

Research Design and Scope and Methods in Political Science
Political Science 191H
Spring 2014

Tuesdays 3:00-5:50
Bunche 4357

Professor Lorrie Frasure-Yokley

Office: 3278 Bunche Hall

Phone: 310.825.7829

Email: lfrasure@polisci.ucla.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-2:30 PM (sign up via doodle poll link-emailed to you)

Course Description

This course serves as one of the requirements for eligibility to participate in the Political Science Honors Thesis Program. Spring quarter focuses on designing an appropriate research strategy/design that will help you to answer your research question(s). Students are expected to spend most of their time on their own preliminary research. To structure this preliminary research, a series of short assignments will be required. In addition to active, professional and collegial participation in discussion, students will be asked to complete all assignments on time. Late assignments will be docked 20% per day. Obviously incomplete assignments will be treated as late until they are complete.

The reading assignments help to facilitate your individual writing process and group discussion. Students are expected to do the reading before seminar and be prepared to discuss the reading during seminar.

To enrich the learning process we will collaborate with on-going Departmental Speaker Series as well as guest speakers from various sub-fields in the Department of Political Science.

Please think carefully about whether you really want engage in the *research process*. If you lack the time or the motivation to work harder than you ever have before on a research project, I recommend not starting the process towards admittance to the Honors Thesis Program.

Books to Purchase (yes, you need the current edition)

- Baglione, Lisa A. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. 2nd Edition. CQ Press.
- Donovan, Todd and Kenneth Hoover. 2014. *The Elements of Social Science Thinking*. 11th Edition. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Additional journal articles and book chapters will be available via the course webpage (CWP) or available for download via JSTOR electronic resources.

Select chapters from these books will be listed on course web page (CWP) as needed:

- Brady, Henry E. and David Collier. (eds) 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry. Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Rowman and Littlefield, Inc. 2nd Edition
- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- George, Alexander L. and William Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Belfer Center Studies in International Security). MIT Press.
- Hoover, Kenneth and Donovan, Todd. 2007. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking*. Wadsworth Publishing.
- Leopold, David and Marc Stears 2010. *Political Theory: Methods and Approaches*. Oxford Press.

Course Requirements:

Assignments (20%)

- Students will submit their assignments via TURNITIN
- Student are expected to use a citation management software, ENDNOTE or ZOTERO (a free version is available online)
- Students are expected to visit the UCLA Undergraduate Writing Center to strengthen their writing

5-7 Minute Research Paper Presentation: (10%)

Students will present a 5-7 minute Power Point Presentation of their research design. PowerPoint presentations must be submitted via TURNITIN by noon of presentation day.

Final Paper (10-12 pages): (50%) (TURNITIN)

Page length does not include title page, graphs, tables, charts, endnotes or bibliography.

Active seminar participation and Peer Review: (20%)

Given the seminar format, students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, read the required readings and actively participate in the discussions. In addition students are expected to provide peer comments on select writing assignments. ****Attendance at (2) Political Science Workshops or social science research related workshops**** <http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/workshops>

Guest Speaker Series Memos (Campus Speaker Series)

Answer the following in 1-2 pages, submit via TURNITIN:

- a. What is the puzzle or research problem?
- b. What are the core concepts and questions in the work?
- c. What theories serve as a basis for the authors work?
- d. What is the author's methodological approach?

- e. What is the author's central finding or contribution?
- f. Does the method allow the author to effectively answer the research question(s)? If so, how and if not, why not.
- g. What are some possible alternatives to the approach taken by the author?

***** (IMPORTANT) Submission Format for All Submitted Work *****

Please submit each assignment via TURNITIN in WORD format by 11:59 pm on the submission date. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point font, Times New Roman and one-inch margins. Submissions not having this format will be returned ungraded. It is your responsibility to ensure that your file is submitted in compatibility format that can be opened and viewed. No excuses.

Late assignments will be docked 20% per day. Obviously incomplete assignments will be treated as late until they are complete.

Grading Scale

| Grade | Score |
|-------|--------|
| A+ | 98-100 |
| A | 92-97 |
| A- | 90-91 |
| B+ | 88-89 |
| B | 82-87 |
| B- | 80-81 |
| C+ | 78-79 |
| C | 72-77 |
| C- | 70-71 |
| D+ | 68-69 |
| D | 62-67 |
| D- | 60-61 |
| F | <60 |

Attendance Policy

Arrive on time and do not leave early without prior notice

Students are not allowed to enter after class starts

Attendance at each seminar is mandatory. Excused absences will be granted for medically documented emergencies or illnesses (this requires a doctor's letter) or a note from a UCLA administrator explaining your extenuating circumstances. Absences are unexcused for all other reasons. Everyone gets one free unexcused absence. After your free unexcused absence, every additional unexcused seminar that you miss will lower your final letter grade in this course by one full grade. Yes, one full letter grade.

To be clear, this attendance policy means that if you have missed one seminar section with no excused absence and you are earning a B+ in the class and then you miss another discussion section with no excused absence, your final grade in this course will be lowered to a C+.

Academic Honesty

All of the written work you do in this course is expected to be your own ideas and your own words. If you are unfamiliar with the University's policy on academic dishonesty and associated penalties, see <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu>. Lying to a faculty member or teaching assistant about anything relating to this course constitutes academic dishonesty and requires reporting to the Dean.

Learning Disabilities

Students with University documented learning disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. If you suspect you have a learning disability and have not been tested for one, contact the UCLA Office for Students with Disabilities (310) 825-1501.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE OF READINGS
(Subject to amendments based on direction of course)

WEEK ONE:

April 1

- Introduction, Topics and Overview

WEEK TWO:

April 8 **1st assignment due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Discussion

- Baglione, Preface, Chapter 1, 2
- Donovan and Hoover, Preface and Chapter 1

WEEK THREE:

April 15

Speaker Series Guest

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 3
- Donovan and Hoover, Chapter 2
- CWP: KKV, Chapter 1

WEEK FOUR:

April 22 **2nd assignment due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Speaker Series Guest

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 4
- Donovan and Hoover, Chapter 3

WEEK FIVE:

April 29

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 5
- Donovan and Hoover Chapter 4

WEEK SIX:

May 6 **3rd assignment due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Speaker Series Guest

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 6
- CWP Reading TBA—Speaker Series Materials

WEEK SEVEN:

May 13

Speaker Series Guest

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 7
- CWP Reading TBA—Speaker Series Materials

WEEK EIGHT:

May 20 **4th assignment due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Speaker Series Guest

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 8
- Donovan and Hoover Chapter 5
- CWP Reading TBA—Speaker Series Materials

WEEK NINE:

May 27

Discussion

- Baglione, Chapter 9

Presentations I

- Student 5-7 minute Power-Point Presentations and Lunch

WEEK TEN:

June 3

Presentations II

- Student 5-7 minute Power-Point Presentations and Lunch

(Friday, June 6) Applications Due for Departmental Honors Program—submit to the Political Science Undergraduate Counseling Office, 4269 Bunche Hall by 3:00 PM.

WEEK 11: FINALS WEEK

Tuesday, June 10: Final assignment due 10-12 pages– Submit via TURNITIN, by 11:59 PM