

**BSSn4495:
Qualitative Research in Security Studies**

**Research Proposal Assignment:
Stage I**

This paper should be about **two double-spaced** pages in length (in 12-point Times New Roman with standard margins).

1) Describe the theory you are going to work with. The theory must be **causal**. Include:

- Author(s)
- The theory: What is the theory about? What does it explain?
- Focus on a particular hypothesis that the theory offers. In this hypothesis, what is the dependent variable (DV)? What is the independent variable (IV)? If there is an intervening variable (IVV), what is it?
 - Explain how the variables are theorized to relate to one another: e.g., does an increase in the IV generate an increase/decrease in the DV? An increase in the likelihood of the DV? Is the presence of some condition necessary for the DV to take on a specific value? Whatever the logical form of the relationship, state it clearly.
 - Describe the causal mechanism through which you expect the independent variable to affect the dependent variable. Take the reader step-by-step through the causal process through which X is theorized to affect Y.
- What are the assumptions that the theory relies on?

Also include a brief statement on past research related to this theory.

Properly reference the paper. Chicago style is preferred, but ultimately, the style doesn't matter as long as the referencing is consistent. The references don't count towards the page count.

Do not worry about sticking exactly to what the original study you are drawing on says. It is perfectly fine to add to or elaborate the causal logic that that study presents. In fact, you should do this if the causal logic in the study is not completely clear. You want to make sure that the causal logic in your paper is complete and clear.

You may use an arrow diagram if it is helpful in clarifying relationships or mechanisms, but you are not required to do so.