

Finishing your Thesis

Working backwards

- OGS sign off (usually) the first week of December and the first week of May
- Back up a month for full working draft
- Give yourself 3-4 weeks for writing the analysis and recommendations
- Allot time for data collection (as necessary)
- Figure in some back and forth with readers
- Get your reading done thoroughly before you start writing
- Start PPA 500 with first 2 chapters done

Topic/question development

- What are you interested in? What puzzles you?
- Can you do a project for work (the plusses and pitfalls of this)
- Questions drive the method, not vice versa
- Multiple purposes of a thesis (finish, get a job, get a promotion)

The literature review

- Tells the reader what we already know
- Informs your selection of a method
- Often helps shape the framework you will use
- What if “there isn’t anything” about your topic?
- Academic and practitioner literature

Human subjects

Identifying readers

- Subject matter expertise
- Methodological expertise
- You want to work with them

Resources

- Thesis bank (with guidance), Galvan book, PPA 500 syllabus (sample chapters, OGS website)

How to spend your summer (reading, keeping a bibliography, and taking good notes)

What if you don’t finish? (ABT, bottom of the to-do list, pay more fees)