**Introduction:**
This course is designed as a "workshop" where students have the chance to begin to develop a substantial piece of work, and evaluate works in progress presented by their colleagues and visiting speakers who include a number of reputed Political Scientists. The course is of most value to those advanced graduate students who are just beginning their dissertations or writing their MA theses or Ph.D. dissertations, since we will spend much time on subjects such as choosing a research topic, writing a proposal, case selection, undertaking research, and delivering oral presentations. Others at early stages may also benefit as they can develop a proposal for grant applications or a publishable paper. Further, the course will also help students on how to publish and develop skills for academic networking.

**Course Requirements:**
The course will meet regularly on Fridays (starting September 3 in Leacock 429) usually with a visiting speaker giving a presentation at 3:30 pm. One or two participants of the course will give a short critique of the presentation, which will be followed by a question/answer period. From 2:30 till 3:30 pm students will make presentations on the readings or their topics. On days when no visiting speaker is scheduled, students will give short presentations on their work in progress. Grades will be based on presentations, participation, and written work. Students will give brief descriptions of their intentions in mid-September and a short research proposal (1-2 pages- worth 10%) will be due on September 26th. The final paper (worth 50%) will be due on December 1st and students will give longer presentations in November (worth 20%). The overall participation during presentations by other students and visiting speakers is worth 20% of the marks.

**Research Design Assignment (Due on September 24, 2010)**

1. Proposed Title
2. What general phenomena (anomaly, puzzle) you are seeking to explain?
3. Why is this important?
4. What are your cases?
5. What will be the principal explanations considered?
6. What is your key explanation?
7. Identify and compare potential rival explanations?
8. Why is your explanation better than these rival or complementary ones?
9. What are your dependent (outcome) variable and independent variable(s)?
10. What is the proposed methodology?
11. What are the implications for IR theory and foreign policy?

**Note:** The final paper should contain all these elements.

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**Course Schedule and Visiting Speakers**

**September 3-No class (To be held on Aug 30th): Introduction-Topic Selection**

**September 10: Research Proposals/ Qualitative Methodologies**  
SSHRC/Macarthur Foundation Proposal Guide.  

**September 17: Research Proposal/ Qualitative Methodologies**  
**Speaker: Daryl Press** (Dartmouth College): How Much is Enough? Testing Theories of Nuclear Deterrence
September 24:  Research Proposal/Design/Qualitative Methodologies
Speaker: Benjamin Miller (University of Haifa): Optimists, Pessimists or Skeptics: Explaining Variations in Post-Cold War International and Regional Security

October 1:  Short Proposal Presentations
Speaker: Andrew Bennett (Georgetown University): Where Mistakes were Made: The Politics and Psychology of Blame for Iraq
12:00-14:00: Doing Qualitative Methods (Special Brownbag Seminar by Andrew Bennett) –Leacock 429

October 8:  Short Proposal Presentations

October 13 (Wed): 12-2 pm- Leacock 424
Speaker: Vinod Aggarwal, (UC Berkeley): The Financial Crisis, “New” Industrial Policy and the Bite of Multilateral Trade Rules

October 25 (Mon): 12-2 pm-Leacock 424
Speaker: Deborah Larson (UCLA): Status and Rising Powers: Applying the Social Identity Theory

October 29:  Publication Strategy: Articles
Speaker: Charles Glaser (George Washington University): Rational Theory of International Politics

November 5:  Publication Strategy: Books
Speaker: Craig Parsons (University of Oregon): How to (and How Not to) Make a Constructivist Contribution in International Security

November 12: Networking/Career Strategies

Speaker: Jeffrey Legro (University of Virginia), Unipolarity: The Future of an Overvalued Concept

November 19: Career Management-Making Your Mark in the Profession
Speaker: Michael Williams (University of Ottawa): The Politics of Security: Securitization, Power, and Practice

November 26: Final Paper Presentations
December 3: Final Paper Presentations

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Recommended Readings


Security Studies Stylesheet


Andrew Moravcsik, “Active Citation: a Precondition for Replicable Qualitative Research,” PS, January 2101:29-35.


Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, Qualitative Methods: The View for the Sub-fields,”


**Dissertations turned Books:**


**On Dissertation Writing**