

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 350: RESEARCH METHODS AND DESIGN**  
**FALL 2012**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Office Hours: TuesWedThurs 10:00-11:00am

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

How do political scientists know what they think they know? This course is an introduction to the variety of tools used to conduct empirical research in political science. We begin by considering what it means to be “scientific” and the assumptions behind a scientific approach to political inquiry. Then we turn to issues of research design and measurement and explore various qualitative and quantitative methods employed in political science. We will learn about conducting interviews, case studies, experimental research, surveys, archival research content analysis and more. Finally, we will examine some statistical procedures for describing the subjects of political inquiry and for drawing inferences about them. Along the way, students will identify an empirically testable research question of interest to them within the discipline of political science, situate it within the academic literature, construct a theoretical argument and a testable hypothesis and develop a research design to test that hypothesis. This course satisfies both your Junior I.S. and research methods requirement for the political science major.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

This course is designed to prepare you for Senior I.S. As such, it is skill oriented. By the end of the semester, you will learn to:

- Create social science research Qs and construct testable hypotheses
- Identify concepts and approaches that pertain to a given research Q
- Define and identify IV and DVs
- Conduct a search and review of the academic literature pertaining to a given research Q
- Choose a research design appropriate to your own, well-formed research Q
- Identify key components of and critique various research method strategies
- Evaluate and choose appropriate measures of variables
- Design and critique instruments and sampling choices used in research
- Conduct and interpret basic statistical analyses

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- American Political Science Association. 2006. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.  
<http://www.ipsonet.org/data/files/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>

All other required readings can be found on Woodle or at the links provided below.

**HOW TO CONTACT ME:**

As noted above, I will be available for office hours 3 hours a week. Every week, a sign-up sheet will be posted outside of my office door, denoting 15-minute time slots. You are responsible for stopping by and signing up for an appointment on the sign-up sheet. To honor my time and that of your peers, any missed office hour appointment (without notification) will be counted as an absence and will be reflected in your professionalism score.

While I am available via email, please note it takes me, on average, 2 business days to reply to email. As such, if there is something that needs an immediate response, your best bet is to visit me during office hours or catch me at the end of class.

#### **GRADES:**

Students will be evaluated through their performance on quizzes and exams, written assignments as well as student professionalism. The breakdown for the grades is as follows:

Midterm Exam	20%	A	94 and above
Final Exam	25%	A-	90-93
Research Proposal	25%	B+	87-89
Quizzes/Homework/Assignments	20%	B	83-86
Student Professionalism	10%	B-	80-82
		C+	77-79
		C	73-76
		C-	70-72
		D	63-69
		F	62 and below

#### EXAMS:

There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. The format of the exams will be discussed further in class and a study guide will be distributed. All answers must be handwritten in blue or black ink and must be clearly legible. The midterm exam worth 20% of your overall class grade, will be held in class on **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**. The final exam worth 25% of your overall class grade, will be held on **May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Make-up exams will only be given with a College-approved excuse, and at the discretion of the instructor. Any absences from exams must be documented.**

#### RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

Each student will be responsible for a significant paper – the Research Proposal – due at the beginning of class on **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. This paper provides students with an opportunity to more closely explore one research question, review the relevant literature, develop a theoretical framework, derive hypotheses, and design a study that would test those hypotheses. Each student will choose his or her topic in consultation with the instructor. Possible topics will be discussed in class. This assignment is designed to test students' abilities to apply the writing, methods and design skills in a practical manner to a research question of their own. The goal is to develop and hone the skills necessary for Senior I.S. The final paper should be 15-20 double spaced pages and include the following sections: Introduction/Statement of the Problem, Review of Relevant Literature, Hypotheses/Expectations, Study Design/Methods, and Conclusion/Discussion. This project is worth 25% of your overall class grade.

