

Carleton University  
Department of Political Science

**PSCI 6907A**  
**THESIS PROPOSAL WORKSHOP I**  
**Tuesday 2.35 – 5.25pm**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | <b>Randall Germain</b>             |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | <b>by appointment</b>              |
| <b>Telephone:</b>    | <b>613-520-2600 ext 8553</b>       |
| <b>E-Mail:</b>       | <b>randall.germain@carleton.ca</b> |

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### **Course Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of this course is to help guide students towards the preparation of their thesis proposal. It also considers elements of the PhD experience together with some discussion of future career prospects. We will examine different issues and strategies associated with undertaking and executing research in political science, and provide opportunities for students to present early drafts of their ideas about their thesis to their peers.

This course is designed to expose you to some of the practical issues and challenges you may face while conducting your doctoral research – it is a course in ‘applied research’. It is not intended to provide a thorough canvas of leading methodological approaches to political science; rather, it provides an opportunity to consider the practical aspects of your research, including the types of experiences you may encounter while formulating and executing your research choices. It is student-led and organized in a seminar format. Seminars begin with a round of questions from each student, drawn on the readings for that week’s topic. These questions should interrogate the reading material in light of your own proposed doctoral research. Some classes will include guest appearances by faculty members and other doctoral students from the Department of Political Science, while other classes discuss students’ work. However, the main emphasis of the course is on the development of students’ original research projects.

### **Course Requirements**

This course will be evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Students will not be assigned letter grades for course work. Rather, students are required to complete all elements of the course to a satisfactory level in order to obtain a passing grade. These include:

- 1) regular attendance and participation in all scheduled class discussions.
- 2) completion of a two page draft synopsis of your research suitable for a grant proposal; to be submitted to the class via Brightspace.
- 3) completion of a draft of the methodological elements of your thesis proposal, focusing on the way in which you will set up and conduct your research. It will be maximum

2000 words in length including references, and is submitted to the class via Brightspace.

- 4) one oral presentation based upon the draft of the methodological elements of your thesis proposal.
- 5) completion of a revised draft of the methodological element your thesis proposal (again, 2000 words); submitted to Brightspace.

### **Course Texts**

Loleen Berdahl and Jonathan Malloy, *Work Your Career: get what you want from your social sciences or humanities PhD*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018.

Donatella Della Porta and Michael Keating, eds, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: a pluralistic perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Both texts are available online through MacOdrum Library, but you may also want to purchase them for your own use (I think they may only be used by one student at a time). All other readings are available through the Ares portal in Brightspace.

### **Class Schedule**

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| <b>September 14<sup>th</sup></b><br>Week 1 | <b>Introduction and Course Expectations</b><br>Discussion: the disciplinary history of political science |
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#### *Reading*

Jack Lucas, "A Century of Political Science in Canada," *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 47, no. 2 (2013): 89-118.

John S. Dryzek, "Revolutions Without Enemies: key transformations in political science," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 100, no. 4 (2006): 487-492.

John G. Gunnell, "The Founding of the American Political Science Association: discipline, profession, political theory, and politics," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 100, no. 4 (2006): 479-486.

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (any edition; read as much as you are able, esp. chs 1-5 & 10).

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| <b>September 21<sup>st</sup></b><br>Week 2 | <b>Your PhD: a journey but also a pathway to a career</b><br>Discussion: what to expect and plan for |
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#### *Reading*

Berdahl and Malloy, *Work Your Career*, chs 3, & 6-9.

Guest Speakers:      Professor Jonathan Malloy  
                                 Dr Michael Wesley Petite (Carleton 2021)

**Work due: Friday September 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Draft Grant Proposal (2 pages)**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>**      **Funding Your PhD**  
 Week 3      Discussion: how to apply for dosh (whether OGS, SSHRC and Postdoc)

*Reading*

Berdahl and Malloy, *Work Your Career*, ch. 4 (+ dip into ch. 5 as appropriate).  
 Small group work to discuss draft proposals.

