Department Political Science  
Fall 2019  
Carleton University  
[https://carleton.ca/polisci/](https://carleton.ca/polisci/)

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

**Instructor:** Prof. Christina Gabriel  
**Office:** Loeb D386 – Office of Dean Faculty of Public Affairs  
**Phone:** 520-2600 x. 1413  
**E-mail:** christina.gabriel@carleton.ca  
**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”**

“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**

“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?**

*Guest: Professor Mira Sucharov, Political Science*

**October 11**  
**Ideas and Political Theory**

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

**October 18**  
**Comparative Methodology and Case Study**

*Guest: Professor Jeremy Paltiel, Political Science*

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

**November 1**  
**Qualitative and Quantitative Research Debates**

**Guest: Professor Steve White**

**November 8  Interviewing**

**Guest: Professor Laura Macdonald, Political Science**

**November 15  Class Cancelled**
• Make up class scheduled for December 6

**November 22  Textual Analysis**

**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.caPMC

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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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**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/](https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/) and our website [https://carletonpss.com/](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.