#### QUIZZES/HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be several homework assignments given throughout the semester. Some will involve analysis of published research. Some will require students to collect or analyze data. Others will involve exercises culled from the texts or from outside sources. Students will also, from time to time, be given problem sets involving calculations and analysis of quantitative material. There will also be unannounced, in-class quizzes. These quizzes will cover material from the reading

assignments, class discussion and lecture and/or homework assignments. NOTE: A hard copy of the assignment is due at the beginning of class on the due date (I will not accept any assignment via email). Any missed assignment or unexcused absence is subject to automatic failure for the course (in other words, you cannot pass the class unless you do all of the work!). Late written assignments will be graded down one full letter grade for each day late. If you anticipate missing an exam or a paper deadline, consult with the instructor as soon as possible. The sum of these homework assignments and quizzes will total 20% of your overall class grade.

#### STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM:

This course requires active participation. To be successful, you must prepare in advance (i.e., complete ALL required readings and assignments), attend, and participate in **every** class. Attendance will be taken prior to the start of class. Tardiness/Leaving early will result in an absence.

Laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted in class without explicit permission from the professor. If you are granted permission to use a laptop in class, it must ONLY be used to take notes (this excludes reading course assignments, surfing Google, checking email/facebook). Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. The use of a cell phone or other electronic device during a quiz/exam will result in an automatic 0 for the assignment. Violations of the electronics policy will not be tolerated and may result in a 0 for the student's "Professionalism" score.

Grades for "Professionalism" will be allocated as follows:

- 0-2pts: You sleep in class, are disruptive, miss more than two classes and/or fail to meet the requirements stated under "Professionalism" listed above.
- 3-5pts: You come to class but are inattentive and/or miss more than two classes.
- 6-7pts: You have consistent attendance, are consistently prepared and consistently attentive.
- 8-9pts: You satisfy all of the requirements in the previous category *and* you consistently volunteer substantive questions and substantive comments that reflect time spent reading and thinking about the course materials.
- 10pts: You satisfy all of the requirements in the previous category *and* you consistently share observations, introduce new insights or thoughts that raise the discussion to a superior level of inquiry.

#### **MISC. CLASSROOM POLICIES:**



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner.

INCOMPLETES: Incomplete grades (I) will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances and only when a small portion of the coursework remains unavoidably unfinished. If an incomplete is necessary, all coursework requirements must be fulfilled before the end of the first week of classes of the following semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY: Students are encouraged to study together and assist one another in learning the material. However, it is expected that you have done your own work and that you have conducted yourself according to the expectations laid out in the Wooster Ethic and Code of Academic Integrity <http://www.wooster.edu/Student-Life/Dean-of-Students/The-Scots-Key>. ***Cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated, and may result***

***in the student(s) failure in the course/assignment.*** Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying from any source without proper citation, crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, submitting an assignment produced for a course to a second course without the explicit authorization of all instructors involved, and lying in connection with your academic work. Whether intentional or not, violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

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## SCHEDULE

**JAN 14**                      **OVERVIEW OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS & SYLLABUS**

**JAN 16**                      **WHAT IS POLITICAL "SCIENCE"?**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 1-2.

**JAN 18**                      **EARLY PLANNING OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS: WHERE DO I START? (RESEARCH Q), WHAT'S MY SHORT-TERM GOAL? (PROPOSAL), SEMESTER GOAL? (JUNIOR I.S.), LONG-TERM GOAL? (SENIOR I.S.)**

Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2, 4, 5; Skim Chapters 14, 16, 19.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 3, p74-81.

**JAN 21**                      **THE IMPORTANCE OF THEORIES, ASSUMPTIONS AND CONCEPTS**

Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 7.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Review Chapter 2, p43-46; Chapter 4, p119-123.

