

API-902: Doctoral Research Seminar
David Lazer and Mark Rosenzweig
Spring 2004
Time: Mondays or Wednesdays, 4:10-5:30
Taubman 275

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Feb. 4	Introduction	
Feb 11	Literature review and key questions from the literature	1-2 page paper describing relevant literature
Feb 18	Principal analytic models to address the key questions	1-2 page paper describing analytic approach
Feb 25	Data sources and empirical methods	1-2 page paper describing methodology
March 3	No seminar meeting—prepare prospectuses	
March 10	Presentation of prospectuses	Prospectus (10-15 pages)
March 17	Presentation of prospectuses	
March 24	No seminar meeting—prepare papers	
April 7	Presentation of completed papers	Paper
April 14	Presentation of completed papers	
April 21	Presentations of outlines of future work	Outline
April 28	Presentations of outlines of future work	
May 5	Conclusion	

Note: the assignments are due at noon the day before class. They should be e-mailed to Bernie_Cahill@ksg.harvard.edu. The completed assignments will be circulated before class, and everyone will be expected to read all of the material.

*Note: Wednesday meeting. All other meetings are on Mondays.

Description

The objective of this class is to help guide doctoral students through the sometimes torturous initial stages of the dissertation. The seminar provides a structured set of assignments that culminates in the production of a prospectus, a paper that is likely to serve as a thesis chapter, and an outline of future work.

Optional Materials

Various “how to” dissertation guides are available on the market. While these are no substitute for regular faculty guidance on your individual research, the following materials are among the better works in this genre and may prove of assistance as you proceed to finish with your dissertation.

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book or Article* (University of Chicago Press, 1986).

Christine B. Feak & John M. Swales, *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: A Course for Nonnative Speakers of English* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 1994)

David Sternberg, *How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation* (St. Martin’s, 1981).