Instructor: Brian Schmidt
Office Hours: Monday 10-12, Thursday 12-2
Office: Loeb B657
Tel: 520-2600 x1062
E-mail: brian.schmidt@carleton.ca

Course Aims and Objectives
The main aim of this course is to provide Ph.D. students with information and guidance on research methods and strategies that will assist them in both the preparation of their thesis proposal and the later research and writing of their thesis. The ultimate objective is for students to develop a defendable dissertation thesis proposal.

Over the course of the semester, students will produce a shorter preliminary, and a longer more developed, version of their dissertation proposal. Each version of the proposal (and the underlying research project) will be presented to the class so that students can receive feedback from their peers and from the instructor. The workshop is student-led; the instructor will act as a facilitator.

Course Requirements and Evaluation
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 complete ALL of the following requirements in order to achieve a satisfactory grade:

1) Regular attendance and participation in workshop sessions.

2) A short (10 -15 minute) presentation outlining your initial plans for a dissertation project.

3) Acting as a discussant for the preliminary draft proposal of one of your peers by providing a 5-10 minute oral response to the presentation of the proposal.

4) A longer (20 minute) presentation outlining a more detailed and developed draft of your thesis proposal.

5) Completion of a preliminary draft dissertation proposal (10-12 pages + bibliography, double-spaced, 12pt font) and circulation of this draft (by email) to the entire class and the instructor 48 hours in advance of the first oral presentation in class.
The preliminary and final draft proposal should include a working title for your dissertation and the name of your (prospective) supervisor as well as the following elements (not necessarily in this order):

(a) the topic of the dissertation and why this topic is important
(b) a preliminary statement of your research question(s)
(c) your tentative argument (or research hypothesis) about this (these) question(s)
(d) a preliminary contextualization of your research question and your argument in the relevant literature(s) (How does your question/argument “fit” within the literature? In what ways does your argument agree or disagree with other relevant approaches/studies? What gap does it fill? How is it original and/or innovative?)
(e) a preliminary discussion of your theoretical framework/approach
(f) a preliminary discussion of your methodology (How will you go about substantiating your argument? What lines of inquiry will be pursued? What aspects of the topic and/or cases and/or data will be investigated? What methods will be used?)
(g) an identification of particular areas of your proposal that need further development and a reflection on challenges related to your research project (if any)
(h) an indicative bibliography

6) Completion of a draft thesis proposal (approximately 20 pages, double spaced). This should also be e-mailed to all workshop participants at least 48 hours prior to when you deliver your second oral presentation.

Class Schedule

Week One  Course Introduction
January 10

Week Two  Seminar on Research Ethics
January 17

Guest: Research Ethics Coordinator, Carleton University Research Office


Week Three  No class; prepare for first presentation
January 24
Week Four  Proposal Presentation 1  January 31
Week Five  Proposal Presentation 1  February 7
Week Six  Proposal Presentation 1  February 14
Week Seven  No class – Reading week  February 21
Week Eight  No class; prepare for second presentation  February 28
Week Nine  Thesis Proposal Presentation  March 7
Week Ten  Thesis Proposal Presentation  March 14
Week Eleven  Thesis Proposal Presentation  March 21
Week Twelve  No Class  March 28
Week Thirteen  Thesis Proposal Presentation  April 4

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