

Department Political Science
Fall 2019
Carleton University
<https://carleton.ca/polisci/>

PSCI 6907F
Thesis Proposal Workshop I
Friday, 8:35-11:25
Confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Prof. Christina Gabriel
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Office Hours: 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 attend all classes and 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 based on two readings 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 6.

- ***A Draft SSHRC Statement. Due date: September 20.***

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 two weeks.

- ***Written Assignment & Class Presentation – Submission Date: November 22. Presentation Dates: November 29, December 6.***

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 your peers. You will continue to work on this in PSCI 6908. Students will present their papers in the last two or three classes of the term.

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 6 Introduction

- Class introductions
- Review of Course Outline
- Sign up for presentations

“Three Things I Wish I knew When I Started My PhD”

Guest: Steven Orr, Doctoral Candidate, Political Science

September 13 Reflections on The Discipline of “Political Science”

- Mark Blyth. 2006. “Great Punctuations: Predictions, Randomness, and the Evolution of Comparative Political Science.” *American Political Science Review* 100:4 pp. 493-498.
- Kiera Ladner. 2017. “Taking the Field: 50 Years of Indigenous Politics in the CJPS” *Canadian Journal Of Political Science*. 50:1 (March) pp. 163-179.
- Jack Lucas. 2013. “A Century of Political Science in Canada.” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 47:2 pp. 89-118.
- Brian C. Schmidt. 2013. “On the History and Historiography of International Relations”. In *Handbook of International Relations*. 2nd Edition. Editors Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons. London: Sage: pp. 3-28.
- S. Laurel Weldon. 2018. “Power, Exclusion and Empowerment: Feminist Innovation in Political Science” *Womens Studies International Forum*. Doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2018.05.014
- Ruth Grant. 2002. “Political Theory, Political Science, and Politics.” *Political Theory* 30:4. Pp. 577-595

“The Elements of a Successful SSHRC Grant Statement”

Guests: Prof. Brian Schmidt, Department of Political Science

Elsa Piersig, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Political Science

September 20 Research Ethics

- Lee Ann Fujii. 2012. “Research Ethics 101: Dilemmas and Responsibilities” *PS Political Science and Politics* 45:4 (October) pp. 717-723.
- Marilys Guillemin and Lynn Gillam. 2004. “Ethics, Reflexivity and “Ethically Important Moments” in Research.” *Qualitative Inquiry* 10:2 pp. 261-80.
- Kevin Haggerty. 2004. “Ethics Creep: Governing Social Science Research in the Name of Ethics”. *Qualitative Sociology*. 27:4 pp. 391-414.
- Christine Halse and Anne Honey. 2005. “Unravelling Ethics: Illuminating the Moral Dilemmas of Research Ethics”. In *Signs* 30:4 pp. 2141-2162.

“Putting Together A Thesis Committee”

Guest: Dr. Fiona Robinson, Department of Political Science

**Draft Copy of SSHRC Statement to be Submitted in Class*

September 27 Class Cancelled

- Professor Away at Ontario Universities Fair

(Individual Meetings – SSHRC – Scheduled Sept. 23-26)

October 4 Scholars, Researchers, Public Intellectuals?

- Justin Esarey and Andrew Wood. 2018. "Blogs, Online Seminars and Social Media as Tools of Scholarship in Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 51:4 (October) pp. 811-819.
- Matthew Flinders. 2013. "The Politics of Engaged Scholarship: Impact, Relevance and Imagination." *Policy and Politics*. 41:4 pp. 621-42
- Andrew Stark. 2002. "Why Political Scientists Aren't Public Intellectuals." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 35:3 (September) pp. 577-9.
- Mira Sucharov. 2018. "Scholarly and Public Engagement in Jewish Politics: A Journey Through Liminal Space in Ten Short Chapters." *Shofar* 36:3 pp.43-63

Guest: Professor Mira Sucharov, Political Science

October 11 Ideas and Political Theory

- Mark Philp. 2008. "Political Theory and History". In *Political Theory: Methods and Approaches*. David Leopold and Mark Stears. Eds., Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 128-149
- Quentin Skinner 1988. "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas". In *Meaning and Context. Quentin Skinner and His Critics*. Ed. James Tully. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- James Tully. 1988. "The Pen is a Mighty Sword: Quentin Skinner's Analysis of Politics". In *Meaning and Context. Quentin Skinner and His Critics*. Ed. James Tully. Cambridge: Polity Press. Pp. 3-28.

