

**PSCI 2701B**  
**INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Monday and Wednesday, 13:35 p.m. – 14:25 p.m.

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Owen Temby  
Office: C660 Loeb Building  
Office Hours: Monday, 15:30 pm to 17:30 pm.  
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext 1424 (no voicemail)  
Email: WebCT

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### **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 and one 50-minute tutorial session. See attached schedule for dates and topics. Class sessions will consist of lectures while tutorials will take the form of discussions, presentations, and final paper assistance.

**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 (if not all) 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.

## 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:
Participation		10%
Proposal Ideas Paper	September 29	10%
Reading Assignments	see below	30%
Plagiarism Exercise	October 13	5%
Final Essay	December 6	45%
Total:		100%

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

- Reading assignments should be about three pages (or 900-1000 words) in length and must be handed in during class **on the Wednesday of the week they are due**. A description of each assignment will be posted to WebCt.
- The proposal ideas paper will be an initial discussion on what you will write your final paper (a research proposal) about. It should be approximately three pages (900-1000 words) 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 is 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:** All written 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 Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are due in class. They are to be handed in to the instructor, and will not be accepted late or early without prior arrangements. 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 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 the assignments please see the Instructor.

### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

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

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
Sept 13, 15	Basics of qualitative field research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bailey, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Sept 20, 22	Data collection: observations, interviews, notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bailey, chapters 6, 7, 8, 9</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Sept 27, 29	Storytelling and evaluation criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bailey, chapters 10, 11, 12</li> </ul>	<b>Proposal Ideas Paper</b>
Oct 4, 6	Validity and case study analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerring article: "An Experimental Template for Case Study Research"</li> <li>• Gerring article: "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?"</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Oct 11, 13	<i>No class on Oct 11 – Happy Thanksgiving!</i> Guest lecture about research project	<b>Plagiarism Exercise</b>
Oct 18, 20	Conceptualization and operationalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerring article: "What Makes a Concept Good?"</li> </ul>	<b>Reading Assignment #1</b>
Oct 25, 27	Debating positivist and interpretivist approaches I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almond and Genco article: "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics"</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Nov 1, 3	Debating positivist and interpretivist approaches II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lin article: "Bridging Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches to Qualitative Methods"</li> </ul>	<b>Reading Assignment #2</b>
Nov 8, 10	Feminist Methodology I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harding chapter: "Is there a Feminist Method?"</li> <li>• Cook and Fonow article: "Knowledge and Women's Interests"</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Nov 15, 17	Feminist Methodology II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harding chapter: "What is Feminist Epistemology?"</li> <li>• Hammersley article: "On Feminist Methodology"</li> </ul>	<b>Reading Assignment #3</b>
Nov 22, 24	Proposal writing I: lit review and citation software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taylor and Proctor's guide on writing a lit review</li> </ul>	<b>none</b>
Nov 29, Dec 1	Proposal writing II: methods section	<b>none</b>
Dec 6	Conclusion	<b>Final Proposal Paper</b>

## **STUDENT CONDUCT, ACADEMIC REGULATIONS, AND ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS**

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 **November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 for April 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](http://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:** 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](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://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.