DIPL 6311AA: Masters Research Project

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Course Objectives:  
This class is the capstone of your graduate experience. As such, you will be drawing on the lessons that you have learned in DIPL 6310 to develop and execute a research project. The class will be a mix of one-on-one sessions as well as traditional meetings. My goal is for you to write a publishable quality manuscript that tests hypotheses head to head either qualitatively or quantitatively. My goal is also for you to finish this class with a polished op-ed based on your research that’s perfect as a writing sample.

Course Materials:  
Two textbooks have been ordered for this course. We will not have assignments from these texts. The Van Evera work is a good reference for qualitative work, and the Johnson and Reynolds text is geared for quantitative work.


Evaluation:  
Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

- Presentation (5%)
- Rough Draft (15%)
- Final Paper (50%)
- Op-Ed Rough Draft (10%)
- Op-Ed Final (10%)
- Video Assignment (5%)

More information on each of these elements can be found on the last page of the syllabus.

Other Course Policies:  
Late work will not be accepted in this class.

Attendance at each of the scheduled class meetings is mandatory.
Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Whitehead School Academic Integrity Policy. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the course and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible.

All assignments for this course must be submitted online through Blackboard. Instructions are at the following URL:

Students with disabilities should contact Disabilities Support Services for special accommodations.

Successful completion of the project will require you to use considerable library research. Please note the following: 1) Wikipedia is not acceptable as a valid source of information and as such should not be cited; 2) You might find Chapter 3 of the Johnson text (which deals with writing a literature review) helpful. 3) If you have further library questions, you should discuss them with Diplomacy’s library liaison, Darren Sweeper (973-275-2058; darren.sweeper@shu.edu).

Students with projects stemming from work submitted for earlier classes must discuss them with me in advance of submission.

Late changes to one’s research project must be approved by me.

The final version of the manuscript must address issues raised by me in the rough draft.

The Whitehead School does not award grades of D in graduate classes. Final grades below 70% will be entered into the gradebook as an F.

Class Schedule
NOTE: Sessions with a class meeting will be denoted with (CM) below

January 14:    Introduction. (CM)
行政务事项
讨论初步项目

January 21:    MLK Day. No Class.

January 28:    Presentations. (CM)

February 4:    Presentations. (CM)

February 11:   Individual Meetings (As Needed)

February 18: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
February 25: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
March 4: **Spring Break – No Class**
March 11: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
March 18: **Rough Drafts Due. No Class. Assignments submitted to Blackboard.**
March 25: Feedback on Rough Drafts. (CM)
April 1: **Op-Ed Rough Drafts Due. Assignments submitted to Blackboard.**
April 8: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
April 15: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
April 22: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
April 29: Individual Meetings (As Needed)
May 6: Wrap-up and Video Screening (CM)
May 13: **FINAL PAPER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AT 4PM.**
May 15: **FINAL VERSION OF OP-ED AND PITCH LETTER DUE ON BLACKBOARD AT 4PM.**
Particulars on Assignments:

Presentation
A formal oral presentation of your topic is required on either January 28 or February 4. This presentation will be formal (standing at a podium in the front of the class) and will last roughly six minutes in length. Imagine that you are briefing a Congressional Committee. I expect you to focus on three issues: What is the question? Why is it important for policymakers? Why your question theoretically important? The order of presentations will be established by me in advance. *(Please note that the use of the word “formal” means dress up!)*

Draft/Final Manuscript
Your completed project will be a minimum of 30 pages (double-spaced with 1” margins and 12 point fonts) that will consist of the following elements to be noted as separate sections of the manuscript:

1) The Problem and its Importance
2) Literature Review
3) Research Design
4) Findings and Discussion
5) Conclusions
6) Bibliography

The finished product must consist either of a set of comparative case studies (if a qualitative project) or a set of multivariate statistical tests with discussion of statistical and substantive significance (if the project is quantitative). I expect the draft manuscript to have a completed set of findings.

Op-Ed
As you’re finishing your papers, you will also be preparing an op-ed summarizing your findings. This will be 800 words maximum, and written in the style of an editorial in *Foreign Policy*. Your op-ed must be preceded by an email pitch letter. More information about this assignment will be forthcoming.

Video Assignment
Each student will be required to complete a video of two and a half minutes in which you summarize your question, its importance, and your findings. These will be taped over the last three weeks of the semester, and we will screen these on the last day of class. Students will select several of these to be used as promotional materials for the school. More information about this assignment will be forthcoming.