ADVANCED SCHOLARLY RESEARCH: Fall 2021
16:762:626:01

Bob Noland

Tuesday: 1:00-4:00.

Zoom links are on Canvas

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment (send email to schedule, rnoland@rutgers.edu), tel: 848-932-2859, rm 449. I will also do some in-person office hours, but probably not till October.

The objective of Advanced Scholarly Research is to produce and present a draft formal dissertation proposal. The class will be run as a workshop where you will work on various elements of your proposal, discuss these with fellow students, and ultimately present a complete draft of your research proposal, similar to a formal proposal defense.

During the course of this semester I will serve as your guide to the basic process of thinking through the components of a proposal. While each of you will have your own specialty area and substantive topical interest, the process of composing a research proposal is similar. We will work together in class on various components of the dissertation, discuss and critique these, and you will present various pieces of work.

The key to a successful proposal and ultimately a successful dissertation is engagement with the literature on which your topic is built. This is a continuous process and I expect you to be studying the literature in your area throughout the semester. You should maintain an ongoing annotated bibliography (i.e., a brief summary) of each article you read. You should read about 10 papers each week within your relevant literature, summarize these and note which ones are critical to your research path. Your supervisor can provide guidance on relevant literature if you are unsure where to start.

It is important to actively involve your anticipated dissertation chair in the work related to this class. If possible, try to involve the other members of your dissertation committee. Their input is vital at all stages; they can provide guidance on the relevant literature as well as commenting on each of the sections of the dissertation proposal. One of the central objectives of this class is to catalyze ongoing, constructive dialogue with your dissertation chair and committee. If this is not happening, please come talk to me outside of class. I recommend scheduling weekly meetings with your Chair.

You will also benefit greatly from the comments and recommendations of your classmates. All of you will be asked to critically review your classmates’ draft sections and to present constructive recommendations. Your presentation will benefit from seeing the work of others, and you will hone your “critical reader” skills. To make this work, you must upload your work to Canvas – this should be done by Sunday evening each week, to allow others adequate time to review and comment.
Letter grades are not assigned in this class; only “satisfactory” / “unsatisfactory”. I expect you to participate in class. The bottom line is that I want you to benefit from this class and produce a draft dissertation proposal.

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected in this class and in all your work; this personifies an original dissertation proposal. Use citations extensively, following the *Chicago Manual of Style* or other standard social science citation guide. I would recommend that you use a citation manager, such as RefWorks or Endnotes, both of which are provided for free by the university. Zotero is an excellent citation manager and it is open source.

This is not an easy class—but it is crucial toward your progress as a doctoral student. With the draft proposal done, you should be able to formally propose your dissertation topic early in the next semester. Your proposal serves as a guide to what you will do on your dissertation – it is also a contract with your committee as to what you will produce.

During this class you will encounter periods of angst and sometimes near panic. It will sometimes not be clear what your specific topic is and how it builds from and adds to the extant literature. Deciding on your central and secondary hypotheses is also often a challenge. Methods and data are a work in progress. You will also experience the pleasure of “Eureka!” moments of intellectual achievement. All of the above is to be expected and is the companion of creative doctoral level study. Just forge ahead, speak to your chair (or other faculty), speak to me, and be confident in your skills. I hope that the format of this class provides all students with mutual support to get through this process. Things do fall into place in time; just do one step at a time. The goal is to finish in a timely fashion, to complete a solid body of work (your dissertation is not your last research), and to move on to an academic or other suitable research position befitting your doctoral training.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PREPARATION</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to first class</td>
<td>List of relevant readings</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare a list of relevant papers and/or books that are relevant to your research interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Introduction and Discussion</td>
<td>Be prepared to discuss what your research topic is. What is the motivation for you to do this research? Why is this an interesting topic?</td>
<td>Write a one-page summary of your Problem Statement</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Problem Statement</td>
<td>Present your problem statement to the class. Bring enough hard copies for everyone. Discussion will focus on what the relevant Research Questions are.</td>
<td>Develop at least three Research Questions. Provide supporting evidence as to why these are interesting questions to pursue.</td>
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<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>Research Questions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare an annotated bibliography of at least 10 papers relevant to your research.</td>
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<td>Sept 28 @NOON with colloquium</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>ACSP presentations @noon Critical assessment of your bibliography and how it links to your research questions.</td>
<td>Analysis of a key paper in the literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Analysis of the Literature</td>
<td>Present the paper</td>
<td>Data and Methods: Prepare a brief memo outlining what data and methods you think are needed for your research</td>
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<td>Oct 12 @NOON with colloquium</td>
<td>Data, Methods, Preliminary Analysis</td>
<td>ACSP presentations @noon Discussion of data sources, methods, and link to research questions; discuss any preliminary analysis</td>
<td>Develop outline of key themes in your literature review</td>
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<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete literature review, including brief powerpoint presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>ACSP practice presentations, invite your supervisor Discussion of issues that you are finding in the literature</td>
<td>Complete literature review, including brief powerpoint presentation</td>
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<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>Present key findings from your review of the literature</td>
<td>Continue to expand and refine your literature review</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Research Questions and Hypotheses</td>
<td>Discussion of how you will devise testable hypotheses given your knowledge of the data and methods available to you.</td>
<td>Start putting the pieces together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Draft presentation</td>
<td>We will critique and provide feedback on both your presentation skills and the substance of your topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Draft presentation Or possibly NO CLASS since Thanksgiving week</td>
<td>We will critique and provide feedback on both your presentation skills and the substance of your topic</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Final presentation</td>
<td>This will be a practice run of what could be your proposal defense – INVITE YOUR SUPERVISOR and any other faculty you would like feedback from.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Final presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit draft of proposal</td>
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Almost all of your reading should be directly related to your proposal topic. However, I have produced a list of readings that you might find helpful and/or entertaining. I would recommend you also occasionally peruse the blog “The Professor is In” at https://theprofessorisin.com/pearlsofwisdom/

**READINGS**

This is a very useful guide to how to write academically, especially on how to engage the literature.


Sword, Helen. Stylish academic writing. Harvard University Press, 2012. (pdf is on Canvas)

**OTHER READINGS**

These are a variety of papers that cover topics related to writing, presentations, and case studies. You will find some of these useful during the course. All are on Canvas.


RECOMMENDED READINGS

Some of these readings may be useful.


All required papers for this course may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Sakai, Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students who wish to exclude their submitted papers from the Turnitin.com reference database should contact the course instructor immediately; students may not, however, opt-out of having their required papers reviewed for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.