

In general, senior seminar papers are stored in the Annex Library and do not circulate.

Contact [vetref@cornell.edu](mailto:vetref@cornell.edu) about accessing papers prior to 2002/2003. Senior seminars not in eCommons must be paged from Annex Library storage. The Veterinary Librarian will obtain a PDF copy for you and deposit the electronic copy in eCommons for your use on a case-by-case basis.

## **6. Citing Senior Seminar Papers**

### **How Should Printed Senior Seminars Be Cited?**

When citing senior seminar manuscripts in bibliographies and footnotes, the following examples are suggested based upon the scientific styles or formats for dissertations, theses, or their parts.

<Author>. <Title>. [D.V.M. senior seminar report]. Ithaca, NY: College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, <date of issue>. < Total pages available>. Available from: Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, Ithaca, NY.

Ex. Allen, Heather. Hemangiopericytoma in the dog. [D.V.M. senior seminar report]. Ithaca, NY: College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, 2003. 9 leaves. Available from: Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, Ithaca, NY.

<Author>. <Date of issue>. <Title>. [D.V.M. senior seminar report]. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. <Total pages available>. Available from: Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, Ithaca, NY.

Ex. Amador, Sonia. 2003. West Nile virus in zoo birds: clinical, pathologic, and epidemiologic considerations. [D.V.M. senior seminar report]. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. 18 leaves. Available from: Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, Ithaca, NY.

### **How should Electronic Full-Text Senior Seminars be cited?**

Follow standard formats for citing electronic resources by including the URL, title of the site hosting the e-text, and date accessed.

- Ex. Stern, Karen A. Retrospective study of canine and feline immune-mediated pancytopenia. [D.V.M. senior seminar report]. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, 2005. Cornell University Library eCommons@cornell. <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/2919>. Date accessed: (27 July 27 2007).

## **7. Other Considerations**

### **Are Senior Seminars Protected by Copyright?**

Yes, the U.S. Copyright Law protects any written document representing creative work, including senior seminar papers. According to Cornell Copyright Policy, students own the copyright on the papers written for their courses.

Thus, any copies made of one or more pages should not be published or distributed as they are only to be used for personal or research purposes.

It is against copyright to make a reproduction of any entire seminar without permission from the author.

Nevertheless, an exception is made for senior seminars according to the College's policies to permit the reproduction or distribution for academic or personal research purposes including interlibrary loan. The waiver granted by students in submitting their papers enable the University to post the papers in eCommons.

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### **Additional Comments and Questions about Accessing Senior Seminar????**

Contact Reference Services at (607) 253-3499 or e-mail to: [vetref@cornell.edu](mailto:vetref@cornell.edu)