

POLI 7961: APPROACHES TO THE STUD

application, that will form the basis for a research design paper (33% of final grade);

research projects in political science. We usually begin with a puzzle that motivates a research question; review existing literature on and approaches to the question or subject;

course from that statement). Your question should be framed in a way that is broad enough to be of interest not only to specialists in a sub-sub-field, but also narrow enough to be tractable in the space of a research paper, article or dissertation. Admittedly, it's difficult to necessarily know which questions need asking without knowing what's been done on a given topic, so while this is a short writing assignment, it will require some background reading and research. Feel free to ask faculty in your area of interest for suggestions about what to read and/or what questions have yet to be addressed satisfactorily.

Read some of the political science literature related to your chosen question, and decide how to situate your question/interests in this literature. What have others already argued? What have they found? How can their theoretical approaches be improved upon or synthesized? Note that the literature is not simply an annotated bibliography, or a "he said, she said" that summarizes a bunch of things you've read. Rather, a good literature review identifies what the state of knowledge is, discusses where the shortcomings/openings are, and sets up your own theoretical thinking on the subject.

Theory and Hypotheses: A five-to-seven page theory discussion (**due October 27**) in which you advance an argument about your chosen puzzle (e.g. under what conditions does multinational production lead to improvements in workers' rights, and why?), and develop one or more causal claims which flow from this argument. This document should culminate in the statement of one or more testable hypotheses.

Data and Methods: A five-to-seven page data and methods discussion (**due November 10**) presenting the planned empirical tests of your hypotheses. In that section of the research design, you should discuss how (using what sorts of methods, what kind of data, for which countries/cases etc) you would test your hypotheses, and why your chosen method and evidence is appropriate.

(C) Final Research Design Paper

Once you have all of the pieces, you'll be able to combine them into your final course

Survival Strategies and Recommendations (generously shared by Josh Potter)

There are many ways to teach an introductory seminar in research design. Political science is an extremely diverse discipline with all manner of methodological outlooks and approaches. Practitioners of political science are steeped in different backgrounds and each approach comes with its fair share of biases and blinders. I have great respect for methodological pluralism and I hope to have discussions in this class that are inclusive of multiple approaches to research design.

You also have your own biases, whether you are aware of them at this point or not. To a

Course Outline:

Week 1 – August, 23rd

- Introduction and Discussion

Students are Strongly Encouraged to attend one of the following webinars put on by the NSF explaining the Graduate Research Fellowship application process:

Date	Time	Direct Link	Access Code
Monday, August 28, 2017	11:00 am EDT	http://tinyurl.com/yboy2rdv	743 986 952
Tuesday, August 29, 2017	2:00 pm EDT	http://tinyurl.com/ybg7pwd7	748 804 468
Thursday, August 31, 2017	1:00 pm EDT	http://tinyurl.com/ycouj77c	743 306 800

To Teleconference in:

Direct Call-in Number: [1-415-655-0002](tel:1-415-655-0002) (Use Access Code from table above to connect to your meeting)

To join the online meeting through the WebEx Website:

1. Click NSF WebEx link: <https://nsf.webex.com>.
2. Enter the WebEx Meeting ID (Access Code from the table above), then click "Join Meeting."
3. When requested, enter your name and email address and passcode; it is EPSCoR17!
4. Click "Join"

Week 2 – September 1st

- Politics and Science, Ontology and Epistemology

Readings

Silver, Skim all, read closely pp 6-61, 132-167, 196-212, 302-303, 328-372

Grix, Jonathan. "Introducing students to the generic terminology of social research." *Politics* 22.3 (2002): 175-186.

Almond, Gabriel A., and Stephen J. Genco. "Clouds, clocks, and the study of politics." *World politics* 29.4 (1977): 489-522.

Wedeen, Lisa. "Conceptualizing culture: Possibilities for political science." *American Political Science Review* 96.4 (2002): 713-728.

*Przeworski, Adam and Frank Salomon. "On the Art of Writing Proposals." Social Science Research Council.

Week 6 – September 29th

Week 8 – October 13th

POLITICAL science

Readings

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, (selected chapters) (provided)

Imre Lakatos. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes," in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds.), *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (provided).

Ioannidis, John PA. "Why most published research findings are false." *PLoS medicine* 2.8 (2005): e124.

Loken, Eric, and Andrew Gelman. "Measurement error and the replication crisis." *Science* 355.6325 (2017): 584-585.

Gelman, Andrew. "The failure of null hypothesis significance testing when studying incremental changes, and what to do about it." (2017). Unpublished manuscript

Gerber, Alan, and Neil Malhotra. "Do statistical reporting standards affect what is published? Publication bias in two leading political science journals." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3.3 (2008): 313-326.

* Mead, Lawrence M. "Scholasticism in p1 0 ET 0 0Gcl4(holasti)-2(c)4(ism)-4(in p1

Week 10 – November 3rd

Peace Science No Class

11/03	Final date for dropping courses, 4:30 p.m., deadline
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Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis (provided)

* Miller, Beth, Jon Pevehouse, Ron Rogowski, Dustin Tingley, and Rick Wilson. 2013. "How to be a Peer Reviewer: A Guide for Recent and Soon-To-Be PhDs." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 46(1): 120-123.

Week 13 – November 24th

- **Thanksgiving No Class**

Week 14 – December 1st

- Work, in Process

Readings

Gerring, Postscript

*Rich, Timothy. 2013. "Publishing as a Graduate Student: A Quick and (Hopefully) Painless Guide to Establishing Yourself as a Scholar." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 46(2): 376-379.

* Polsky, Andrew J. 2007. "Seeing Your Name in Print: Unpacking the Mysteries of the Review Process at Political Science Scholarly Journals." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 40(3): 539- 543.

*Garand, James C., Micheal W. Giles, André Blais, and Iain McLean. 2009. "Political Science Journals in Comparative Perspective: Evaluating Scholarly Journals in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 42(4): 695-717.

Final Papers due by midnight on December 1st.

Pro forma Material:

Grading Policy: The grading breakdown is as follows:

Highest	Lowest	Letter
99.99 %	93.00 %	A
92.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	83.00 %	B
82.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	73.00 %	C

Highest	Lowest	Letter
72.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	63.00 %	D
62.99 %	60.00 %	D-
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

- The letter grade A, including A+ and A-, denotes distinguished mastery of the course material.
- The letter grade B, including B+ and B-, denotes good mastery of the course material.
- The letter grade C, including C+ and C-, denotes acceptable mastery of the course material.
- The letter grade D, including D+ and D-, denotes minimally acceptable achievement.
- F denotes failure.

General Statement on Academic Integrity:

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior for both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method:

As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. The most frequently used citation method in political science is internal citation (e.g., Sullivan 2015). I would encourage you to follow this format and include footnotes where relevant; leaving full citations for a „Works Referenced“ page that follows the main text.¹

Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats.

Group work and unauthorized assistance:

¹ <http://www.lib.umd.edu/tl/guides/citing-chicago-ad>

All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. If a group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. You might have a project with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, e-mail the vt(rou 315.6n5k3(f) (08 5k3(f)pkre)7(port)] TJET