

Kolloquium, Frühjahr 2011

KOLLOQUIUM ABSCHLUSSARBEITEN

Termin: Thursdays 13h45-15h15

Raum: B 6, 23-25 Bauteil A (Hörsaalgebäude) - A 3.03

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is for students who plan to write a senior thesis in Political Science. This colloquium is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a senior thesis can present and discuss their work and consider various approaches to research in political science. The readings for the seminar are required of all students, and have been chosen to facilitate the thesis work and to provide insights into the process of researching a specialized topic in the field, writing the thesis, and presenting results of the inquiry. Seminar participants will be able to develop their research topics, review relevant research and scholarship, frame their research questions and arguments, and choose an appropriate methodology for analysis before the six week writing period starts on March 21 2011.

Class will meet on Thursdays from 13h45 to 15h15 in Room A 5, 6 Bauteil B - B 317 starting on 18.02.2011 until 06.03.2011 The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

*17 March needs to be rescheduled

1. February 17: Selecting/ developing a topic /literature review
2. February 24: a. Student preliminary presentation of topics (2 minutes)
b. Formulating a research question and hypothesis
3. March 3: a. Student presentations of research questions and hypotheses (5 minutes)
b. Picking you cases: quantitative/qualitative, case studies/comparison
4. March 10: a. Student presentations of their chosen demonstrations and cases (5 minutes)
b. Dealing with concepts, measurement
5. March 17*: a. Students hand-in and defend their prospectus (7-8 minutes)
b. Structure, style, citing literature (making it look professional)

-WRITING PERIOD 21 March-04 May 2011-

6. May 4: The Thesis must be handed-in by 17h00, in 2 copies
7. May 5: Mini-conference - Short presentations of thesis research (20 minutes) + discussion
8. May 12: Mini-conference - Short presentations of thesis research (20 minutes) + discussion

REQUIREMENTS:

- Class Attendance: As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- Prepare the following written and oral assignments:
 1. Preliminary oral presentation of chose topic of research (2 minutes) and 1 page description (February 24).
 2. Presentation of research questions and hypotheses (3-4 minutes) and 1 page description (March 3).
 3. Presentation of chosen demonstrations and cases (3-4 minutes) and 1-2 pages description (March 10).
 4. Presentation of thesis prospectus (5-7 minutes) and a 5 page paper version (March 17*).
 5. Bachelor thesis (10 000 words, including everything, as in EVERYTHING to be handed in May 4)
 6. Presentation of the thesis (10-15 minutes) and conference (May 5 and 12).

COURSE READINGS:

WEEK 1 (February 17): Selecting/ developing a topic /literature Review

Required readings:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 3rd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-20), Chapter 2 (pp. 23-46).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapter 2 (pp.13-31).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).

WEEK 2 (February 24): Formulating a research question and hypothesis

Required readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 3-4 (pp.36-67)*.
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 7 (pp.119-141).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.57-68).
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 1, (pp. 7-48).

WEEK 3 (March 3): Picking you cases: quantitative/qualitative, case studies/comparison

Required readings:

- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 3rd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8-9-10 (pp.153-227).

WEEK 4 (March 10): Dealing with concepts, measurement, and causality

Required readings:

- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114)

EXAMPLES:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51

WEEK 5 (March 17*): Structure, style, being convincing and clear... (making it look professional)

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 7-10 (103-151).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 18 (pp.407-429).
- A check list for proposals

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapter 15 (213-231)*.