Research and Writing Seminar II
This course is the second half of a year long research and writing seminar – POS 695 & POS 696 – in which students concentrate on either developing a paper that is eligible for submission to an academic journal and presentation at a professional conference or on formulating a dissertation prospectus. Students in POS 695 who have opted for developing a paper for publication and presentation can continue to refine their work in POS 696 and, in addition to the work of refining their research papers, if they wish may also begin formulating a dissertation prospectus with the supervision of a faculty mentor who has agreed to serve as their dissertation director. At the end of the spring semester all students in POS 696 are required to present either a research paper or dissertation prospectus to the faculty of the Department of Political Science. For students who have focused their work in POS 695 on the development of a research paper for publication and presentation and have elected in POS 696 to broaden their focus and begin to formulate a dissertation prospectus, it is strongly recommended that they present their refined research paper at the conclusion of POS 696 as those papers are likely to be much further along than a dissertation prospectus on which a student has worked for the spring semester only.

Hence, students in POS 696 fall into one of three research categories.

First, category 1, graduate students who in POS 695 focused on developing a research paper for publication and conference presentation under the supervision of a faculty mentor. In POS 696 category 1 students will continue to refine their work, which by the conclusion of POS 695 reached 25 or more pages and included substantial bibliographies. Category 1 graduate students will present these papers to the faculty of the Department of Political Science at the conclusion of POS 696 in May.

Second, category 2, graduate students who in POS 695 focused on developing a dissertation prospectus under the supervision of a faculty mentor who will also serve as the student’s dissertation advisor. Category 2 students will continue to develop their prospectuses for presentation to the faculty of the Department of Political Science at the conclusion of POS 696 in May.

Third, category 3, graduate students who in POS 695 focused on developing a research paper for publication and conference presentation and in POS 696 will continue to revise and refine this paper while also beginning the work of developing a dissertation prospectus under the supervision of a faculty mentor who will serve as their dissertation advisor. It is strongly recommended that students in this category present their POS 696 version of their research papers to the faculty of the Department of Political Science.

Category 2 and 3 graduate students should engage in a discussion with their dissertation supervisors about forming a dissertation committee as soon as the work on a dissertation prospectus has commenced. While it is not necessary that a student developing a dissertation prospectus within the framework of POS 695 & 696 do so under the supervision of a formal dissertation committee, since dissertations are written under the aegis of a committee the sooner that a committee is formed the better the student’s chances for efficiently developing a dissertation prospectus that can be successfully defended before the committee as a whole. The importance of forming a committee as early as possible in the development of your dissertation cannot be stressed too greatly.
Faculty Mentors/Dissertation Advisors

Whether you intend to focus exclusively on the work you began in POS 695 or will be working in POS 696 on developing a dissertation prospectus in addition to refining your research paper for publication and conference presentation, you should plan to be in contact with your faculty mentor or dissertation advisor on a regular basis. Mentors/dissertation advisors play an especially important supervisory role in POS 696, as only an expert in your field can help you to bring your paper to the level of a submission to a professional journal or conference presentation or provide the knowledge of your discipline that will enable you to begin to develop a dissertation prospectus. Much of your work you do in POS 696, then, will be carried out according to the instructions of your faculty mentor or dissertation advisor.

Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held to accomplish two objectives. First, students will present progress reports on their projects. On these dates students will also submit drafts or revised drafts of their papers and prospectuses to the instructor; Second, students will present papers to the class as a whole in preparation for presentation of their work to the Department of Political Science in May.

January 24. Course introduction and organization.

January 31. Individual student meetings during office hours with Professor Schoolman.

2:45 ____________________________
3:05 ____________________________
3:25 ____________________________
3:45 ____________________________
4:05 ____________________________
4:25 ____________________________

February 7. No class. By this date students should have met with their faculty mentors or dissertation advisors to discuss their work and develop a plan for revision of their written work in POS 695 and/or for developing a dissertation prospectus.

February 14. No Class.

February 21. First Practice Presentations. Students present the development of their papers begun in POS 695. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

3:00 – 3:20 ____________________________
3:30 – 3:50 ____________________________
4:00 – 4:20 ____________________________
February 28. First Practice Presentations. Students present the development of their papers begun in POS 695. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

3:00 – 3:20 ________________________________
3:30 – 3:50 ________________________________
4:00 – 4:20 ________________________________

March 7. No class. By this date students should have met with their faculty mentors or dissertation advisors a second time to discuss the progress of their work on their papers and/or dissertation prospectus.

March 14. Individual student meetings during office hours with Professor Schoolman

2:45 ________________________________
3:05 ________________________________
3:25 ________________________________
3:45 ________________________________
4:05 ________________________________
4:25 ________________________________

March 21. Students’ presentations of progress on their projects. Students also submit drafts or revised drafts of their papers and/or prospectuses.

March 28. No class.

April 11. Second Practice Presentations. Students present the development of their papers since February 28. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

3:00 – 3:20 ________________________________
3:30 – 3:50 ________________________________
4:00 – 4:20 ________________________________

April 18. Second Practice Presentations. Students present the development of their papers since February 28. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

3:00 – 3:20 ________________________________
3:30 – 3:50 ________________________________
4:00 – 4:20 ________________________________

April 25. No class.

May 2. Class discussion in anticipation of student presentations tentatively scheduled for May 9.