

**PSCI 6907F**  
**THESIS PROPOSAL WORKSHOP I**  
**Mondays 2.35pm – 5.25pm**  
**Loeb A602 (in-person)**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Instructor:** Randall Germain  
**Office:** D689 Loeb  
**Office Hours:** Monday 1 – 2.30pm  
Tuesday 2.30 – 4pm  
**Telephone:** 613-520-2600 ext 8553  
**E-Mail:** [randall.germain@carleton.ca](mailto:randall.germain@carleton.ca)

---

### **Course Aims and Objectives**

This course and its counterpart PSCI 6908 are designed to help guide students towards the preparation of their PhD thesis proposal. In this course we have a special focus on the methodological component of the thesis proposal, but we also consider more broadly different elements of the PhD experience together with some discussion of future career prospects. In particular, we examine many of the practical issues students may encounter as they plan and execute research in political science. In this way PSCI 6907 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 planning research, including the types of experiences that may be encountered while formulating and executing specific research choices.

Our course is designed as an in-person seminar, where you will have the opportunity to interrogate the reading material in light of your own proposed doctoral research. Many classes will include guest appearances by faculty members and other doctoral students from the department. However, the main emphasis of the course is on the development of your own original research ideas. By the end of this course you should have a solid working draft of the methods section of your thesis proposal, and a clear foundation upon which to develop the remaining elements of your proposal in PSCI 6908.

### **Course Requirements**

This course is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To obtain a satisfactory grade, students must successfully fulfil all elements of the course, which means you need to attend regularly, demonstrate familiarity with the required weekly readings, and complete all assignments in a timely manner. All written work is to be submitted via the course portal in Brightspace.

## Summary of Course Elements

<b>Course element</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Regular attendance and participation	Ongoing
Draft Funding Proposal (2 pages)	Friday September 15 <sup>th</sup>
Summary of research questions/hypotheses (1 page)	Friday September 29 <sup>th</sup>
Methods Section Draft (2000 words)	<u>Due either:</u> Friday November 24 <sup>th</sup> <u>or</u> Friday December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Oral Presentation of Methods Section Draft	<u>On either:</u> Monday November 27 <sup>th</sup> <u>or</u> Monday December 4 <sup>th</sup>
Revised Draft of Methods Section (2000 words)	Monday December 11 <sup>th</sup>

## 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 through your preferred bookseller, as the number of simultaneous users is limited. All readings are available through the Ares portal in Brightspace.

## Class Schedule

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**      **Introduction and Course Expectations**  
 Week 1                      Discussion: your research as political science

- I introduce myself and speak about the course
- You introduce yourself, talk about what brought you to Carleton, and discuss your research in as much detail as you feel comfortable
- We discuss your research as topics in political science
- We get you started on drafting your grant proposal

### *Reading*

Berdahl and Malloy, *Work Your Career*, chs 1-2.

**Work due:**                      **Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Draft Grant Proposal (2 pages max; uploaded to Brightspace portal)**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**                      **Funding Your PhD**  
 Week 2                              Discussion: how to apply for dosh (OGS, SSHRC, Postdoc)  
 Note: the first part of this seminar will be open to all graduate students in Political Science

Guest Speakers:                  Professor Christina Gabriel  
    Hailey Walker

### *Reading*

Berdahl and Malloy, *Work Your Career*, ch. 5.  
 Germain 'formula'

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**                      **Your PhD: research, yes, but also a pathway to a career**  
 Week 3                              Discussion: what to expect and plan for in your PhD

Guest Speakers:                  Professor Fiona Robinson  
    Dr Akaysha Humniski (Carleton PhD 2023)

### *Reading*

Berdahl and Malloy, *Work Your Career*, chs 3-4, & 6-9.  
 Germain Timeline from First Draft to Viva

How to Prepare for your Doctoral Defense (Dr Wesley Petite)

**Work due:** **Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**One page summary of your research questions/hypotheses (uploaded to Brightspace portal)**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Elements of a Successful Thesis Proposal**  
 Week 4 Discussion: thesis proposal template and your research questions

Guest Speaker: Professor Mira Sucharov

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, chs 1-2 , 14 & 16.

Department of Political Science Thesis Proposal Template

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** **Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)**

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** **Conducting Your Research: field work and case studies**  
 Week 5

Guest Speaker: Professor Laura Macdonald

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, chs. 11-12.  
 Brent Flyvberg, "Five Misunderstandings About Case Study Research," *Qualitative Inquiry*, Vol. 12, no. 2 (2006): 219-45.

Irene Bloemraad, "The Promise and Pitfalls of Comparative Research Design in the Study of Migration," *Migration Studies*, Vol. 1, no. 1 (2013): 27-46.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** **Reading Week (no class)**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** **Conducting Your Research: interviews and ethnographic methods**  
 Week 6

Guest Speaker: Professor Catie Coe

*Reading*

Della Porte and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 15.

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

Dawn Murray and Melanie Morgan, "Doing Ethnography or Applying Technique? Reflections from the 'waiting field'", *Qualitative Research*, Vol. 15, no. 2 (2015): 166-182,

Jana Krause, "The Ethics of Ethnographic Methods in Conflict Zones," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (2021): 329-341.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>**                      **Conducting Your Research:**                      **interpreting texts and ideas**  
Week 7

Guest Speaker:                      Professor Marc Hanvelt

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 3.

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

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.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**                      **Conducting Your Research: archives, discourse and textual analysis**  
Week 8

Guest Speaker:                      Professor Achim Hurrelmann

*Reading*

Della Porte and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 6.

Jennifer Milliken, "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: a critique of research and methods," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 5, no. 2 (1999): 225-254.

Jelena Subotić, "Ethics of Archival Research on Political Violence," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (2021): 342-354.

Richard Rich, Craig Brians, Jarol Manheim and Lars Willnat, *Empirical Political Analysis*, Ch.10 'Content Analysis: researching textual material' (New York: Routledge, 2018, 9<sup>th</sup> ed), pp. 179-190.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**                      **Conducting Your Research: mixed-method techniques**  
Week 9

Guest Speaker:                      Professor Scott Bennett

*Reading*

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 13.



James Mahoney and Gary Goetz, "A Tale of Two Cultures: contrasting quantitative and qualitative research," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 14, no. 3 (2006): 227-249.

Jack S. Levy, "Qualitative Methods and Cross-Method Dialogue in Political Science," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 40, no. 2 (2007): 196-214.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Week 10

**Thesis Proposal Presentations (research methods section)**  
Student Presentations **(upload drafts to Brightspace by Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Week 11

**Thesis Proposal Presentations (research methods section)**  
Student Presentations **(upload drafts to Brightspace by Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**No Class** (Professor away at workshop)

**Work due:**

**Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**(upload revised draft of research methods section to Brightspace portal)**

## Appendix

### Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- **Carleton Resources:**
  - Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
  - Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
  - Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
  - Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
  - Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
  - Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>
- **Off Campus Resources:**
  - Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
  - Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
  - Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
  - Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
  - The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**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 [click here](#).

***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 details, [click here](#).

***Accommodation for student activities:*** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

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).

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

### ***Plagiarism***

The Academic Integrity Policy 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, websites, 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.

### ***Use of Artificial Intelligence***

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

### ***Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations***

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question 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. 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:

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>
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.