

Thesis Workshop

SOPP 5377 – Spring 2020

CEU Budapest

School of Public Policy

Central European University

No. of credits: 1

Course e-learning site: [CEU Moodle](#)

April 7, 14, and 20.

13:30 – 17:10 on Zoom.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Dorsch, Associate Professor

Contact: 327 3000 / ext. 2751, DorschM@ceu.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Course description

This is a research seminar in which we workshop ways to (i) strengthen and sharpen your research proposals, (ii) execute the literature review and data collection, (iii) produce the preliminary analysis, and (iv) present on-going research to peers.

Student presentations and interaction with each others' research projects will constitute the core of the workshop. While I will offer my own comments and critical feedbacks during the course of the seminar, my role will principally be that of a moderator. The seminar is designed for you to interact with your peers' research projects, gain valuable experience receiving and giving feedback on research projects, and to learn from one another.

Primary learning objectives

This course should help you to transition from coursework to launching your thesis research at the beginning of the Spring term. After the three sessions, you should have:

1. A better sense of the thesis writing process, including establishing an individual timeline,

2. A well-crafted research question that guides your thesis research,
3. A more precise sense of how your chosen analytical methodology can address your research question, and
4. Better experience presenting your research, receiving and giving feedback on developing research projects.

Primary textbook

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.G., and Williams, J.M., 2003. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Requirements and evaluation

This course is mandatory for 2nd year MPA students writing a thesis and is optional for 1st year Mundus MAPP students. The course time will be spent in seminar style, with student presentations and time for discussing the presentations where students can get feedback from their peers. Students will also submit a written assignments for each session. Throughout the course of the three weeks, each student should schedule a consultation with me to discuss the timeline for their thesis research.

Presentations (3)	45 %
Written assignments (3)	45 %
Participation	10 %

The class will be pass/fail. You need to get 65 % of the points in order to pass the class.

Presentations

Students will present their research progress in each session. The topics of the presentation are detailed in the course outline below. Each student research project will be allotted 20 minutes. Students presentations should be between 10 and 15 minutes, so that there is at least 5 minutes left for general discussion.

Written assignments

Students must submit a written assignment for each session. The topics of the written assignments are detailed in the course outline below. There is no length requirement for the written assignments, but students are encouraged to think of them as draft components of their thesis. I will provide feedback on the written assignments.

Course outline (subject to change)

04/07: Session 1

Presentation topics:

- Research question
- Project overview

Written assignment:

- Reading list with at least 10 bibliographic entries

04/14: Session 2

Presentation topics:

- Revised research question
- Analytical methodologies
- Data collection

Written assignment:

- Annotated bibliography
- Details of the data collection process

04/20: Session 3

Presentation topics:

- Adventures in data collection
- Preliminary analysis / results

Written assignment:

- Overview of the analytical methodology
- Research timeline