**PAI 705**

**Spring 2017**

**Final Project (25 points):**

Formulate a research project. You have the option of choosing your topic and developing a fully detailed research proposal. Word document / pdf. 15-20 pages, double spaced, 12-point font, standard referencing format. Footnotes or endnotes your choice. All sources and quotations should be explicitly noted.

Places you could look to gather information that may help make the case for your proposed research:

* Freedom House <https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world>
* Polity IV <http://www.systemicpeace.org/polityproject.html>
* TI-CPI <http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/>
* Bertelsmann Transformation Index <http://www.bti-project.org/index/>
* Doing Business Index <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>
* HDI <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>
* PISA <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/>
* Fragile States Index <http://ffp.statesindex.org/>
* Worldwide Governance Indicators:
  + - <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home>
    - <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports>
* MCC <https://www.mcc.gov/who-we-fund/indicators>
  + MCC scorecards
    - * <https://assets.mcc.gov/documents/score-fy16-english-bd-bangladesh.pdf>
      * <https://assets.mcc.gov/documents/score-fy16-english-bj-benin.pdf>
* Center for Global Development Commitment to Development Index. <http://www.cgdev.org/cdi-2015>
* World Bank microdata source: <http://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/home>
* OECD <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx>
* FAO <http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>
* World Development Indicators: <http://data.worldbank.org/datacatalog/worlddevelopmentindicators>
* Millennium Development Goals <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx>

This is by no means a list of the only places to look or even an indicator that you should look in these places. It may or may not be helpful for what you have in mind which is up to you.

Look at some kind of policy relevant social science issue, ideally one that has a clear application to international relations. In this proposal you are making the case that information needs to be gathered to address this issue and you are making the case that you should gather it using the methods you outline.

Abstract – summarize the proposed research in around 100 words.

Introduction – motivate the research project and contextualize it. Why does this research need to be done? Why does it need to be done by you?

Review of the Literature – what has been done already related to this topic, what data exists already, and why do we need to go out and gather the data you are proposing?

Logical Framework - Explain how your proposed research agenda can be put into some kind of logical framework. We have looked at two different kinds of frameworks for this kind of approach. Use which works better for what you have in mind or other format of a Theory of Change:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DfID general | Specific BRACED M&E |
| Input  Process  Output  Outcome  Impact | Desired Impact  Indicators  Baseline situation  Expected end point  Information needed  Method of getting this information  Who is getting this information  What is the timing of getting the information |

Research Challenges - Discuss research ethics, politics, pragmatic concerns

Methods - Proposed analytical methodology of the data you are proposing to collect with your research, noting methods and standards of evidence

Timeline and responsibilities - Who will do what and when will it be done to get the research project through to completion?

Discussion and conclusion - What will we know at the end of this process that we need to know and how will people be impacted by what we have proposed to do?

Budget - If you want to make it even more realistic, you could develop an indicative budget (though this is optional)

We will discuss these in class near the end of the semester.