Instructor: Dennis Judd   Class Time: TH, 6-8:30
Office: 1114B BSB   Classroom: 1171 BSB
Office Hours: by appointment
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This course is designed to give students the opportunity to refine research that they have previously completed for presentation at conferences and/or publication in professional journals or other appropriate outlets. According to the catalog description, the course is an "Interdisciplinary workshop on preparing a dissertation proposal…" This is misleading. Students should work with their faculty advisors in preparing dissertation proposals, and will generally do so by signing up for independent studies. It would be counter-productive to try to prepare a dissertation proposal in this course, so if you've ended up here with that goal in mind, I will advise (require) you to drop the course in favor of a research course taken under the sponsorship of your advisor. We do not want students to get caught out by the faulty catalog description, and thus I will facilitate the course change if my assistance is needed.

The prerequisite for the course is advanced standing in the Ph.D. program in political science. Please note that this is not a course in which students begin a new research project. Students are required to submit a completed paper at the beginning of the course; during the semester, they will take a series of steps to rework/refine this work for conference or journal submission. By the end of the semester, students will be required to have thus submitted their work, or to have taken all formal steps for doing so.

Ground Rules.

Normally we will meet as indicated in the course schedule. However, from time to time the regular class time will be cancelled to make room for meetings between individual students and me. Accordingly, I have not prepared, in advance, a schedule of assignments for each class period; instead, assignments will be made week to week. Please note only the following information on scheduled class meetings: The first class will be held on Thursday, January 18; there is no class on March 29 because of spring break; the last class of the semester is May 3.

This class will prosper if all students participate at the level customary in an advanced graduate course. As with all my courses, I require that assignments be submitted on time. Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please call or e-mail in advance. If you know in advance that you may miss any classes during the semester, see me at the end of the first class.

Grading.

The final grade will be determined primarily by my evaluation of the final paper produced for the course. However, since there are steps for getting to that point, some weight (25 percent) will also be given to the quality of work for previous assignments, (with emphasis on the paper presentation) and for the quality of class participation.

Assignments.

I am offering a preliminary list of assignments so that you can be prepared for what's coming. As the semester develops, this list undoubtedly will be refined.

- At the beginning of the semester, students are required to submit a paper for evaluation. I will return these papers, with comments, within two weeks (probably via e-mail).

- Students will be required to submit a proposal for a finished paper/article. I will hand out a guideline for proposal writing.

- Students will be required to present some research on matters relevant to preparing publishable work. Such things include: a list of conferences and journals by subfield; conference and journal rankings by subfield; submission guidelines and other relevant information (e.g., deadlines and review procedures); anonymous reviews of proposals/papers completed by other students in the class.

- Near the end of the semester, a formal presentation of work will be required so that students can prepare for and practice conference presentations.

- A specific plan for submission will be required by the end of the semester.