**JAN 23**                      **WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW? WHY SHOULD I CONDUCT ONE? HOW DO I WRITE ONE?**

Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. "Doing a Literature Review" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39 (1): 127-132. <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10490965&issue=v39i0001>

Baglione, Lisa. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press Chapter 4. [Woodle]

Study and Learning Centre. 2011. "Writing the Literature Review." RMIT University. [http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2\\_AssessmentTasks/assess\\_pdf/Pg%20lit%20review.pdf](http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2_AssessmentTasks/assess_pdf/Pg%20lit%20review.pdf)

Palmer, Barbara and Dennis M. Simon. 2005. "When Women Run Against Women: The Hidden Influence of Female Incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1956-2002," *Politics & Gender*

1 (1): 39-63. <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=1743923x&issue=v01i0001> [only p39-47].

**JAN 25** **BECOMING A MORE EFFECTIVE RESEARCHER: FINDING AND REFERENCING SOURCES**

Baglione, Lisa. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press Chapter 3.

Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3

College of Wooster. 2010. "Codes of Community and Individual Responsibility" *The Scot's Key*. <http://www.wooster.edu/Student-Life/Dean-of-Students/The-Scots-Key> p60-64.

American Political Science Association. 2006. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.  
<http://www.ipsonet.org/data/files/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>

"Unethical Use of Source Material: (Un)Professional Examples" (2 Handouts)

**JAN 28-30** **VARIABLES, HYPOTHESES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 4, p102-119.

Baglione, Lisa. 2012. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press Chapter 5.

**FEB 1-4** **OPERATIONALIZATION: FROM CONCEPTUALIZATION TO MEASUREMENT**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 5.

Palmer, Barbara and Dennis M. Simon. 2005. "When Women Run Against Women: The Hidden Influence of Female Incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1956-2002," *Politics & Gender* 1 (1): 39-63. <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=1743923x&issue=v01i0001> [only p47-48].

**FEB 6** **RESEARCH DESIGN: THE LOGIC OF EXPERIMENTAL & QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS**

Guest lecture: Dr. Angela Bos. Class will meet in Kauke 035. Professor Leiby will be out of town.

**FEB 8** **RESEARCH DESIGN: THE LOGIC OF EXPERIMENTAL & QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS, CONT'D**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 5.

Druckman, James and Arthur Lupia. 2012. "Experimenting with Politics." *Science* 335 (6073): 1177-1179. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/335/6073/1177.full.html> [article + podcast].



Babbie, Earl. 1998. *Survey Research Methods*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Wadsworth Publishing: Belmont, CA. Chapter 7, p127-145.

Seife, Charles. 2010. *Proofiness: The Dark Arts of Mathematical Deception*. New York, NY: Viking. Chapter 4, p.91-98, 111-123.

**FEB 27**                      **INTERVIEWING**

Guest lecture: Dr. Boubacar N'Diaye.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 10, p.341-347.

Hancock, Dawson R. and Bob Algozzine. 2006. *Doing Case Study Research*. New York: Teachers College Press. p39-45.

Leech, Beth L. 2002. "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 665-668.

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10490965&issue=v35i0004>

Goldstein, Kenneth. 2002. "Getting in the Door: Sampling and Completing Elite Interviews" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 669-672.

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10490965&issue=v35i0004>

Woliver, Laura A. 2002. "Ethical Dilemmas in Personal Interviewing" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 677-678. <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10490965&issue=v35i0004>

Berry, Jeffrey M. 2002. "Validity and Reliability Issues in Elite Interviewing" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35 (4): 679-682. <http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10490965&issue=v35i0004>

**MAR 1**                              **INTERVIEWING, CONT'D**

Guest lecture: Dr. Matthew Krain.

**MAR 4**                              **RESEARCH ETHICS REGARDING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

Human Subjects Research Committee. 2012. "Policy on Protection of Human Subjects" [<http://www.wooster.edu/~media/files/academics/areas/psychology/is/hsr-policy.ashx>]  
AND "The College of Wooster Human Subjects Research Exempt Application"  
<http://www.wooster.edu/~media/files/academics/areas/psychology/is/hsrc-application.ashx>.

