

PSCI 6906T
Thesis Proposal Workshop
Wednesdays, 11:35-2:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Fiona Robinson
Office: Loeb B657
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30*
 Tuesdays 9:30-11:30
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*** Please note: on September 10 and 17th, October 22 and November 26 my Wednesday office hours will be rescheduled due to Graduate Faculty Board Meetings. Please see me or my office door for the rescheduled days and times.**

Course Aims and Objectives

The main aims of this course are to provide Ph.D. students with information and guidance on research methods and strategies which will assist them in both the preparation of their thesis proposals and the later research and writing of their theses. Students will read and learn about a wide variety of issues related to scholarly research in different areas of Political Science. They will also be provided with opportunities to present their ideas and work, and to discuss the formation of thesis committees.

The workshop is student-led; the instructor will act as a facilitator. Many of the class sessions will include guest speakers who will discuss different aspects of the research enterprise. The main objectives of the course are to expose students to many different perspectives on how to conduct scholarly research, and thus to assist in the development of students' original research projects.

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 complete ALL of the following requirements in order to achieve a satisfactory grade:

- 1) regular attendance and participation in workshop sessions;
- 2) two oral presentations: a short (10 minute) presentation outlining your initial plans for a dissertation project in the fall term, and a longer (20 minute) presentation outlining a more detailed and developed draft of your thesis proposal.

- 3) completion of a short (2-5 pages) description of your initial research plans, identifying the particular areas which you need to develop further. This should be e-mailed to all workshop participants by 4pm on the Monday of the week in which you deliver your first oral presentation.
- 4) completion of a draft thesis proposal (approximately 20 pages). Full details of this will be circulated in the workshop. This should be e-mailed to all workshop participants on the Monday of the week in which you deliver your second oral presentation.

I will evaluate and comment upon each piece of work as it is made available. For the draft proposal, you may choose to wait until Friday December 5th to submit the final draft for evaluation.

Workshop Sessions

Week 1 Introduction **September 10**

Reading: Norman Blaikie, *Designing Social Research*. Cambridge: Polity Press, Chapters 2 and 3. (on reserve)

Gary King, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. Chapter 1, 'The Science in Social Science' (on reserve; also e-book available via Library Catalogue).

Steve Smith, 'Positivism and Beyond' in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski, eds., *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: CUP, 1996. (on reserve).

Ian Shapiro, 'Problems, Methods and Theories in the Study of Politics, or What's Wrong with Political Science and What to do about it', *Political Theory*, 30(4), 2002: 596-619.

Week 2 Research Ethics **September 17**

Guest: Leslie Macdonald-Hicks, Research Ethics Coordinator, Carleton University Research Office

Reading: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. "Context of an Ethics Framework" and "Ethics Review, Section H: Review of Research in Other Jurisdictions or Countries".

Available at:
<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/English/policystatement/policystatement.cfm>

Week 3
October 24
Choosing a Topic and Making a Plan

Guest: Professor James Meadowcroft, Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science and School of Public Policy and Public Administration

Reading: Scott Streiner, 'Introduction', *Pursuing Equality*, Ph.D. Thesis, Carleton University, 2002.

Catherine Eschle, 'Introduction', *Feminism, Social Movements and the Globalisation of Democracy*, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Sussex, 2000.

Week 4
October 1
Oral Presentations (Initial Ideas)

Week 5
October 8
Oral Presentations (Initial Ideas)

Week 6
October 15
Research Methods and Strategies

Presenters: Professor Brian Schmidt

Professor Fiona Robinson: Critical and Feminist Methodologies

Reading: Brooke Ackerly, Jacqui True and Maria Stern, eds., *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Chapters 1, 6 and 8 (on reserve)

Week 7
October 22
Research Methods and Strategies

Presenters: Professor Vandna Bhatia
Professor Jonathan Malloy

Week 8 Research Methods and Strategies
October 29

Presenters: Professor Laura Macdonald
 Professor Lee Maclean

Week 9 Conferences and Publications
November 5

Guests: TBA

Topics for Discussion:

Which conferences? (and how to find out about them)
Answering calls for papers
Paper and panel proposals
'Giving a Paper'
Which journals?
Book reviews, review articles and main articles
Chapters in edited collections
Publications from the dissertation

Reading: Catherine Eschle, 'Introduction', *Global Democracy, Social Movements and Feminism*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2001.

Week 10 Oral Presentations (Proposal Draft)
November 12

Week 11 Oral Presentations (Proposal Draft)
November 19

Week 12 Oral Presentations (Proposal Draft)
November 26

Reading Material

There is very limited formal material covered in this class, since its primary aim is to assist in the preparation of thesis proposals. However, there are a number of good general-purpose research strategy guides which would be quite valuable to consult over the course of your doctoral research. These include:

Norman Blaikie, *Designing Social Research*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000.

Gary King, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997.

John H. Beyling, *Guidelines for Preparing the Research Proposal*

Alan Bryman, *Social Research Methods*

Alan D. Monroe, *Essentials of Political Research*.

Eleanor Harman et al., *The Thesis and the Book: A Guide for First-Time Academic Authors*.

David Marsh and Gerry Stoker, eds., *Theory and Methods in Political Science*.

Przeworski, A. and H. Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*.

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research*, 5th edition.

Further Recommended Reading:

Case Studies

H. Eckstein, 'Case Study and Theory in Political Science' in F.I. Greenstein and N.W. Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science*, vol. 7, 'Strategies of Inquiry'. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1975.

John Gerring, 'What is Case Study and What is it Good for'. *American Political Science Review*, 98(2), 2004: 341-54.

Ann Markusen, 'Fuzzy Concepts, Scanty Evidence, Policy Distance: the Case for Rigour and Policy Relevance in Critical Regional Studies', *Regional Studies*, 37(6-7):701-17.

Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Study and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005.

Benjamin Most and Harvey Starr, "Basic Logic and Research Design: Conceptualization, Case Selection and the Form of Relationships," in *Inquiry, Logic and International Politics*, University of South Carolina Press, 1989, pp. 47-67

Interview Techniques

Beth L. Leech, et al. 'Interview Methods in Political Science', *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35(4), 2002:663-88.

Qualitative Methods and Interpretive Techniques

Sage Publishers, Series on *Qualitative Research Methods*.

Judith M. Meloy, *Writing the Qualitative Dissertation: Understanding by Doing*.

Jane Ribbens and Rosalind Edwards, eds., *Feminist Dilemmas in Qualitative Research: Public Knowledge, Private Lives*.

Lorraine Bayard de Volo, 'From the Inside Out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research', *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 37(2), 2004:26-71.

David Sylvan and Stephan Majeski, 'A Methodology for the Study of Historical Counterfactuals', *International Studies Quarterly*, 42(1), 1998:79-108.

Wulf Kansteiner, 'Finding Meaning in Memory', *History and Theory*, 41, 2002:179-197.

Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, eds., *Bridges and Boundaries: Historians, Political Scientists and the study of International Relations*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001.

Critical Methods and Methodologies

Raymond Geuss, *The Idea of A Critical Theory: Habermas & the Frankfurt School*. Cambridge: CUP, 1981

James Tully, 'Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity', *Political Theory*, 30(4), 2002:533-555.

Wendy Brown, 'At the Edge', *Political Theory*, 30(4), 2002.

Jennifer Milliken, 'The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods', *European Journal of International Relations*, 5(2): 225-254, 1999.

Tim Forsythe, *Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science* London: Routledge, 2002.

Brooke Ackerly, Jacqui True and Maria Stern, eds., *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Controversies and Debates

Gabriel A. Almond Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 21(4) 1988: 828-842

Stephen M. Walt, Rigor or Rigor Mortis?: Rational Choice and Security Studies *International Security*, 23(4), 1999: 5-48

Symposium on 'Formal Methods, Formal Complaints: Debating the Role of Rational Choice in Security Studies', *International Security*, 24(2), 1999.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Stephen Krasner and Robert Jervis, "Symposium: Methodological Foundations of the Study of International Conflict", *International Studies Quarterly*, 29(2), 1985: 121-154.

Special Issue, 'What is Political Theory?', *Political Theory*, 30(4):2 002.

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities 9500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, for April examinations."

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and

recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.

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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.