

**Thesis Proposal Workshop
PSCI 6908**

Wednesdays, 2:35-5:25pm

Confirm Location on Carleton Central – No Zoom Option

Instructor: Professor Peter Andrée
Office: Loeb D691
Office Hours: Available by Appointment
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Course Objectives

This seminar is designed to help students organize, develop and refine their dissertation proposal. The purpose and expectations of a dissertation proposal in Political Science will be reviewed before students engage in a step-by-step, hands-on development of their proposal, considering feedback from peers, the professor, and potential supervisory committee members. Over the course of the term students will be required to present preliminary elements of their proposal to the class.

This course is designed to complement PSCI 6907 and will pick up where that course left off, providing additional insights into research methodology (and specific research methods) in political science before students draft the methodology component of their own proposals.

Course Format

This seminar is scheduled as a face-to-face course. It is student-led and the instructor will act as a facilitator.

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, be familiar with all required readings, and complete all assignments in a timely manner. All written work is to be submitted via the course portal in Brightspace.

It is necessary to successfully complete this workshop before moving on to a PhD proposal defence.

Course requirements:

- 1) Regular attendance and participation in the weekly seminar.
- 2) Reading assigned readings and student submissions in advance of their presentation and/or discussion in class
- 3) Presenting their work, in *Pecha Kucha* style, in late January or February (details below)
- 4) Sharing at least two oral reports on consultations with faculty members (potential committee members) between January 13 and March 10 (details below).
- 5) Contributing a reading that all students will read in advance of your presentation.
- 6) Completing a full draft proposal that is made available to all students in the class (and at least one other PSCI faculty member who will be asked for comments) by the assigned deadline
- 7) Preparing written peer reviews of two other students' proposals and presenting these to the class in the final weeks.

Pecha Kucha Presentations:

Although trained within a discipline, political scientists are increasingly asked to participate in interdisciplinary forums, whether through research projects or conferences. The *pecha kucha* is a model of presentation that is gaining traction in interdisciplinary contexts. It is meant to deliver lots of information in a compact, easy-going way.

Your pecha kucha presentations will provide a general introduction to your proposed dissertation research, including why it matters, the research question(s), hypotheses, and or tentative arguments, its analytical/theoretical framing, and the proposed methodological approach to answering your question(s). It should be directed to a general academic audience, so define key terms and explain your rationale. About half of the presentation should focus on methodology (linking theory to methods), relating your proposed approach to that of other researchers in your field. Specifically, you should characterize the methodological approach of another researcher (or group of researchers), and then position your work in relation to theirs, showing how what you are proposing builds on their work, where it differs, explaining the decisions you are making.

Presentations will be done in a *pecha kucha* format (20 slides, 20 seconds each, for a total presentation time of 6 min and 40 seconds (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha>). Rehearse well, especially if this is your first time presenting using this format! There are lots of tips available online (e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIDV0gCbeXA>) Presenters should use slides (e.g. PowerPoint or Prezi) and post them to Brightspace on the day of the presentation.

Each presenter is expected to propose a reading (that we all read, alongside their draft methods section, prior to the presentation). Students should be in touch with the course instructor at least two weeks in advance of their presentation date with their reading suggestions.

Oral faculty consultation reports

Over the course of the first ten weeks of this class (Jan 6 to March 10), each student is expected to present two short oral reports (5 minutes each) on recent conversations they have had with faculty members about their proposed PhD research. Each report should provide a summary on what the student heard from faculty about the proposed topic and question, summarizing their thoughts on the importance of the question and/or how it could be approached, theoretically or methodologically, as well as any other guidance they offered.

Please send a note to the course instructor, at least three days in advance, indicating when you are prepared to give each of your reports.

Draft Dissertation Proposal:

The draft proposal should include a working title of your dissertation and the following elements. Expected length is about 10 pages, single-spaced (5000 words).