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

October 18 Comparative Methodology and Case Study

- Irene Bloemraad. 2013. "The Promise and Pitfalls of Comparative Research Design in the Study of Migration." *Migration Studies* 1:1 pp.27-46.
- Peter Burnham, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant and Zig Layton Henry. 2008. "Chapter 3 – Comparative Methodology". In *Research Methods in Politics. 2nd Edition*. Basingstoke: Palgrave- Macmillan. pp. 69-95.
- Brent Flyvberg. 2006. "Five Misunderstanding About Case Study Research." *Qualitative Inquiry*. 12:2 pp. 219-45.

Guest: Professor Jeremy Paltiel, Political Science

October 21 -25 Fall Break - No Scheduled Class & No Office Hours

November 1 Qualitative and Quantitative Research Debates

- James Mahoney and Gary Goetz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research." *Political Analysis* 14 pp. 227-249.
- Jack S. Levy. 2007. "Qualitative Methods and Cross Method Dialogue in Political Science." *Comparative Political Studies* 40:2 pp. 196-214.

- Toby Epstein Jayarante and Abigail J. Stewart. 2008. "Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences: Current Feminist Issues and Practical Strategies". In *Just Methods*. Editor Alison Jaggar. Paradigm Publishers. pp. 44-57.
- Shauna Shames and Tess Wise. 2017. "Gender, Diversity and Methods in Political Science. A Theory of Selection and Survival Biases." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50:3

Guest: Professor Steve White

November 8 Interviewing

- William S. Harvey. 2011. "Strategies for Conducting Elite Interviews". *Qualitative Research QR* 11:4 (August) pp. 431-441.
- Beth L. Leech. 2002. "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semi structured Interviews". *PS Political Science and Politics*. 35:4 (December) pp. 665-68.
- Kevin Walby and M. Larsen. 2012. "Access to Information and Freedom of Information Requests: Neglected Areas of Data Production in the Social Sciences". In *Qualitative Inquiry* 18:1 (January) pp.31-42.
- Laura Woliver. 2002. "Ethical Dilemmas in Personal Interviewing." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 35:4 pp. 677-678

Guest: Professor Laura Macdonald, Political Science

November 15 Class Cancelled

- Make up class scheduled for December 6

November 22 Textual Analysis

- Sudhir Hazareesingh and Karma Nabulsi. 2008. "Using Archival Sources to Theorize About Politics". In *Political Theory: Methods and Approaches*. Eds. David Leopold and Marc Stears. New York: Oxford University Press. pp.150-170.
- Peter Burnham et. al. 2008. "Chapter 10". In *Research Methods in Politics*. 2nd edition. UK: Palgrave. Pp.221-248.
- Craig Leonard Brians et. al. 2016. "Chapter 10 – Content Analysis. Researching Textual Material." In *Empirical Political Analysis. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. Eighth Edition*. UK: Routledge. pp. 194-208
- Craig Leonard Brians et. al. 2016. "Chapter 20–Focus Group Research. Guided Concerns" In *Empirical Political Analysis. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods. Eighth Edition*. UK: Routledge. pp. 347-364.

Guest: Professor Achim Hurrelman, Political Science

Draft Paper Ready to Circulate to Discussants

November 29 Presentations

- Student Presentations & Peer Review

December 6 Presentations

- Student Presentations & Peer Review
- This class takes place in A631

Academic Accommodations

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 obligation

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

Religious obligation

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

Academic 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 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is 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

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 compete or perform 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

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.

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 and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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

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.

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/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

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