Description
This course is designed to assist you with your dissertation or dissertation proposal. It is a workshop for students who are in the process of writing a dissertation proposal or dissertation, as well as for students who have not yet taken their comprehensive exams. This course is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, your dissertation committee. We will discuss the origins of research projects and factors to consider in choosing a dissertation question. We will spend most of the semester discussing research design issues. At the end of the semester, we will discuss writing strategies and various aspects of the profession including the job market.

Required Book (ordered from Barnes and Noble)

Other Required Readings
The other readings listed on this syllabus are on Sakai (“DISS PROP WMN & POL 01 Sp15”). Students will also formulate reading lists for this semester that are specific to their projects.

Course Requirements
- 35% Assignments
- 30% Participation
- 35% Final Paper

Students will present twice during the semester and serve as discussants for other students. We will finalize the presentation schedule in the beginning of the semester.

Students will also complete five assignments. Please familiarize yourself with the assignment deadlines so that you can begin work on them in advance. Please upload your assignments to Dropbox on our Sakai site by the due date/time.

Your final paper will take the form of either a draft proposal or a dissertation chapter – depending on your status in the program. It is due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 12.

Recommended Books on reserve at Douglass Library


Week 1 January 20 Organizational meeting
* Please begin work on Assignment #1 (due Feb. 3)

Week 2 January 27 The Dissertation Question


* Class Presentations

Week 3 February 3 The Dissertation Proposal

Assignment #1: Write up to five 1 to 2 page versions of your dissertation question (as you currently understand it). Upload to Dropbox before the start of class.


2. Schreiber, Ronnee. “‘But Perhaps We Speak for You’: Antifeminist Women and the Representation of Political Interests.” Dissertation proposal. (Please read both “long” and “short” versions.)


* Class Presentations

**Week 4 February 10 Issues in Research Design**
* Special Guest: Professor Shauna Shames, RU-Camden

1. Reading TBA

**Week 5 February 17 Concept Development**

Assignment #2: Write a 3 to 4 page memo about a central concept in your dissertation project. Upload to Dropbox before the start of class.


* Class Presentations

**Week 6 February 24 Research Design**

Assignment #3: Identify one (or more) published work(s) in your field (or a related field) that uses a similar design to the one you are planning to pursue in your dissertation. List these cites in a document and upload to Dropbox before the start of class.


* Class Presentations
Week 7  
March 3

**Assignment #4:** Assemble a bibliography of methodological readings that will help you design your dissertation project. Make a list for yourself of the priority with which you should begin these readings and complete this reading list this semester. (Contact me in February if you need suggestions for readings). Upload your bibliography to Dropbox before the start of class.


* Class Presentations

Week 8  
March 10

**Assignment #5:** Revise Assignment #1. Revise as many as five 1 to 2 page versions of your dissertation question (as you currently understand it). Please upload to Dropbox before the start of class.


* Please identify the dissertation that you want to read for Week 12 by March 10. See me for recommendations.

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/indexes/digital_diss_RU
http://search.proquest.com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/pqdt/advanced?accountid=13626

* Class Presentations

Week 9  
March 17  
* Spring Break *

Week 10  
March 24  
**Gender, Intersectionality, and Political Science**


* Class Presentations

Week 11 March 31 Writing

* Class Presentations

Week 12 April 7 Sample Dissertations
1. Read a dissertation of your choice.

* Class Presentations

Week 13 April 14 Conferences, Publishing, and the Review Process


* Class Presentations
**Week 14  April 21  The Job Market**


3. Roundtable Summaries of the 2006 and 2008 Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science. Read pp. 4-10 of the Fall 2008 newsletter and pp. 3-8 of the Fall 2006 newsletter. 

**Week 15  April 28  Race and Gender Issues in the Profession**


Recommended readings


3. “Critical Perspectives on Gender and Politics: Contributions of Women Political Scientists to a More Just World.” *Politics & Gender* (June): 320-359.

* Tuesday May 12 5:00 P.M. *
Final Papers due to Dropbox