Requirements for Research and Writing Seminar II

This course is the second half of a year-long research and writing seminar – POS 695 & POS 696 – that devotes two full semesters to the development of a research design to be completed in the form of a final paper suitable for conference presentation or for submission to a journal for publication. In POS 696 students will continue to refine work that by the conclusion of POS 695 reached 25 or more pages and included substantial bibliographies and a literature review. Students will present their final papers in a research colloquium organized by faculty in the Department of Political Science at the end of the spring semester (see schedule below).

During the fall semester graduate students in the POS 695 Research and Writing Seminar worked closely with faculty mentors who supervised students’ research projects through regular meetings and discussions. Graduate students in POS 696 must plan to continue these meetings and discussions with faculty mentors on a regular basis. As in POS 695, faculty mentors play an especially important supervisory role in POS 696, as only an expert in a student’s major field of concentration can help to bring a project to the level of sophistication making it eligible for submission to a professional journal or for conference presentation. Much of the work students do in POS 696, then, will be carried out according to the instructions of their faculty mentors. Professor Schoolman will continue to read and comment on all work submitted by students, will continue to confer with faculty mentors about its quality and development, and will organize classes and meetings in office hours designed to offer students opportunities to present their work and to regularly receive constructive comments and criticism.

In addition to completing the research paper begun in POS 695, students are required to write a brief summary version of their papers (roughly 6-7 pages) to serve as the basis for their practice- and final-presentations. These written presentations in their original and revised forms are to be submitted on the day of each practice presentation and on the day of presentation to the Dept. of Political Science.

Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held to accomplish two objectives.

1). Students will present progress reports on their research projects and bring the class up-to-date on work since their last revised drafts;

   or

2). 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. By noon on the Friday preceding the Monday seminars for students’ presentations, students must submit the most recent drafts of their papers to the instructor, who will make them available to all other students in the class via Dropbox. Students are to have read each other’s work in preparation for class on the next Monday.

In addition to classes set aside for presentations of papers or for student discussions of their work with their classmates and instructor, certain classes have been set aside for (optional or non-optional, as indicated) meetings with Professor Schoolman for discussions of the progress of their research papers. These meetings will last 15-30 minutes.

February 9. Milne 218. Individual student meetings during office hours with Professor Schoolman. By this date students should have had their first meeting of the semester with their faculty mentors to discuss their work and develop a plan for revision of their written work in POS 695.

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February 23. HS 012. First Practice-Presentations. Students present the most recently developed version of their papers begun in POS 695. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

March 9. HS 012. Class discussions of student research papers and presentations. Students present progress reports on their projects, specifically a candid description of the progress they have made and what theoretical challenges they have been struggling with and with what success. By this date students should have had their second meeting of the semester with their faculty mentors to discuss their work and need for revisions.

March 23. HS 012. Second Practice-Presentations. Students present the latest draft of their papers revised this semester. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

April 6. (optional) Milne 218. Individual student meetings during office hours with Professor Schoolman. By this date students should have had their third meeting of the semester with their faculty mentors to discuss their work and need for remaining revisions.

April 13. HS 012. Class discussions of student research papers and presentations. Students present progress reports on their projects, specifically a candid description of the progress they have made and what theoretical challenges they have been struggling with and with what success.
April 27. HS 012. Final Practice-Presentations. Students present the final draft of their papers begun in POS 695. Students are given 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes of question & answer.

May 11 D-Day! (Delivery Day, tentative date) Room & Time to be determined. Student presentations of research projects to peers and faculty Department of Political Science.

Dropbox Link for POS696Sp2015:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yfgs7oqsoch9wgl/AAAd4VzvY7JS8tE-H6_5M1sha?dl=0