Govt. 491
Fall, 2015

Dr. Robert Dudley
Office: A231 Robinson
Office Hours: 1:30-3:30 M&W
Other times by appointment
Email: rdudley@gmu.edu

Required Texts

About this Course:
This class is the first of two semesters designed to enable you to write your senior thesis. This term we will meet in a seminar style classroom setting. We will explore quantitative and qualitative frameworks and discuss such subjects as: How to pick a topic; How to develop a research topic; and How to defend your research. When you leave this class you will have a researchable topic and a completed literature review.

In addition to the readings, you will have the opportunity to hear other professors talk about their own scholarship and their take on research. Next semester you will complete your thesis under the guidance of a professor of your choosing in Govt. 496.

Academic Integrity:
The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using
MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you qualify for accommodation, the ODS staff will give you a form detailing appropriate accommodations for your instructor. In addition to providing your professors with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss accommodation with them at the beginning of the semester and as needed during the term. Because of the range of learning differences, faculty members need to learn from you the most effective ways to assist you. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please tell me.

Grading

As this is a seminar course you are expected to participate in the weekly discussion. You will be responsible for preparing a series of papers and presentations.

- You will prepare a paper that presents your topic and explains the research question you intend to pursue. This paper must be accompanied by a list of citations, with a bibliography citing at least 10 scholarly articles. The bibliography must be annotated. (An annotated bibliography is a list of citations with each citation followed by a brief (usually 150 words) descriptive paragraph.) This paper will be due, September 30. (15% percent of the final grade.)
- Using a book or an article from your bibliography, you will prepare a paper in which you discuss the book or article, critique it, and explain how this fits your research. You will then present your paper to the class for discussion. This will be due October 7th. (10% of the final grade).
- A third paper, due October 28th, will be a draft literature review of at least 5-6 pages. You should attach the literature review to the two previous papers. (15% of the final grade.)
- A fourth paper, due Nov 11th, will attach to the cumulative work you have previously done an explanation of your research approach, including the methodology that you intend to use as well a discussion of your variables (if that applies). (15 percent of the final grade.)
- Finally, on December 2, we will begin the presentation of your final work. You must bring a copy of your paper-- statement of the research question, bibliography,
literature review and proposed methodology—and be prepared to present your work to your colleagues. (25% of the final grade.) Class participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

One final requirement, you must select your advisor, for Govt. 496, by October 21. If you are having trouble selecting someone, please see me. Together we will find an appropriate advisor for you.

Important Dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Labor Day, University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Last day to add classes/Last day to drop with No tuition liability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Columbus Day recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 25-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving recess.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Last Day of classes</td>
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Assignments

Sept. 2 No readings. Introduction to the course.

Sept. 9. No readings. Show and tell day.
Sept. 16 Readings

Crick, *In Defense of Politics*


Sept. 23 Developing a thesis. Readings

Baglione, Chpt. 1

Donovan and Hoover, Chpts. 1 and 2

Sept. 30 Finding a Research Question Readings

Baglione, Chpt. 2


Oct. 7 Learning from previous work. Readings

Baglione, Chpts. 3 and 4


Oct. 14 Research Design Readings

Donovan and Hoover, Chpts. 3 and 4

Baglione, Chpt 5 and 7

Oct. 21 Comparisons and Case Studies Readings


Oct. 28 Other Alternatives


Nov. 3 From Concepts to Variables Readings

Donovan, Chpt 5


Nov. 11 What if I want to do philosophy?


SUGGESTION If you want to pursue this subject I suggest that you read, Anne Norton, 95 Thesis on Politics, Culture, and Method. Yale University Press

Nov. 18 Wrap up

Dec. 2 Student presentations

Dec. 9 Final papers due.