

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

Instructor: Randall Germain
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Office Hours: Monday 1 – 2.30pm
Friday 2.30 – 4pm
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Course Aims and Objectives

This course, together with its counterpart PSCI 6908, are designed to help guide students towards the preparation of their PhD thesis proposal. It also considers more broadly different elements of the PhD experience together with some discussion of future career prospects. We will examine many of the practical issues which you will encounter as you plan and execute research in political science, and provide opportunities for students to present early drafts of their work to their peers. Above all this 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 you may encounter while formulating and executing your research choices. It 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 students’ original research projects. 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 will be evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To obtain a satisfactory grade, students must successfully fulfil all elements of the course. Irregular attendance, not completing the required weekly readings, or failure to complete all assignments are grounds for an unsatisfactory grade. All written work is to be submitted via our course portal in Brightspace.

Summary of Course Elements

| Course element | Due Dates |
|--|---|
| Regular attendance and participation | Ongoing |
| Draft Funding Proposal (2 pages) | Friday September 15 th |
| Summary of research questions/hypotheses (1 page) | Friday October 14 th |
| Methods Section Draft (2000 words) | <u>Due either:</u> Friday December 2 nd <u>or</u> Wednesday December 7 th |
| Oral Presentation of Methods Section Draft | <u>Due either:</u> Monday December 5 th <u>or</u> Friday December 9 th |
| Revised Draft of Methods Section (2000 words) | Wednesday December 14 th |

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.

October 3rd **Elements of a Successful Thesis Proposal I**
 Week 4 Discussion: thesis proposal template

Reading

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

Department of Political Science Thesis Proposal Template
 Germain 'formula'

October 10th **Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)**

Work due:

Friday October 14th

One page summary of your research questions/hypotheses (uploaded to Brightspace portal)

October 17th **Elements of a Successful Thesis Proposal II**
 Week 5 Discussion: formulating productive research questions

Guest Speaker: Professor Peter Andrée

October 24th **Reading Week (no class)**

October 31st **Conducting Your Research: case studies**
 Week 6

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.

Guest Speaker: Professor Melissa Haussman

**November 7th Conducting Your Research: interviews and ethnography as methods
Week 7 to acquire primary data**

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.
Lorraine Bayard de Volo and Edward Schatz, "From the Inside Out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 37, no. 2, (2004): 267-271.
Jana Krause, "The Ethics of Ethnographic Methods in Conflict Zones," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (2021): 329-341.

Guest Speaker: Professor Cati Coe

**November 14th Conducting Your Research: interpreting texts and ideas
Week 8**

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.

Guest Speaker: Professor Sophie Marcotte Chénard

**November 21st Conducting Your Research: archives, discourse and textual analysis
Week 9**

Reading

Della Porte and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 6.
Jelena Subotić, "Ethics of Archival Research on Political Violence," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (2021): 342–354.
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.
Richard Rich, Craig Brians, Jarol Manheim and Lars Willnat, *Empirical Political Analysis*, Ch.10 'Content Analysis: researching textual material' (New York: Routledge, 2018, 9th ed), pp. 179-190.

Guest Speaker: Professor Achim Hurrelmann

November 28th **Conducting Your Research: mixed-method techniques**
 Week 10

Reading

Della Porta and Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, ch. 13.
 Jack S. Levy, "Qualitative Methods and Cross-Method Dialogue in Political Science,"
Comparative Political Studies, Vol. 40, no. 2 (2007): 196-214.

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

Shauna Shames and Tess Wise, "Gender, Diversity and Methods in Political Science: a theory of
 selection and survival biases," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 50, no. 3 (2017):
 811-823.

Guest Speaker: Professor Scott Bennett

December 5th **Thesis Proposal Presentations (research methods section)**
 Week 11 Student Presentations **(upload drafts to Brightspace by Friday
 December 2nd)**

December 9th **Thesis Proposal Presentations (research methods section)**
 Week 12 **Please note this is a Friday!**
 Student Presentations **(upload drafts to Brightspace by Wednesday
 December 7th)**

Work due: **Wednesday December 14th**
(upload revised draft of research methods section to Brightspace)

Appendix

Covid-19 Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in

class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

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 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 for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must 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. <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.

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.

Plagiarism

Carleton's [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.

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.

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:

| 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 |

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.