The research question that I wish to answer is: What are the implications of the FARC maintaining or abandoning their Marxist-Leninist beliefs on the current peace process?

In order to study the ideology of the FARC, I will focus on three periods in FARC history using primary source documents. These three periods will be the creation of the FARC analyzed through a document written by the original leader of the FARC, Manuel Marulanda. The second period will be the late 2000’s when Marulanda died and the next leader came to power, Alfonso Cano. For this period, I will analyze video of speeches that Cano gave to members of the FARC to determine the difference in ideology from Marulanda. Lastly, I will look at the current peace process through documents released by the peace delegation to determine, again, if there is an ideological change between time periods. These documents will all be analyzed next to main texts by Marx and Lenin, primarily State and Revolution by Lenin.

To complete this, I will work with both Dr. Weeks in the Political Science Department and Dr. Hull in the Philosophy to ensure proper comprehension of the various texts. I will begin with the text from Marulanda to establish a clear understanding of where the FARC’s ideology began and compare the other periods of time to this standard. This qualitative approach will help me to view the documents in a comparative manner and capture the meaning behind the texts as well as the face value of the texts.