I. Course Description
This course engages with qualitative approaches to research in political science. The course introduces students to concepts, methods, and processes of qualitative research. The course contains both theoretical and empirical issues of qualitative research including the philosophy of social science, the nature and structure of argument, theory-building, research design, case selection, and different types of data collection and analysis. At the end of the course, students are expected to express a general understanding of qualitative research methods in political science and be able to use those methods in writing papers.

II. Course Textbooks

*The required readings are available for purchase at the Carleton University Book Store. The required readings will be also available in Library Reserve & Ares.*

III. Course Evaluation
Course evaluation include three assignments and the final exam grades and will be calculated on the following basis:

A. Assignment 1, Analyzing Argument (10%)
Due October 8.
The purpose of this assignment is to test students’ ability in analyzing an argument, selected from a list of news articles. A detailed instruction and a list of articles will be posted on CULearn in due course. This assignment should not exceed 3-4 pages (double-spaced in 12-point font).
B. Assignment 2, Measurement (15%)
Due October 29.
This assignment tests students’ ability in operationalizing a political science concept. Students will select a political science concept, conduct a review of three relevant scholarly sources, and explain how the concept is defined and operationalized in each source. A list of concepts and a detailed instruction will be posted on CULearn one week prior to the due date. This assignment should not exceed 5-6 pages (double-spaced in 12-point font).

C. Assignment 3, Research Paper (20%)
Due December 3.
This assignment is an opportunity for students to write a research paper using the methods and technics learned from the course. This assignment should not exceed 8-10 pages (double-spaced in 12-point font). A detailed instruction will be posted on CULearn in due course.

D. Tutorial Attendance & Participation (15%)
All tutorials.
Tutorial participation is a critical component of this course. Tutorials are structured in a “seminar” format and, therefore, it is expected that every student comes prepared to engage in class discussion. Participation should be constructive, critical, and respectful. Both the quality and quantity of your participation will be taken into account.

D. Final Exam (40%)
The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period.

E. Submission Policy
Assignments are due as hardcopy in tutorials to TAs. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Late submissions will be penalized on a daily basis (i.e. 5% of the overall grade for the assignment per day) for a maximum of 7 days. Assignments that are submitted after the 7 day will receive a zero. Extensions will be granted on medical basis.

IV. Course Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Scientific Approach in Political Science</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Argument, Causation &amp; Theory Development</td>
<td>Is political science a science?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Research Question &amp; Hypothesis</td>
<td>Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Concept &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>Answering RQs</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Ethics in Political Science Research</td>
<td>Operationalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Fall Break. No class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Case Study &amp; Comparative Research</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Textual Analysis</td>
<td>Comparative Research</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Interview &amp; Focus Group</td>
<td>Content Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>Interview</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>Observation, Field Research</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Writing the Final Report &amp; Pre-exam Review</td>
<td>Observation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**V. Course Schedule**

**Lecture 1 (Sept. 10): Course Introduction**
Instructor reviews the syllabus, discuss the course content, requirements, and organization.

**Lecture 2 (Sept. 17): Scientific Approach to Political Science**
*Required Reading:*
Berdahl and Archer, Chapters 1 & 2.

**Lecture 3 (Sept. 24): Argument, Causation & Theory Development**
*Required Reading:*
Marc Menard, Chapters 4
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 3

*Optional:*

**Lecture 4 (Oct. 1): Research Question and Hypothesis**
*Required Reading:*

**Lecture 5 (Oct. 8): Concept and Measurement**
*Required Reading:*
Berdahl and Archer, Chapters 4-5.

**Lecture 6 (Oct. 15): Ethics in Political Science Research**
*Required Reading:*
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 6.

*Optional:*
Oct. 22: Fall Break, no class.

Lecture 7 (Oct. 29): Case Study & Comparative Research
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapters 7, 8.

Optional:

Lecture 8 (Nov. 5): Textual Analysis
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapters 12, 13.

Lecture 9 (Nov. 12): Interview and Focus Group
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapters 9.

Lecture 10 (Nov. 19): Survey Research
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 10.

Optional:

Lecture 11 (Nov. 26): Observation & Field Research
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 9 (pp. 181-186)
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 11

Lecture 12 (Dec. 3): Writing the Final Report & Pre-Exam Review
Required Reading:
Berdahl and Archer, Chapter 18
Marc Menard, Chapter 3
**Academic Accommodations**
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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

**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-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</table>

**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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencedsociety/ 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.