

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 7010
PROSEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Brian Woodall
Habersham, Room 153
Telephone: 404-894-1902
E-mail: brian.woodall@inta.gatech.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

This proseminar offers an overview of resources and practices of doctoral research in science, technology, and international affairs. In general terms, doctoral research aims to build knowledge through creativity, the application of rigorous research methods, and a serious scholarly approach to learning. In accordance with the scientific method, the research should be objective and reproducible, with clearly stated assumptions, methods, and findings. The research should make an original contribution to knowledge through illuminating an unexplored subject of inquiry or a new and improved interpretation of facts already known. The dissertation produced by this research should demonstrate an understanding of the major contending approaches in the field of inquiry and should result in one or more peer-reviewed publications.

The objective of this course is to orient students to the intellectual challenges and opportunities of doctoral research that probes into analytical puzzles at the intersection of science, technology, and international affairs. It offers an overview of the advanced research methods and resources available at Georgia Tech for scholars engaged in exploring this emerging field of inquiry. In addition, the course aims to acquaint students with the broader research interests pursued within the Nunn School and by external faculty. Course meetings will consist of informal guest lectures from Nunn School faculty, talks from Library personnel and others, and discussions of the processes and practices of doctoral-level research. The main purpose of the course is to prepare students to embark upon a program of doctoral research in a field of science, technology, and international affairs.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

The success of this proseminar depends upon your participation. *First and foremost, attendance at ALL seminar meetings is mandatory, and active, informed participation is expected.* This means that you are required to attend every seminar meeting having read and pondered the assigned readings, which should not be onerous. *Course grades will be awarded on a pass/fail basis and based upon the following criteria:*

- ✓ Participation (based upon student's attendance as well as the level and quality of contribution to seminar discussions) (40 percent)
- ✓ Program of Study: submission of a document -- designed in consultation with the Assistant Director -- that lists anticipated courses to be taken, the means of satisfying the language or advanced methods requirement and the minor concentration, the proposed timing of comprehensive examinations, and a timeline for organizing the dissertation committee and completing the dissertation (10 percent)
- ✓ Research Proposal: submission of a 10-15 page preliminary research proposal that includes the following elements: a) research puzzle/question in the field of international affairs, science and technology; b) sources of data, approaches to research, and a preliminary bibliography for exploring the research puzzle/question; c) thesis statement and listing of alternative approaches; d) potential sources of external funding; e) venues for presenting the research results; and f) possible publication outlets for disseminating the fruits of the research (50 percent)

READINGS

There is no required textbook for this course, although students are encouraged to purchase and familiarize themselves with Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). In addition, students are required to read the passages given in the weekly "Topics and Assignments" section.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Getting Organized – Nuts-and-Bolts, Requirements, and Introductions
Date: 20 August
Readings: Begin readings for Week #2
2. Requirements, Red Tape, and the Elements of the Dissertation
Date: 27 August
Presenters: Vince Pedicino and Dr. Brian Woodall
Readings: E. Robert Schulman and C. Virginia Cox, "How to Write a Ph.D. Dissertation" (<http://members.verizon.net/~vze3fs8i/air/airphd.html>); skim Tara Kuther's articles on "Thesis and Dissertation Advice" (e.g., "Grad Student's Guide to Advisors and Mentors," "Stop Procrastinating and Complete Your Dissertation!," etc.) at http://gradschool.about.com/od/thesiswriting/Thesis_and_Dissertation_Advice.htm; and Brian Woodall, *Japan Under Construction: Corruption, Politics, and Public Works* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), pp. ix-xi, 1-23, and 124-148 (free download: <http://www.escholarship.org/editions/view?docId=ft5489n9zf&brand=eschol>)
3. Research Resources for Doctoral Research at Georgia Tech
Date: 3 September (1:30-3:00; GT Library 521)
Presenter: Mary Axford (mary.axford@library.gatech.edu; 404-894-1392)
Meeting place: Main Library, Room 521.

4. "Political geography and terrorists, insurgents, pirates, and smugglers: Doing research on difficult organizations in difficult places"
Date: 10 September
Presenter: Dr. Justin Hastings
Readings: Hastings, J.V., Geographies of state failure and sophistication in maritime piracy hijackings, Political Geography (2009), doi:10.1016/j.polgeo.2009.05.006 (on T-Square)
5. Faculty research presentation
Date: 17 September
Presenter: Dr. Michael Best
Readings: TBA
6. Faculty research presentation
Date: 24 September
Presenters: Dr. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Peter Brecke
Readings: Working paper: "Using Epidemiological Models." See T-Square.
7. Faculty research presentation
Date: 1 October
Presenter: Dr. Zak Taylor
Readings: TBA
8. Finding Funding as a PhD
Date: 8 October
Presenter: Dr. Jason Landrum and Karen Adams
Readings: TBA
9. Faculty research presentation
Date: 15 October
Presenter: Dr. Darius Ornston
Readings: TBA
10. "Where is the S&T in IAST?"
Date: 22 October
Presenter: Dr. Seymour Goodman
Readings: Perrow, C. (1999). *Normal Accidents: Living with High-Risk Technologies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-2.
11. "Computer military gaming"
Date: 29 October
Presenter: Dr. Michael Salomone
Readings: TBA
12. Faculty research presentation
Date: 5 November
Presenter: Dr. Kirk Bowman

Readings: Sustainable Tourism Certification and State Capacity (See T-Square)

PROGRAM OF STUDY DUE: 5 November

13. Technology and Security

Date: 12 November

Presenter: Dr. Margaret Kosal

Readings: TBA

14. "Historical research and the use of concepts in International Relations"

Date: 19 November

Presenter: Dr. Molly Cochran

Readings: Trachtenberg, M. (2006). *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-2. (See T-Square)

NO SEMINAR MEETING -- GT HOLIDAY: 26 November

15. Wrap-up

Date: 3 December

Presenter: Dr. Brian Woodall

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE: 3 December