CWMD Graduate Fellowship Program Notes
Your schedule this fall

- DSS 632: International Security Affairs
- DSS 798: CWMD Fellows Colloquium

Goal: To have your research project (or the complete first draft of your thesis) done by the end of the semester.

N.B. Completion of your research project or the complete first draft of your thesis by the end of fall semester is prerequisite for being allowed to begin spring semester classes.
Your schedule next spring

- DSS 798: CWMD Fellows Colloquium
- DSS 796: Directed Readings and Research or
- DSS 799: Thesis
- One other DSS course

Goal: Successful completion of the oral examination or timely submission of the thesis
DSS 632, International Security Affairs

- DSS 632: Seminar on International Security Affairs
- 3.0 credit hours
- Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.
- Instructor: Dr. John Mark Mattox
- Location: National Defense University, Washington, D.C.
DSS 632 Course Design

• Light on reading, very heavy on writing
  – One-page argumentative essays (9)
  – Detailed outline of thesis/research project (1)
  – Abstract of thesis/research project (1)
  – PowerPoint presentation (limited to one slide)
  – 25–30-page research project or 80–100 page thesis

• Lots of time for writing reviews and analysis
  – Peer review of papers
  – Several one-on-one tutorials with instructor in lieu of class

• Effective presentation of visual materials
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 14 Aug 2014</td>
<td>1800-2000</td>
<td>New Student Orientation at MSU, Fairfax, Virginia (UNCLASSIFIED)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 22 Aug 2014</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>Second-year Student Presentations: Lessons Learned (SECRET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Sep 2014</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>Defining WMD (SECRET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Oct 2014</td>
<td>0800-1700</td>
<td>WMD Modeling and Simulation (SECRET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7 Nov 2014</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>Cooperative Threat Reduction (FOUO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu__, Fri ___ Jan 2015</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>Winter Workshop Theme rotates on a three-year schedule: nuclear (2015), bio (2016), chem (2017) 16 hours (SECRET)</td>
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<td>Fri 23 Jan 2015</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>WMD and the Law (SECRET or FOUO)</td>
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<td>Fri 20 Feb 2015</td>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td>Consequence Management I (FOUO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Mar 2015</td>
<td>0800-1700</td>
<td>WMD and the Cinema (UNCLASSIFIED)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Apr 2015</td>
<td>1300-1700</td>
<td>Second-year Student Symposium: Research Presentations (SECRET)</td>
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Requirements for 22 August Colloquium

1. Prepare a presentation, including PowerPoint, as follows:

- Identify and briefly discuss three ideas, facts, concepts, or principles that you found to be truly key to your WMD studies this past year.
- Explain why the three items you identified and briefly discussed are important.

Due 2400 hours, Sunday, 3 August 2014
Requirements for 22 August Colloquium

2. Submit an entry to the Second Annual CWMD Graduate Fellows Poetry Competition
   • Limerick
   • Subject related to WMD
   • No crude, vulgar, or profane language
   • Witty criticisms of US policy allowed, but:
     • Neither derogatory references to any elected US official, senior military officer, or Senate-confirmed civilian
     • Nor statements impugning their motives
   • Distinguished panel of judges will select the winner
   • Winner will receive a fabulous prize

Due 2400 hours, Sunday, 3 August 2014
Anatomy of a limerick

- Five lines long
- Meter is as shown
- Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme
Saddam had a nuke—so he said,
And the power went right to his head.
It was merely a lie,
But events testify:
If you tell fibs like that, you’ll be dead.
There once was a nuclear threat
Posted right on the internet
A response plan was hatched,
CSTs were dispatched—
Though the “boom” hadn’t happened yet.
There once was a cyber attack;
The Chinese our network did hack.
Since arguably
Cyber’s WMD
Do you think we should nuke them right back?
Jump-start Your Research Project/Thesis

Graduate Writing Workshop
Research Project Option

• *Highly recommended option*
• Comprehensive oral examination during spring semester (2-3 hours)
• Research Project (25-30 pages) written for DSS 632
• Plus 2 or 3 DSS course papers illustrating analytic skills

READ THE STUDENT GUIDE!
Typical (general) oral exam questions

• “Having studied a range of issues at DSS, which issues do you believe are the most significant for U.S. national security?”

• “What do you think are the biggest national security challenges facing the U.S. today?”

• “Do you think U.S. policymakers are addressing these issues properly?”

• “What U.S. national security policies, if any, would you change and why?”

• Describe an issue you have studied in this program that led you to challenge your previous assumptions about the topic. Have your opinions changed as a result?”
Thesis Option

- 80–100 pages
- Requires three readers
- Wholly original, i.e., may draw on research *but not* written products from classes other than DSS 632 (i.e., not pages from anything written for another course)
- Scrupulously follow the University’s Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures
- Scrupulously follow the University’s *Thesis Guide*
Thesis

http://graduate.missouristate.edu/thesis_information.htm

READ THE STUDENT GUIDE!
## Thesis Completion Schedule

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>Begin thinking about your thesis&lt;br&gt;Attend thesis meeting</td>
<td>Fall Semester 2014 DSS 632</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>Assemble your three-person thesis committee&lt;br&gt;Begin topic search&lt;br&gt;Attend thesis meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Semester</td>
<td>Present thesis to interested students and faculty&lt;br&gt;Collect data/information&lt;br&gt;Begin outline&lt;br&gt;Attend thesis meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>End of 3rd Semester</td>
<td>Stop data/information collection&lt;br&gt;Statistics, graphs, and tables complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of 4th Semester</td>
<td>Attend thesis meeting&lt;br&gt;Have 1st draft complete and ready for submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 2-3</td>
<td>1st assembled draft to First Reader&lt;br&gt;N.B. Must be edited for grammar, style, and format prior to submission to First Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 4</td>
<td>1st assembled draft back from First Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 6</td>
<td>2nd draft to First Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 8</td>
<td>2nd draft back from First Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 10</td>
<td>Final draft to First, Second, and Third Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 12</td>
<td>Final draft back from First, Second, and Third Reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester—Week 14</td>
<td>Postmark Deadline; finished thesis due to Missouri State&lt;br&gt;N.B. Oral exam for research project option must be scheduled to occur prior to the date established for final thesis submission</td>
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When do I start?
When do I start?

