Learning objectives
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

☑ Describe the major philosophical and theoretical approaches to political science research;
☑ Explain and apply the elements of logical argumentation;
☑ Identify and compare the components of empirical research design;
☑ Identify and apply the principles of research ethics, with reference to specific concerns for political science;
☑ Discuss various social scientific research methods for collecting and analyzing data;
☑ Find, read, and critically assess published research and on-line materials;
☑ Identify and apply the tenets of research design and methodology in a research paper.

Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argumentation: writing an op-ed (Oct 8)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining and measuring concepts (Nov 12)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textual analysis research paper (Dec 3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials (see schedule)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (exam period)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed instructions and rubrics for written work will be posted in CULearn. All written work must be submitted in CULearn. Grades will be posted and graded work will be returned to students in CULearn.

Late assignments
Late assignments will be penalized up to 5 days, including weekends (see individual assignment instructions for deductions). After 5 days, late assignments will be given a zero. E-mailed/hard-copy assignments are NOT accepted.

Required textbooks and readings

Texts are available at Haven Books and on reserve at MacOdrum. Other required readings are on electronic reserves, accessed via Ares.
Course Expectations

Guidelines for Written Work
Detailed instructions for each assignment will be posted in CULearn and discussed in class. Assignments must follow accepted bibliographic and citation formats. All written work must be original and done individually, and accord with the University’s Academic Integrity policies.

Attendance and Participation
Attendance for this course is required in both lectures and tutorials. “Showing up” is the attendance component and is a minimum expectation but I will not take attendance during lecture. What you do when you show up is participation: it is a measure of your engagement with course materials, your peers, and instructors/tutors. Tutorial grades are a combination of attendance and active, engaged, and respectful participation in discussion and activities. You should make sure you are familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct policies for students.

CULearn
I will regularly update CULearn with announcements, assignments, and information about the class. It is your responsibility to check the site each week before class. If you miss a class, please check the website for announcements, readings and other materials, such as power point slides from the lecture and worksheets from tutorials.

Email Communications
Your emails should:
- Use a clear subject line
- Have a salutation (e.g., Hello Professor Bhatia…) and signature (Regards, followed by your first name, last name, and student number)
- Concisely identify your issue and/or question

I will:
- Check my email regularly and do my best to respond with 24-hours, Monday to Friday
- Not review drafts by email but can meet with you during office hours to discuss your work
- Not accept assignments by email

Communication is key: If you miss an assignment, are ill, or experiencing an emergency that is affecting your performance in the course, please let me know as soon as possible. DO NOT wait until the end of the term to identify issues or concerns you have because I will not be able to address the situation at that late stage.
Course Schedule & Readings

The course is organized to enable flexibility in covering the course material while moving at a pace that is comfortable for both students and instructor. The proposed schedule is to serve as a tentative guide only. Some changes may be made.

Schedule in Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I: Introduction to the Fundamentals of Inquiry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sep 10 Introduction &amp; the Science of Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sep 17 Forms of Knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Sep 24 Thinking Critically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part II: Designing Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Oct 01 Ethics in Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Oct 08 Asking Questions, Finding Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Oct 15 Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Oct 22 Fall Break – No Class</td>
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<td>8. Oct 29 Concepts and Measurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part III: Research in Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Nov 05 Content Analysis Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Nov 12 Experimental Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Nov 19 Survey Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Dec 03 Observation and Field Research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For all statutory holidays, important university dates, and other university holidays, please refer to the Undergraduate calendar at http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/.

Part I: Introduction to the Fundamentals of Inquiry

Lecture 1 (Sep 10): Introduction and the Science of Politics
Introduction and course overview; the purpose of political science research.

Required Readings:
- Ménard, Chapter 1 (The Importance of Research in Political Argument), pp. 24-43

Lecture 2 (Sep 17): Forms of Knowledge: Laws, Explanations, and Interpretations
How we know what we know; ontology and epistemology in political science; interpretivism, scientific realism and positivism; quantitative and qualitative approaches; the role of objectivity and values in research.

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 2 (Forms of Knowledge), pp. 25-50
- HH, Chapter 3 (Objectivity and Values), pp. 54-75

Supplementary Readings:
Lecture 3 (Sep 24): Thinking Critically – Logic and Argumentation
The form and structure of logical arguments; key elements of strong arguments; writing a persuasive op-ed.

Tutorial #1: Writing an Op-Ed

Required Readings:
- Menard, Chapter 4 (Preparing the Argument), pp. 97-128

Supplementary Readings:

Part II: Designing Research

Lecture 4 (Oct 1): Ethics in Social Research
Ethical principles in conducting research; doing research with human subjects; ethical research with Indigenous communities.

Tutorial #2: Engaging with Indigenous Communities – Ethical Research Practice

Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:

Lecture 5 (Oct 8): Asking Questions, Finding Answers: Theory Building, Causation, and Explanation
Developing researchable questions; inductive and deductive theory development; causation, correlation, and explanation

Tutorial #3: Framing Hypotheses and Research Questions to Study Voter Turnout

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 4 (Asking Questions: How to Find and Formulate Research Questions), pp. 81-108
- HH, Chapter 5 (Finding Answers: Theories and How to Apply Them), pp. 111-142

Supplementary Readings:
Lecture 6 (Oct 15): Research Design
Methods of data collection; identifying and selecting cases; the principles of comparison; comparative designs.

