PSCI 6907
Research Methods and Design
Thursday, 8:35-11:25
Confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Christina Gabriel
Office: Loeb D692
Phone: 520-2600 x. 1213
E-mail: christina_gabriel@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

Course Description & Objectives:
This seminar is designed to provide PhD students with information and guidance on research methods and strategies that will assist them in both the preparation of their thesis proposal and the research and writing of their doctoral thesis. Students will learn about a wide variety of approaches and issues related to scholarly research in different areas of Political Science. Students will also have the opportunity to present their ideas and work to the class so that they can receive feedback from their peers.

The workshop is student-led; the instructor will act as a facilitator. Some of the class sessions will include guest speakers who will discuss different aspects of research design and method. Other speakers will address some of the professional elements associated with pursuing a PhD.

Course Readings:
Course material is available through the Ares System on cuLearn and/or through the Reserve Desk at the library. Most readings are available electronically.

Recommended: Kevin Haggerty and Aaron Doyle. 2015. 57 Ways to Screw Up in Grad School. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Course Requirements:
The course is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Students will not be assigned a letter grade for course work. However, students are required to complete ALL of the following elements in order to achieve a satisfactory grade.

- Regular attendance and active participation in each of the class sessions
- A 15 minute oral presentation on the readings assigned for a particular week.

During each class one or two students will lead the seminar discussion. The presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes. It should not offer a summary of the week’s readings. It is expected all members of the class will have read all the readings. Each presenter will briefly outline the main points of the readings, offer an analysis of the reading and of the methodological approaches or tools they describe.

Students will sign up for presentations on September 7.
• **A Draft SSHRC Statement. Due date: September 21.**

Each student will submit a draft of the ‘Program of Study” portion of a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship application. The statement must follow SSHRC on-line directions. According to SSHRC “Describe your proposed program of study in non-technical terms. Avoid jargon and acronyms and ensure that your proposal is written in clear, plain language easily understandable to a multidisciplinary committee”. Additionally SSHRC requests that doctoral students must:

- Clearly state your current level of study (e.g., in the second year of doctoral studies, etc.)
- Indicate what stage you are at in your thesis.
- Provide the name of your doctoral studies supervisor, if known.
- Provide an outline of your thesis proposal, including, for example, the research question, context, objectives, methodology and contribution to the advancement of knowledge.
- Describe what you hope to accomplish during the award tenure, and what will remain to be done before you obtain your degree.

(http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/tips-astuces/doctoral_awards-bourses_de_doctorat-eng.aspx#a2)

Individual appointments to discuss the statement will be scheduled during the following week.

• **Written Assignment & Class Presentation – Submission Date: November 17. Presentation Dates: November 23, November 30, December 7**

For the final element of this course you will focus on developing a preliminary methodology section of a research proposal.

You will write a short 8-10 page paper (12 point font, double spaced). It is not a formal essay but it does have to be well organized, clearly written, and properly documented. The paper should address the following questions:

a) What is the substantive topic of your research, briefly? (If you are sufficiently advanced in your thinking to be able to set out a research question, this should also be included).

b) What is the intellectual justification of your project – why are you pursuing this topic? Try to situate your topic within your chosen field (e.g. how does your topic fit into the history of the field? How does your topic contribute to an old, or new, debate in the field?)

c) Broadly speaking, how do you plan to approach the research of this topic? Will it involve quantitative or qualitative research, or both? If it is quantitative, what particular research methods will you employ? What are the strengths and limitations of your approach?

d) What particular tools might be useful here: surveys, interviews, archival research, discourse analysis or ethnography?

e) What is the goal of your research? Is it to describe, compare, explain, predict, critique, emancipate, challenge or disrupt?

Remember: It is not required that you have all this figured out completely. The purpose of this is to consider the important problem of HOW you are going to do your research (as opposed to WHAT you are going to research). The aim is for you to devote time to reading and thinking about methodology in the context of your own research and to have a chance to discuss it with
Peer Review: Each student in the class will offer a short oral response (5 – 7 minutes) to a colleague’s paper presentation.

Seminar Topics and Readings

September 7 Introduction
- Class introductions
- Review of Course Outline
- Sign up for presentations
- No required readings

“Three Things I Wish I knew When I Started My PhD”
Guest: Janice Freamo, PhD Candidate, Political Science
Guest: Megan Pickup, PhD Candidate, Political Science

September 14 Reflections on the Discipline of “Political Science”

“The Elements of a Successful SSHRC Grant Statement”
Guest: Prof. Hans Martin Jaeger, Department of Political Science

September 21 Research Ethics
“Publishing and Conferences While a Graduate Student”
Guest Prof. William Walters, Political Science

Recommended Readings: “Do not Attend Conferences, or Attend Droves of Conferences” & “Postpone Publishing” In 57 Ways to Screw Up in Grad School

*Draft Copy of SSHRC Statement to be Submitted in Class

September 28 Scholars, Researchers, Activists?
- Frances Fox Piven. 2010. “Reflections on Scholarship and Activism.” Antipode 42:4 (September) pp. 806-10

Guest: Professor Mira Suchorov, Political Science

(Scheduled Individual Meetings – Re: Feedback on Statement)

October 5 Ideas and Political Theory

Guest Panel: Prof. Mark Hanvelt, Political Science
Prof. Sophie Marcotte-Chenard

October 12 Qualitative and Quantitative Research Debates

Guest: Prof. Steve White, Political Science
October 19  Comparative Methodology and Case Study

- TBA

*Guest: Professor Chris Brown, Political Science*

October 26  Fall Break - No Scheduled Class & No Office Hours

November 2  Interviewing


*Guest: Professor Laura Macdonald, Political Science*

November 9  Ethnography and Field Research


*Guest: Professor Gopika Solanki, Political Science*

November 16  Textual Analysis


Guest: Professor Achim Hurrelman, Political Science

Draft Paper Ready to Circulate to Discussants

November 23 Presentations
• Student Presentations & Peer Review

November 30 Presentations
• Student Presentations & Peer Review

“Putting Together a Phd Committee”
Guest: Prof. Fiona Robinson, Political Science

December 7 Presentations
• Student Presentations & Peer Review

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).
For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.