

# 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

# DSS 798: CWMD Graduate Fellows Colloquium

|                                                                                                                             | <b>Register for DSS 798 (3 cr hrs)</b>                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fall</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>Spring</b>                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Thu 14 Aug 2014</b><br>1800-2000<br><i>New Student Orientation at MSU, Fairfax, Virginia</i><br>(UNCLASSIFIED)           | <b>Thu __, Fri __ Jan 2015</b><br><b>Winter Workshop</b><br>Theme rotates on a three-year schedule:<br>nuclear (2015), bio (2016), chem (2017)<br>16 hours<br>(SECRET) |
| <b>Fri 22 Aug 2014</b><br>1300-1600<br><i>Second-year Student Presentations:<br/>           Lessons Learned</i><br>(SECRET) | <b>Fri 23 Jan 2015</b><br>1300-1600<br><i>WMD and the Law</i><br>(SECRET or FOUO)                                                                                      |
| <b>Fri 12 Sep 2014</b><br>1300-1600<br><i>Defining WMD</i><br>(SECRET)                                                      | <b>Fri 20 Feb 2015</b><br>1300-1600<br><i>Consequence Management I</i><br>(FOUO)                                                                                       |
| <b>Fri 24 Oct 2014</b><br>0800-1700<br><i>WMD Modeling and Simulation</i><br>(SECRET)                                       | <b>Fri 20 Mar 2015</b><br>0800-1700<br><i>WMD and the Cinema</i><br>(UNCLASSIFIED)                                                                                     |
| <b>Fri 7 Nov 2014</b><br>1300-1600<br><i>Cooperative Threat Reduction</i><br>(FOUO)                                         | <b>Fri 24 Apr 2015</b><br>1300-1700<br><b>Second-year Student Symposium:<br/>           Research Presentations</b><br>(SECRET)                                         |

# 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

da DA da DA da DA  
da DA da DA da DA  
da DA da DA  
da DA da DA  
da DA da DA da DA

- 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*

**READ THE STUDENT GUIDE!**



# Thesis

[http://graduate.missouristate.edu/thesis\\_information.htm](http://graduate.missouristate.edu/thesis_information.htm)

**READ THE STUDENT GUIDE!**

# Thesis Completion Schedule

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

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.”
6. “The U.S. ‘pivot to Asia’ strategy effectively addresses U.S. near- to mid-term security challenges.”
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 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Democrats
    - Strengths
    - Problems
  - Republicans
    - Strengths
    - Problems
  - Independents
- Economic Policies of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local

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

# 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](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 it 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