NOW!
Purpose behind writing a research project/thesis

Demonstrate your ability to:

• Defend a position
• Anticipate and counter opposing arguments
How do I start?

1. “Audition” and “scope” a topic
2. Write one paragraph that concludes with a clear one-sentence thesis statement.
3. Write a section-by-section (research project) or chapter-by-chapter (thesis) outline.
4. Compile a bibliography of works you propose to consult for your research. (This will help you ensure that there is enough information out there on the topic.)
Thesis Statement

• Is a complete, declarative, elegantly written sentence. Don't express your thesis as a question, and don't merely state your topic.

• Is an arguable (i.e. falsifiable) point. If your thesis sentence doesn't have controversy attached to it, then your thesis project will not be very interesting.

• Is well focused - not too big, and not too small.

• Has a clearly discernible connection to the study of WMD.

• Points to what's original, interesting, or unusual about your particular argument or research. The reader should want to read your work.

Adapted from http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/thesis.shtml
“Audition” and “scope” a topic

• Make your topic broad enough to address an important issue, yet narrow enough to address that issue thoroughly in the number of pages allotted.

• Work within the constraints of real time and budget your time accordingly.

• Understand that your topic will only seem bigger once you get into your research.

Adapted from http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/thesis.shtml
2012 Cohort Research Projects

- The Importance of The United States’ Engagement with Pakistan
- Improving The Intelligence Contribution to Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Agroterrorism: Addressing The Fallacies of the Inter-agency Response Concept to Agricultural Terrorism In The United States
- “Non-nuclear” Nuclear States: The Case of Pakistan
- WMD Terrorism – Hype or Imminent Threat?
- Saudi Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons – Inevitable or Preventable?
- “Chavismo” and Iranian Influence Live On
- Critique of The WMD Commission Case Study on Iraq
- The Proliferation Threat to US Interests from Pakistan’s Nuclear Weapons Program in terms of Nuclear Surety Matters
- Enhancing The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
2012 Cohort Thesis

• The Church, The Constitution, And Weapons Of Mass Destruction: The Role of The Church of England in Developing British Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy
Which are examples of promising thesis statements?

1. “Although all of the U.S. policy options vis-à-vis Iran entail major disadvantages, the policy option most likely to favor U.S. interests is the destruction of Iran’s nuclear weapons capability.”
2. This study will examine China’s rise to prominence as a global nuclear power.
3. “Herman Kahn’s approach to deterrence theory has played a highly influential role in nuclear policy debates, but is his theory correct?”
4. “While Thomas Schelling’s deterrence theory was adequate to the needs of the 20th century, it is no longer relevant today.”
5. “The purpose of this thesis is to trace the history and development of Cooperative Threat Reduction from its genesis to the present.”
7. “The United States’ historical experience with arms control strongly suggests that, if a ‘START V’ Treaty were one day offered, it should not be ratified.”
8. “Brazil is on a strategic trajectory to become the Western Hemisphere’s next nuclear power.”
9. “Advances in genetic engineering and what it portends for bio-warfare is both fascinating and alarming.”
Chapter-by-chapter outline

- Economic Policies of the 19th Century
  - Democrats
    - Strengths
    - Problems
  - Republicans
    - Strengths
    - Problems
  - Independents

- Economic Policies of the 19th Century
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local

Outline = Headings and Sub-headings = Table of Contents for the body of the paper

Adapted from http://graduate.missouristate.edu/currentstudents/ThesisResources.htm
Compile a bibliography

• Create a bibliographic reference for everything you read in support of your research project/thesis

• Think in terms of being able to document everything you write that is not a thought that originated with you

• Write as you research
  • Take notes as you read
  • Write short summaries or reactions
  • Copy quotations
  • Document everything as you go
  • Don’t use Ibid. until the final draft!
What do I do next?

- Discuss your idea with the committee chair
- Develop project idea
- Work with committee chair to select other committee members
  (Note: All committee members must hold Graduate Faculty status at Missouri State University)
- Follow the established project timeline
- Obtain necessary research approvals
  - Human Subjects
  - Animal Care/Use
  - Biohazard
  - HIPAA

(See http://www.srp.missouristate.edu/)

http://graduate.missouristate.edu/thesis_information.htm
As you write . . .

Listen to your gut!
As you write . . .

Research Project

• Shoot for 35 pages and then edit down to 30 pages

Thesis

• Shoot for 100 pages and then edit down to 90-80 pages
Task #1

Title and Thesis Statement for the Research Project/Thesis
Research Project/Thesis Outline

Strategy

1. Set up the required template
2. Complete the template as far as you can at the outset
3. Scrupulously follow the template as you write
4. Include references as you go
Research Project Template

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Acceptance/Signature Page
4. Table of Contents
5. List of Tables (if any)
6. List of Figures (if any)
7. Body of the research project
8. Works Cited
9. Appendices (if any)
Task #2

- Outline the body of the thesis/research project
- Identify three key claims you must address in order to establish your thesis statement
- Identify at least one substantive objection to your thesis statement that you must counter in order to establish your thesis statement