



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2023

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Advanced Research Seminar M.A.

Lecturer:

Dr. Lesley Terris lterris@runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Dr. Lesley Terris lterris@runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24063	Lecture	3	3

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	231240631	English



Course Description

This Thesis Research Seminar aims to guide students through the process of launching their Masters' thesis projects and writing their thesis research proposals. The seminar will provide structure, guidance and feedback to assist the MA Thesis students in the crucial stage of framing their research projects and establishing a research plan. We will focus on the process of formulating meaningful research questions; writing a literature review; theory development & theoretically derived hypotheses; constructing a solid research design for diverse methodological approaches. We will learn and practice the principles of presenting your work at conferences. Finally, the seminar will provide the opportunity for students to share ideas, openly discuss research dilemmas, challenges and obstacles, and receive and provide constructive peer feedback.

By the end of the semester students will have a good understanding of what comprises a sound research proposal for their MA Thesis, the stages involved in the writing process of

their thesis and how to present their research to the professional community.



Course Goals

The overall goal of the course is to guide students through the process of launching their Masters' thesis projects with a focus on the research proposal stage. Within this context the seminar focuses on how to formulate a research question and hypotheses, how to write a critical literature review, theory development and construction of a sound research design.



Grading

Assignment I, 20%: Literature review article analysis (December 8)

Assignment II, 40%: Presentation of thesis proposal/project (January 19 & 26)

Assignment III, 40% : Critical Literature Review (February 23)

3 point bonus for consistent meaningful participation.



Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment



Reading List

Recommended readings:

General sources:

Bui, Yvonne 2009. *How to Write a Master's Thesis*. CA: Sage Publications.

Hart, Chris 1998. *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination*. CA: Sage Publications.

Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. Doing a Literature Review. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39(1): 127-132

Lipson, Charles. How to Write a Thesis. Available on: <http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>

Schmitter, Philippe C. 2002. The 'Ideal' Research Proposal. Available at: <https://www.eui.eu/Documents/DepartmentsCentres/SPS/Profiles/Schmitter/IdealResearchProposal.pdf>

Methodology oriented sources:

Bennett, Andrew 2004. Case Study Methods: Design, Use, and Comparative Advantages. In Sprinz and Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.). *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press

Collier, David 2011. Understanding Process Tracing. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 44(4): 823–830.

Creswell, John 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Approaches*. CA: Sage.

Geddes, Barbara 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press

George, Alexander L. & Andrew Bennett 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

George, Alexander L. 1979. Case Studies and Theory Development: The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison. In Paul G. Rauren (ed.) *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory and Policy*, New York: Free Press.

Harvey, Frank & Michael Brecher 2002. *Evaluating Methodology in International Studies*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Levy, Jack S. 2008. Counterfactuals and Case Studies" In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, ed. Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, 627–44. New York: Oxford University Press.

McNabb, David 2015. *Research Methods for Political Science: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods* (second edition). NY: Routledge.

Morton, Rebecca, B. & Kenneth C Williams 2010. *Experimental Political Science and the Study of Causality: From Nature to the Lab*. Cambridge University Press

Course Plan

Lesson 1. 3 November 2022

Introduction; Reichman University thesis procedure; Finding and working with a thesis advisor

Lesson 2. 10 November 2022

Setting the scope and boundaries of a Master's Thesis; thesis structure; formulating a Research Question; formulating hypotheses

Lesson 3. 17 November 2022

No Class

Lesson 4. 24 November 2022

Students' proposed research questions and two possible hypotheses (+discussion)

Writing a Critical Literature Review

Lesson 5. 1 December 2022

The writing process; time management

Handout of Lit Review article (*Assignment I*)

Lesson 6. 8 December 2022

Lit Review article submission/discussion (*Assignment I*)

Building a theoretical argument and formulating theoretically derived hypothesis(es)

Choosing a research methodology

Lesson 7. 15 December 2022

Quantitative/Qualitative Research Designs

Experimental, observational, natural research

Building a sound research design

Data sources

Lesson 8. 22 December 2022

How to present your work at conferences.

Lesson 9: 29 December 2022

Individual consultations

Lesson 10: 5 January 2023

Individual consultations

Lesson 11: 12 January 2023

Doing a PhD in Israel and Abroad

Lesson 12: 19 January 2023

Final Presentations (+critique and discussion) (*Assignment II*)

(Presentation components: Research Question; Literature Review; Theoretical Argument; Hypothesis(es)). Research Design outline)

Lesson 13: 26 January 2023

Final Presentations (+critique and discussion) (*Assignment II*)

(Presentation components: Research Question; Literature Review; Theoretical Argument; Hypothesis(es)). Research Design outline)