- the topic of the dissertation and why it matters.
- the core research question(s)
- the argument, hypothesis(es), and/or a tentative thesis statement responding to the question(s)
- a contextualization of your research question and your argument in the relevant literature(s) (How does your question/argument engage with and/or respond to the literature? In what ways are you responding to (or agreeing/disagreeing with) other relevant studies or approaches? What gap does it fill/how is it original and/or innovative?)
- an explanation of your theoretical/conceptual/analytical framework/approach, situating this in the context of how other scholars work with these concepts
- a discussion of your methodology (How will you go about answering your question? What lines of inquiry will be pursued? How is this related to your theoretical/conceptual/analytical approach. How does it relate to the work of others who have pursued similar questions? How will you go about substantiating your argument? What aspects of the topic and/or cases and/or data will be investigated? What is known about those cases already? What specific research methods will be used and why?)
- expected contributions

- an identification of particular areas of your proposal that need further development and a reflection on challenges related to your research project (if any)
- an indicative bibliography

Schedule of Classes

January 8: Course Introduction and the Elements of a Proposal

- **First half: Overview of Course & Expectations & The Elements of a Proposal in Political Science**

Readings:

- Department of Political Science - Thesis Proposal Template
- Hailey Walker's Proposal
- Noah Schwartz's Proposal
- Allisson Levesque's Proposal
- Amanda Robert's Proposal
- Maggie Fitzgerald's Proposal

Second half: 4pm Guest: Prof. Vandna Bhatia. Topics: Methodology dos and don'ts?

January 15: Research Ethics

Guest: Leslie Macdonald Hicks (Research Compliance Officer, Carleton University)

Discussion: what is involved in applying for research ethics clearance?

Readings:

- Chapter One, "Ethics Framework" at
 - Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2018) (ethics.gc.ca)
- "Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans" at
 - <https://carleton.ca/researchethics/policies-and-resources/>

(complete the module if you have not done the training and intend to conduct research which involves human subjects)

January 22: Mixed Methods Research

Guest: 2:25 Prof. Erin Tolley

Readings: (both available through Carleton library online)

Thalia Gerzso and Rachel Beatty Riedl. 2024. The Potential of Mixed Methods Research for Qualitative Research. In *Doing Good Qualitative Research*, Jennifer Cyr and Sara Wallace Goodman, eds. 72-84.

Rebecca Wallace, R. Michael McGregor, and Erin Tolley. 2024. Why Don't More Immigrants Vote in Local Elections? In *Political Engagement in Canadian City Elections*, R. Michael McGregor and Laura B. Stephenson, eds. 27-57. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Second half: Preparing the research methodology/methods section of your proposal

Friday January 24 (5-page methods section due)

January 29: Pecha Kucha presentations begin. Readings to be assigned by presenters

February 5: Pecha Kucha presentations continue. Readings to be assigned by presenters

February 12: Pecha Kucha presentations continue. Readings to be assigned by presenters

Feb 19: Reading Week

February 26: Pecha Kucha presentations continue. Readings to be assigned by presenters

March 5: No class, work on completing draft proposal

Friday March 7- Draft proposals to be submitted to Brightspace for peer review

March 12: Elements of Peer Review.

First Half:

- **Read the peer review guidelines of an academic journal of your choice and come prepared to discuss these.**

Second Half: final chance for oral reports.

March 19: Peer Review presentations and discussion of proposals with students and invited faculty members

March 26: Peer Review presentations and discussion of proposals with students and invited faculty members

April 2: Wrap up and general Q&A

Celebratory beverage @ Mike's Place (on the Professor)

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

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:

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/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating

circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: 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, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC)

at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: 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](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: 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, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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).

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 its 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is September 30th, 2024. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is January 31, 2025. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is November 15, 2024. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is March 15, 2025.

WDN: For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: December 9-21, 2024. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: April 11-26, 2025 (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640 Loeb
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501 Nideyinàn
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory