



Course PSCI 8381, Research Seminar in Political Science
Professor Robert Lowry
Term Fall 2011
Meetings Monday 7-9:45 pm, FO 2.608

REVISED SYLLABUS – SEPT. 14, 2011

Professor’s Contact Information

Office Phone 972-883-6720
Office Location Green Hall 3.533
Email Address robert.lowry@utdallas.edu
Office Hours Monday 5:30-6:45; Tuesday 2:30-4; or by appointment.

General Course Information

Course Description	This course is intended to address the specific needs of advanced doctoral students working toward their dissertations. In addition to discussing and critiquing draft dissertation proposals, we will also address other issues in professional development.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will discuss the elements of a successful dissertation project.• Each student will receive feedback on his or her dissertation ideas and produce a written dissertation proposal.• The class will also discuss selected topics in research design and professional development.
Required Texts & Materials	There are no required textbooks. Readings are listed at the end of the syllabus. Additional readings may be added during the semester.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	Topic(s)	Assignment*
Aug. 29	Course Introduction Dissertation policies at UTD Contents of a Prospectus	[1]
Sept. 5	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	
Sept. 12	Choosing a dissertation topic	[2], [3], [10], [13] Distribute a completed version of Figure 1 on page 368 of [13] by noon.
Sept. 19	No Class meeting – work on draft proposals	
Sept. 26	Dissertation proposal presentation by Robert Chalwell Making presentations; professional conferences Teaching as a graduate student Getting published	[5], [7], [14], [15] [4], [12], [16]
Oct. 3	The academic job market	[6], [8], [9], [11], [17]

Oct. 10	Work on dissertation proposals	
Oct. 17	“ “ “	
Oct. 24	Individual meetings with professor.	
Oct. 31	Individual meetings with professor.	
Nov. 7	Work on dissertation proposals.	
Nov. 14	“ “ “	
Nov. 21	Student presentations	Distribute draft proposal by <u>Friday, Nov. 18, 5 pm</u>
Nov. 28	Student presentations	Distribute draft proposal by <u>Friday, Nov. 25, 5 pm.</u>
Dec. 5	Wrap-up	
Dec. 12	Dissertation proposal due 7 pm.	

* Numbers in brackets refer to the readings at the end of the syllabus.

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	<p>The course is credit/no-credit. Each student must write a draft of a dissertation proposal and make one or more presentations.</p> <p>Students should complete a version of Figure 1 on page 368 of [13] for class September 12 and distribute it to the class by <u>noon</u>.</p> <p>Each student must schedule a one-on-one meeting with the professor during the weeks of Oct. 24 or 31 to discuss progress on their dissertation proposal. You should have completed most of your literature review and have an outline of the rest of the proposal to submit before the meeting.</p> <p>Presentations of draft proposals are tentatively scheduled for November 21 and 28. Students should distribute a copy of their draft to the class by the Friday before their scheduled presentation.</p>
Late Work	Contact me in advance if you anticipate any problems distributing your draft proposal, making a presentation, or submitting your proposal.
Class Attendance	Regular attendance and participation are assumed.
University Policies	Additional UTD policies regarding student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, email use, withdrawing from class, grievance procedures, incomplete grades, disability services, religious holy days, and resources to help you succeed can be found at http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/ .

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

READINGS

All of the readings are available through the library webpage by searching on journal title unless otherwise designated. Readings designated as **eReserve** are posted on the electronic reserve available through the library's web page.

- [1] UT Dallas, "Policy on Procedures for Completing a Graduate Degree – UTDPP1052." <http://provost.utdallas.edu/policy/pdf/utdpp1052/clean>
- [2] School of EPPS, "The Three Paper Alternative to the Traditional Dissertation." **To be distributed.**
- [3] Altman, Micah. 2009. "Funding, Funding." *PS* 42(July), 521-526.
- [4] Burmila, Edward M. 2010. "Graduate Students as Independent Instructors: Seven Things to Know about Teaching Your Own Course while in Graduate School." *PS* 43(July):557-560.
- [5] Dunleavy, Patrick. 2003. "Handling Attention Points: Data, Charts and Graphics," in *Authoring a Ph.D.: How to Plan, Draft, Write and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation*, 157-196. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan. **eReserve**
- [6] Gould, Jon B. and Scott Keeter. 2003. "No Second Chance at Making a Good First Impression: Peril and Possibility in the Campus Visit." *PS* 36(October):791-794.
- [7] Gupta, Devashree, and Israel Waismel-Manor. 2006. "Network in Progress: A Conference Primer for Graduate Students." *PS* 39(July):483-490.
- [8] Hanley, James E. 2008. "A Primer on Applying to the Liberal Arts College." *PS* 41(October):809-812.
- [9] Hassner, Ron E. 2008. "Trial by Fire: Surviving the Job Talk Q&A." *PS* 41(October): 803-808.
- [10] Lunenburg, Fred C. and Beverly J. Irby. 2008. "Selecting a Suitable Topic," in *Writing a Successful Thesis or Dissertation* 2-15. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. **eReserve**
- [11] Mathews-Gardner, Lanathrea, et al. 2008. "Getting a Job at a Teaching Institution – and Then Succeeding: A Q&A with Experienced Teacher-Scholars." *PS* 41(July): 575-578.
- [12] Myers, Charles T. 2004. "A Short Tour of Book Publishing for Political Scientists." *PS* 37(July):489-491.
- [13] Rothman, Steven B. 2008. "Comparatively Evaluating Potential Dissertation and Thesis Projects." *PS* 41(April):367-369.
- [14] Salmond, Rob and David T. Smith. 2011. "Cheating Death-by-Power Point: Effective Use of Visual Aids at Professional Conferences." *PS* 44(July): 589-596.
- [15] Smith, David T. and Rob Salmond. 2011. "Verbal Sticks and Rhetorical Stones: Improving Conference Presentations in Political Science." *PS* 44(July): 583-588.

[16] Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles." *PS* 38(October):741-743.

[17] Wuffle, A. 2006. "Uncle Wuffle's Advice on Job Talks." *PS* 39(October):883-886.