The primary aim of this course is to assist SAIS doctoral students (DIA and Ph.D.) in drafting a dissertation prospectus sufficiently developed to begin active research on the proposed topic. Students will focus on the core of any successful dissertation plan: its research design, comprised principally of the logic linking social scientific theory to concrete empirical research. Students will complete a series of successively more detailed drafts of their proposals, and they will critically evaluate and offer constructive advice on their peers' work.