

PSCI 2701A
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Owen Temby
Office: C660 Loeb Building
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext 1424 (no voicemail)
Email: WebCT

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to empirical social science research. The objectives of this course are twofold. First, provide students with the tools necessary to create a research proposal and conduct empirical research. Second, familiarize students with a range of methodologies used in the study of political phenomena. By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Explain the fundamentals of comparative and descriptive research
- Engage with debates about the benefits and drawbacks of the different approaches
- Explain what a case study is and what we can use it for
- Create a research proposal that outlines a hypothetical research project

COURSE FORMAT

The course will have two class sessions per week. See attached schedule for dates and topics. Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions and, potentially, presentations.

Course email policy: All email correspondence regarding the course is to occur through WebCT email and not through any other means. Students are strongly discouraged from emailing the instructor at his Carleton connect account or Gmail account.

COURSE TEXTS

The following required textbook is available at Haven Books, located at the corner of Sunnyside Ave. and Seneca St.

- Carol A. Bailey (2007). *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research*. Second Edition. Pine Forge Press.

We will also read several journal articles and book chapters. Most of these will be posted in .pdf form on the course WebCt page. Students are expected to print these and bring them to class for discussion. A couple of readings (indicated below) will not be on WebCt, but rather are available on reserve in the library.

EVALUATION.

Assessments and evaluation of student learning will be done using written assignments and two exams that require students to apply the concepts and statistical techniques taught in the course. The following table provides a breakdown of the weighting and due dates of assignments and the exam:

Item:	Due Dates:	Marks:
Attendance		10%
Reading Assignments	see below	40%
Plagiarism Exercise	May 25	5%
Final Essay	June 17	45%
Total:		100%

All assignments must be handed in for students to receive credit for the course.

- Weekly reading assignments must discuss all of the assigned readings from the previous week, and should be about three pages in length.
- The final essay is a research proposal which should utilize one of the research methodologies discussed in class. It should be ten to twelve pages in length. A longer description of what is expected for the essay will be distributed through WebCt.
- Attendance will be taken five times during the semester, with each time counting as 2% of the final course grade.
- The plagiarism assignment given a participation grade only. Further instructions on the plagiarism assignment will be posted on WebCt. It can be found at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>.

Policy on Late Essay Assignments: Essay assignments are due in regularly scheduled classes. Assignments received after the end of class on the due date will be considered late. Assignments placed in the department's Drop Box on the due date will also be considered late. If you need to use the drop box, you must submit your assignment at least one day *before* the due date in order to avoid the late penalty. Late penalties shall be assessed on a daily basis, including weekends. Extensions will not be granted except on medical grounds, with appropriate documentation. Please note, computer problems or lost data are not valid grounds for extensions.

Policy on Late Weekly Reading Assignments: Weekly reading assignments are due in class. They are to be handed in to the instructor, and will not be accepted late or early. Email copies will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Policy on Grade Reviews and Appeals: Students are welcome to request a review of a grade on an assignment or exam. This request must be accompanied on a written explanation of why the original grade should be changed.

Policy on Extra Credit: The instructor will not offer extra credit work or adjust the weight given to any assignment for individuals or for the class as a whole.

Policy on Collaborative Work: Given the nature of assignments in this course (where all students work with the same data sets, and answer the same sets of questions), there may be ample opportunity to copy the work of fellow students. Discussing assignments with your colleagues is encouraged, but students are not permitted to submit the same work for evaluation. Therefore, those who copy and those who share their work will both be considered guilty of academic dishonesty. *Any written assignments deemed by the Instructor to be too similar will be given a grade of 0.* Therefore, to prevent the possibility of getting a zero, please:

- **DO NOT** collaborate with other students when writing your assignments;
- **DO NOT** share your written work with anyone else;
- **DO NOT** ask someone else to print your assignment;
- **DO NOT** ask someone else to hand in your assignment.

If you have any questions regarding collaboration or plagiarism in relation to assignments and exams please see the Instructor.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

If A Student Needs Assistance With...	Refer To...	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding academic rules and regulations • choosing or changing their major • finding a tutor • academic planning guided by an Academic Advisor • polishing study skills 	Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)	302 Tory Building 520-7850 www.carleton.ca/sasc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a learning disability 	Paul Menton Centre	500 University Centre 520-6608; www.carleton.ca/pmc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing writing skills 	Writing Tutorial Service	229 Paterson Hall 520-6632; www.carleton.ca/wts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assistance with math 	Math Tutorial	www.math.carleton.ca/student
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only) 	International Student Advisory	501 University Centre 520-6600; www.carleton.ca/isa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research assistance 	Staff at MacOdrum Library reference desk	520-2735 www.library.carleton.ca
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statistics/SPSS assistance (by appointment only) 	Data Centre, MacOdrum Library	Statistical Consultant 520-2600 x 2619

Lecture Topics and Schedule

The course is organized to enable flexibility in covering the course material. The proposed schedule is to serve as a tentative guide only. Some changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Week	Topics and Readings	Assignments Due
May 11	Introduction; citation software	none
May 13	Basics of qualitative research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey, chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 	none
May 18	Data collection: observations, interviews, notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey, chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9 	none
May 20	The ontology and epistemology of politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almond and Genco article: "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics" 	Reading Assignment #1
May 25	Case study analysis and conceptualization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerring article: "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" • Gerring article: "What Makes a Concept Good?" 	Plagiarism Exercise
May 27	Approaches to qualitative research I: Comparing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerring article: "An Experimental Template for Case Study Research" 	Reading Assignment #2
June 1	Approaches to qualitative research II: Describing (part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey, chapters 10 and 11 • Lin article, "Bridging Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches to Qualitative Methods" 	none
June 3	Approaches to qualitative research II: Describing (part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunther Kress: "Critical Discourse Analysis" • James Paul Gee: "An Example of Discourse Analysis" (on reserve in library) 	Reading Assignment #3
June 8	Approaches to qualitative research III: Feminism (part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harding chapter: "Is there a Feminist Method?" • Cook and Fonow article: "Knowledge and Women's Interests" 	none
June 10	Approaches to qualitative research III: Feminism (part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harding chapter: "What is Feminist Epistemology?" (on reserve in library) • Hammersley article: "On Feminist Methodology" 	Reading Assignment #4
June 15	Completing a Research Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey, chapter 12 	none
June 17	Conclusion	Final proposal

STUDENT CONDUCT, ACADEMIC REGULATIONS, AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by academic and conduct regulations of Carleton University. Undergraduate students should consult the *Academic Regulations* listed in the Undergraduate Calendar, in particular those dealing with Instructional Offenses and Offenses of Conduct (sections 14 and 15).

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **June 11, 2010 for early summer examinations**, and **July 31, 2010 for late / full summer examinations**.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfil all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.