

PS 503: Dissertation Workshop

Spring 2009
Prof. Bruce Bimber
UC Santa Barbara
Thur. 2:00-4:00

Description

This course is a workshop for students preparing their dissertations, especially those at the proposal stage. It covers many aspects of professional life as a doctoral student, including publishing and preparation for the job market, but its primary emphasis is on helping students design their research and prepare the prospectus.

Discussions will be organized in large part around student's particular needs this quarter, which we will discuss at the first meeting. The main activity each week will be reading and commenting on one another's work or dissertation ideas, as these develop over the ten weeks. In addition, most weeks will feature a short discussion of a topic involving professional practice as a political scientist.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the Prospectus
3. More on the Prospectus, Grants
4. Job Searches, CVs, Cover Letters
5. Interviewing
6. Public Speaking and the "Job Talk"
7. Publishing articles
8. Turning the dissertation into a book
9. Life as a new assistant professor
10. Conclusion