Guest Speakers:      Professor William Cross  
                                  Andrew Mattan (ABD, Carleton)

**October 5<sup>th</sup>**      **Elements of a Successful Thesis Proposal**  
 Week 4      Discussion: a thesis proposal template

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, chs 1-2 & 16.  
 Germain 'formula'

**October 12<sup>th</sup>**      **Conducting Your Research: case studies**  
 Week 5

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*,  
 chs. 11-12.  
 Irene Bloemraad, "The Promise and Pitfalls of Comparative Research Design in the  
 Study of Migration," *Migration Studies*, Vol. 1, no. 1 (2013): 27-46.  
 Brent Flyvberg, "Five Misunderstandings About Case Study Research," *Qualitative  
 Inquiry*, Vol. 12, no. 2 (2006): 219-45.

Guest Speaker:      Professor Chris Brown

**October 19<sup>th</sup>**      **Conducting Your Research:      archival research**  
 Week 6

*Reading*

Barbara Orbach, "The View from the Researcher's Desk: historians' perceptions of  
 research and repositories," *The American Archivist*, Vol. 54, no.1 (1991): 28-43.  
 Robert Vitalis, "Archives: the past is another country," in Ellen Perecman and Sara

Curran eds, *A Handbook for Social Science Field Research: essays and bibliographic sources on research design and methods* (Sage, 2006).

Kasper Risbjerg Eskildsen, "Inventing the Archive: testimony and virtue in modern historiography," *History of the Human Sciences*, Vol. 26, no. 4 (2013): 8-26.

Jelena Subotić, "Ethics of Archival Research on Political Violence," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (2019): 342–354.

Guest Speaker: Professor Andrea Chandler

**October 26<sup>th</sup> No Class – Reading Week**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> Conducting Your Research: interpreting texts and ideas**  
Week 7

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, ch. 3.

Wendy Brown, "At the Edge," *Political Theory*, Vol. 30, no. 4 (2002): 556-576.

Adrian Blau, "History of Political Thought as Detective Work," *History of European Ideas*, Vol. 41, no. 8 (2015): 1174-1193.

Adrian Blau, "How (Not) to Use the History of Political Thought for Contemporary Purposes," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 65, no. 2 (2021): 359–372.

Guest Speaker: Professor Sophie Marcotte Chénard

**November 9<sup>th</sup> Conducting Your Research: interviews as a research method**  
Week 8

*Reading*

Della Porte and Keating, ch. 15 (read for interviewing strategies, pp. 309-312.

William S. Harvey, "Strategies for Conducting Elite Interviews," *Qualitative Research QR*, Vol. 11, no. 4 (2011): 431-441.

Beth L. Leech, "Asking Questions: techniques for semi-structured interviews," *PS Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 35, no. 4 (2002): 665-68.

Laura Woliver, "Ethical Dilemmas in Personal Interviewing," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 35, no. 4 (2002): 677-678.

Darren G. Lilleker, "Interviewing the Political Elite: navigating a potential minefield," *Politics*, Vol. 23, no. 3 (2003): 207-14.

Guest Speaker: Professor Christina Gabriel

Shauna Shames and Tess Wise, "Gender, Diversity and Methods in Political Science: a theory of selection and survival biases," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 50, no. 3 (2017): 811-823.

**Work due: Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Revised Draft: research methods section (2000 words)****Appendix**

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**Covid-19 Information**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

**Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

***Pregnancy accommodation:*** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

**Religious accommodation:** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc).

**Accommodation for student activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

### **Sexual Violence Policy**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support).

### **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 includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance

compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

### **Intellectual property**

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

### **Submission and Return of Term Work**

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

### **Grading**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:



| Percentage | Letter grade | 12-point scale | Percentage | Letter grade | 12-point scale |
|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 90-100     | A+           | 12             | 67-69      | C+           | 6              |
| 85-89      | A            | 11             | 63-66      | C            | 5              |
| 80-84      | A-           | 10             | 60-62      | C-           | 4              |
| 77-79      | B+           | 9              | 57-59      | D+           | 3              |
| 73-76      | B            | 8              | 53-56      | D            | 2              |
| 70-72      | B-           | 7              | 50-52      | D-           | 1              |

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

### **Carleton Political Science Society**

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

### **Official Course Outline**

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.