

## UNIVERSIDAD CARLOS III DE MADRID

### Master in Social Sciences

#### Research in Progress

*First semester academic year 2023-2024*

#### Instructors

Robert Fishman

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Office hours: Tuesday afternoons – please arrange exact time in advance by email.

Sandra León

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Office: 18.2.E.16

Office hours: Wednesdays 10-12 (please, arrange by email).

#### (1) Description

The purpose of this course is to help students develop, initiate and complete a major research project for presentation during the second year of the Master's program. This research project is intended to provide the basis for a scholarly publication by its student-author and in most cases to serve as a pathway into the development of a successful doctoral thesis composed either of several such papers or of a book length monographic study of a major question. The skills to be emphasized and developed during the course are ones that should serve students well in the rest of their scholarly endeavors. The discussions will focus on theoretical, methodological and practical challenges that arise in the course of research and scholarly writing. Much of the discussion during the semester will be centered on the projects currently under development by students. Course requirements include not simply attendance but more importantly **active participation in class discussions and both oral and written presentations of work in progress as well as attendance of IC3JM seminars.**

Each student will be expected to present a provisional plan for the Masters Thesis, **first as a short oral presentation and then as a presentation of a written proposal.** The use of power point/pdf slides is optional in the oral presentations but compulsory in the presentation of the written proposals.

In both cases (oral presentation and presentation of written proposals) the presentation can be more or less provisional but it is crucial that all students make written and oral presentations as a basis for their own progress and additionally as the foundation for class discussions. Some students may prefer to present a draft of the Master's Thesis itself, instead of a research proposal – if their work has reached that stage. The provisional written

proposals for the Master's Thesis, or alternatively the drafts of the thesis, will be circulated in advance to all members of the class in order to promote discussion. For the success of this class – and of the individual papers of its members – it is essential that our discussions be characterized by a constant commitment to constructive criticism and to the formulation of useful questions and suggestions.

## (2) Evaluation

Participation and attendance: 25%

Research proposal: 75%

## (3) Organization

**\*Important\*** Please note that **we choose randomly the alphabetical order in which presentations will be made.** You can switch positions with another classmate if both agree on the exchange. This academic year the alphabetical order is **Z-A for the oral presentations and A-Z for the presentations of the written proposals.**

**Please check your name below for the assigned date of your oral and written presentation.**

Surname	First name	ORAL PRESENTATION
YUZYK	ANASTASIIA	SESSION 2
YILMAZ	LARA	
TRUELSEN TRUELSEN	EMILIE	
TILKI	AYKUT	
SHAO	RAN	
SANCHEZ BELLOSTA	MARIA PILAR	
SALLEM	LINA	
RUIZ HILERA	IÑIGO	SESSION 3
MARTÍNEZ PÉREZ	HÉCTOR	
MARTÍN GALLEGO	ANDREA	
LAGLIL HERRADI	ABDELKARIM	
HILPERT	CHRISTIAN	
CAMILOT	TOMMASO	
BRUGAROLAS MEDINA	PATRICIA	
Surname	First name	PRESENTATION OF WRITTEN PROPOSAL
BRUGAROLAS MEDINA	PATRICIA	SESSION 6
CAMILOT	TOMMASO	SESSION 6
HILPERT	CHRISTIAN	SESSION7
LAGLIL HERRADI	ABDELKARIM	SESSION7
MARTÍN GALLEGO	ANDREA	SESSION 8
MARTÍNEZ PÉREZ	HÉCTOR	SESSION 8

RUIZ HILERA	IÑIGO	SESSION 9
SALLEM	LINA	SESSION 9
SANCHEZ BELLOSTA	MARIA PILAR	SESSION 10
SHAO	RAN	SESSION 10
TILKI	AYKUT	SESSION 11
TRUELSEN TRUELSEN	EMILIE	SESSION 11
YILMAZ	LARA	SESSION 12
YUZYK	ANASTASIIA	SESSION 12

## **SESSION 1. Introduction (September 26).**

### **PART. 1. Theoretical Frameworks, Empirical Questions and Research Design.**

Introduction to the module. Introduction to the essential components of a successful Masters Thesis and scholarly paper, practical guidelines for designing and carrying out such a project; useful elements of a research paper.

Reading:

Baglione, Lisa A. (2016). "Writing a research paper in political science". A practical guide to inquiry, structure and methods. Sage Press.

Bryman, A. (2012). "Social Research Methods". Oxford University Press.

McCloskey, Deirdre. "Economical Writing". Waveland Press

### **PART 2. Classic Perspectives on the Interrelationship of Components of Research Projects**

Reading: Max Weber, "'Objectivity' in Social Science and Social Policy"; and Emile Durkheim, "How to Determine Social Causes and Social Types", in Suicide.

Optional additional reading: Arthur Stinchcombe, Constructing Social Theories.

Assignment: Come to class prepared to discuss the debate between Weber and Durkheim on the relationship between empirical reality and theoretical constructs. Implications for research papers will be drawn out in the discussion.

## **SESSION 2. Discussion of Provisional Student Projects (October 3)**

Assignment: Half of the class will make brief **oral presentations** outlining their provisional plans for the Masters Thesis. The class discussion will focus on how to pursue and improve those initial plans.

### **SESSION 3. Discussion of Provisional Student Projects (October 10)**

Assignment: Half of the class will make brief **oral presentations** outlining their provisional plans for the Masters Thesis. The class discussion will focus on how to pursue and improve those initial plans.

**\*\* SESSIONS 4 AND SESSION 5 (October 17 and October 24): preparation of research proposals AND individual meetings with instructors\*\***

### **SESSION 6. Presentation of research proposals (October 31).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

### **SESSION 7. Presentation of research proposals (November 7).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

### **SESSION 8. Presentation of research proposals (November 14)**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

### **SESSION 9. Presentation of research proposals (November 21).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will

act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

**SESSION 10. Presentation of research proposals (November 28).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

**SESSION 11. Presentation of research proposals (December 5).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.

**SESSION 12. Presentation of research proposals (December 12).**

Assignment: discussion of two student research proposals or thesis drafts. In each case the work to be discussed will be completed by the end of the day on the Friday before the Tuesday class session and will be circulated to all members of the class by e-mail. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of all of the presented work. Each student will act as a discussant of one of the research projects.