



Course program and reading list

Semester 2 Year 2024

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Research Seminar M.A.

Lecturer:

Prof. Asif Efrat asif@runi.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

Prof. Asif Efrat asif@runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24005	Lecture	4	4

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	242240051	English



Course Description

The purpose of the seminar is to guide students through the process of launching their master's thesis projects and writing research proposals. It consists of three stages: identifying the research topic; devising a theoretical argument; as well as choosing a methodology and building a research design.

This seminar involves individual work: Throughout the semester, each student will work on their own research proposal and will submit three written assignments: research question; theoretical argument; and methodology and research design. For each assignment, the student will submit a three-page memo. During the week following the submission of the assignment, each student will meet with the instructor to receive comments and feedback.

In the two final weeks of the semester, students will present their draft research proposals before the entire class. Each presentation will be followed by comments from a

discussant and a class discussion.



Course Goals



Grading

Course requirements:

- Three written assignments (research question, theoretical argument, and methodology)
 - Class presentation of emerging research proposal
 - Discussant assignment (provide comments on another student's presentation)
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Reading List

Course Schedule

March 29 Elements of a research proposal

April 5 Research-Question Assignment: Submit a three-page memo outlining your research question and how it relates to the existing literature. The memo should also address the topic's significance and the project's feasibility. Submission time: 12:00.

April 8, 10 Individual consultations with the instructor.

May 3 Theoretical-Argument Assignment: Submit a three-page memo outlining your theoretical argument and its causal logic. Explain how your argument contributes to the existing literature. Submission time: 12:00.

May 6, 8 Individual consultations with the instructor.

May 24 Methodology Assignment: Submit a three-page memo outlining your methodology, including the sources of data to be used and the method of data collection. Also include an expected timeline for the project. Submission time: 12:00

May 27, 29 Individual consultations with the instructor.

June 14 Class presentation of proposals

June 21 Class presentation of proposals