TUTORIAL #4: COMPARING VOTER TURNOUT ACROSS NATIONS

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 6 (Research Design), pp. 146-164
- HH, Chapter 9 (Comparative Research), pp. 211-235

Supplementary Readings:

Lecture 7 (Oct 29): Concepts and Measurement
Conceptualizing and measuring the political world; finding and collecting data; selecting a research design

TUTORIAL #5: OPERATIONALIZING VARIABLES

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 7 (What is Data?), pp. 168-185

Supplementary Readings:

Part III: Research in Practice

Lecture 8 (Nov 5): Content Analysis
Analyzing documents and texts; content and discourse analysis techniques; analysis of qualitative data

TUTORIAL #6: CONTENT ANALYSIS: IDENTIFYING THEMES AND CODING

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 14 (Textual Analysis), pp. 335-356

Supplementary Readings:
Lecture 9 (Nov 12): Experimental Research
Classical experimental design; field and natural experiments in social science.

TUTORIAL #7: DESIGNING EXPERIMENTS IN ELECTORAL RESEARCH

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 8 (Experimental Research), pp. 191-207

Supplementary Readings:

Lecture 10 (Nov 19): Survey Research
Sampling and probability; designing survey instruments; question structure and format

TUTORIAL #8: SURVEYS AND QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 11 (Surveys), pp. 261-283

Supplementary Readings:

Lecture 11 (Nov 26): Interviews and Focus Groups
Interview formats and techniques; advantages and disadvantages of each; focus groups as a special form of interview

Required Readings:
- HH, Chapter 12 (Interviewing and Focus Groups), pp. 285-309

Supplementary Readings:
Lecture 12 (Dec 3): Observation and Field Research
Observational research; political ethnography; techniques; ethical issues

Required Readings:
• HH, Chapter 13 (Ethnography and Participant Observation), pp. 313-331

Supplementary Readings:

~ Please Note ~
Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
## Campus Resources for Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you need assistance with...</th>
<th>Refer to...</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>× A disability</td>
<td>Paul Menton Centre</td>
<td>501 University Centre Tel: 613-520-6608, TTY: 613-520-3937 Hours: 08:30 - 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Study skills</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support</td>
<td>4th Floor MacOdrum Library Phone: 613-520-3822 Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00-16:30 Tues, Thurs 10:00-19:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Finding a tutor</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support</td>
<td>302 Tory Building Tel: 613-520-7850 carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Peer-assisted subject coaching</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>4th Floor MacOdrum Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× On-line, in-person workshops</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – English Conversation Sessions</td>
<td>MacOdrum Library, 4th Floor Phone: 613-520-3822 Regular weekly sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Academic support and advice</td>
<td>Research Help Desk MacOdrum Library</td>
<td>MacOdrum Library, Main Floor Tel: 613-520-2735 Email: <a href="mailto:askthelibrary@carleton.ca">askthelibrary@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Study skills</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>MacOdrum Library, 1st Floor Tel: 613-520-2600 x2749 Email: <a href="mailto:GIS@carleton.ca">GIS@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Choosing, changing major</td>
<td>Maps, Data, and Government Information Centre, MacOdrum Library</td>
<td>Online Help Centre ITS Service Desk: 613-520-3700 Email: <a href="mailto:its.service.desk@carleton.ca">its.service.desk@carleton.ca</a> Drop-in: IT Help Desk – Discovery Centre, MacOdrum Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Academic planning</td>
<td>Information Technology Services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services 2600 CTTC Building Tel: 613-520-6674 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Hone writing skills</td>
<td>Research Help Desk MacOdrum Library</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Writing tutors – drop-in</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Academic writing workshops</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× English conversation skills</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Drop-in sessions to polish language skills</td>
<td>Centre for Student Academic Support – Writing Services</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Government information collection</td>
<td>Maps, Data, and Government Information Centre, MacOdrum Library</td>
<td>Online Help Centre ITS Service Desk: 613-520-3700 Email: <a href="mailto:its.service.desk@carleton.ca">its.service.desk@carleton.ca</a> Drop-in: IT Help Desk – Discovery Centre, MacOdrum Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Data sources</td>
<td>Information Technology Services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services 2600 CTTC Building Tel: 613-520-6674 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Coping with stress or crisis</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services 2600 CTTC Building Tel: 613-520-6674 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Health care services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services 2600 CTTC Building Tel: 613-520-6674 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Health promotion, wellness</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services</td>
<td>Health and Counseling Services 2600 CTTC Building Tel: 613-520-6674 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Sexual violence, assault, or harassment</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>× Discrimination or harassment</td>
<td>Equity Services</td>
<td>Carleton Sexual Assault Support Centre Bailey Reid - Coordinator 503 Robertson Hall Tel: (613) 520-2600 x 8454 Email: <a href="mailto:bailey.reid@carleton.ca">bailey.reid@carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Academic Accommodations & Regulations

### Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)
Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.
Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-pt scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>53-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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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.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/) and our website [https://carletonpss.com/](https://carletonpss.com/), or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.

*Updated August 7, 2019*