**MAR 6**                              **CASE STUDY TECHNIQUES – MAKING THE MOST OF A SINGLE CASE**

Guest lecture: Dr. Eric Moskowitz.

Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 6.

Hancock, Dawson R. and Bob Algozzine. 2006. *Doing Case Study Research*. New York: Teachers College Press. p61-64.

Moskowitz, Eric S. 1987. "Pluralism, Elitism, and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act" *Political Science Quarterly* 102 (1): 93-112. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/i337612>

**MAR 8-25**                      **CASE STUDY TECHNIQUES – COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES**

Kaarbo, Juliet and Ryan K. Beasley. 1999. "A Practical Guide to the Comparative Case Study Method in Political Psychology." *Political Psychology*, 20 (2): 369-391.

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=0162895x&issue=v20i0002>

Sandholtz, Wayne. 2008. "Dynamics of International Norm Change: Rules Against Wartime Plunder" *European Journal of International Relations* 14 (1): 101-131.

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=13540661&issue=v14i0001>

Guest lecture: Dr. Jeffrey Lantis (Mar 25).

**MAR 27**                      **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 9, p278-292, 299-303.

**MAR 29**                      **CONTENT ANALYSIS**

Guest lecture: Dr. Kent Kille

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 9, p292-299.

Insch, Gary S., Jo Ellen Moore and Lisa Murphy. 1997. "Content Analysis In Leadership Research: Examples, Procedures, and Suggestions for Future Use" *Leadership Quarterly* 8 (1): 1-25.

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/issue.cgi?issn=10489843&issue=v08i0001>

Segal, Jeffrey A. and Albert D. Cover. 1989. "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices" *American Political Science Review* 83 (2): 557-565.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/i333675> p557-561.

**APR 1**                      **QUALITATIVE RESEARCH LAB**

No assigned reading.

**APR 3**                      **INTRODUCTORY DATA ANALYSIS**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 11.

Lipson, Charles. 2005. *How to Write a BA Thesis: A Practical Guide from your First Ideas to your Finished Paper*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 12.

**APR 5**                      **STATISTICAL INFERENCE AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 12, 7, p240-253.



**APR 8**

**STATISTICAL INFERENCE AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING, CONT'D**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 12, 7, p240-253.

**APR 10-12      RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TWO VARIABLES: CORRELATION AND CROSS-TABULATION**

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 12, 7, p240-253, Chapter 13, p228-263.

Segal, Jeffrey A. and Albert D. Cover. 1989. "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices" *American Political Science Review* 83 (2): 557-565. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/i333675>

Sanocki, Thomas. 2001. *Student Friendly Statistics*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Chapter 5

Seife, Charles. 2010. *Proofiness: The Dark Arts of Mathematical Deception*. New York, NY: Viking. Chapter 4, p98-103, Appendix A

Silver, Nate. 2010. "The Uncanny Accuracy of Polling Averages, Part I: Why You Can't Trust Your Gut" *FiveThirtyEight – New York Times.com*. September 29, 2010. <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/29/the-uncanny-accuracy-of-polling-averages-part-i-why-you-cant-trust-your-gut/>

Paulos, John Allen. 1995. "New Survey Reveals Changing Attitudes" (pp. 178-180) in *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper*. New York: Anchor Books.

**APR 12**

**STANDARD SCORES**

Sanocki, Thomas. 2001. *Student Friendly Statistics*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Chapter 4.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 11, p374-376.

**APR 15**

**CORRELATION**

**\*\*\*RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE\*\*\***

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 13, p503-506.

Segal, Jeffrey A. and Albert D. Cover. 1989. "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices" *American Political Science Review* 83 (2): 557-565. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/i333675> p561-563.

Sides, John. 2011. "The Politics of the Top 1 Percent." *FiveThirtyEight – New York Times.com*. December 14, 2011. <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/14/the-politics-of-the-1-percent/>

**APR 17**

**CONTINGENCY TABLES AND MEASURES OF ASSOCIATION**

