

School of International Studies

The Science of Political Science

Spring 2014

Name of Instructor: Dr. Zaid Eyadat

Office Hours: Sunday 4-5

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Course Description:

This is an intermediate course on Political Methodology. The center goal of the course is to provide abroad overview of the scientific methods of Inquiry and Explanation in Political Science and International Studies. The Course is fundamentally about How to conduct a scientific research in Political science and related subjects. This process includes: How to formulate research questions, the techniques of collecting and analyzing data, subsequent hypothesis, how to design research plan, determine what method to use, and performing the specific analysis. In addition, Students will be introduced to the major philosophical debates in Social Sciences.

Required Reading:

Texts books:

- Booth, W, Colomb G, and Williams, J, (2003), **The Craft of Research**, second edition, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba, (1994), **Designing Social Inquiry Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research**, Princeton University Press.
- Janet Buttolph and Johnson Richard, (2001), **Political Science Research Methods**, Congressional Quarterly Inc.
- **21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook**, Sage Publication.

Articles:

- Arend Lijphart, **Comparative Politics and the Comparative Methods**, University of Leiden, 1971.

- Dina A. Zinnes, **Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher**, International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 24(September 1980), pp. 315-342.
- James Mahoney, **Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics**, Comparative Political Studies 2007.

Suggested Reading:

- Alexander George and Andrew Bennett, **Case Studies and theory Development in the Social Sciences**, MIT Press, 2005.
- Daniel Hopkins and Gary King. ``**A Method of Automated Nonparametric Content Analysis for Social Science**," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (January 2010).
- Imai, Kosuke; Gary King; and Olivia Lau. ``Toward A Common Framework for Statistical Analysis and Development," *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (2008).
- James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, **Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Research**, 2003.

Assessment Overview:

Description	Weight	Due Date
Attendance, homework, participation, and presentation	30 %	
Research paper	30%	
Final Exam	40%	

Assessment Tasks:

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. In this course you are permitted two unexcused absences (absences not caused by illness). If you have more than two unexcused absences your grade for the course will be lowered by one "mark" for each additional unexcused absence. For example, after three unexcused absences an A becomes an A- and so on.

Participation: Presentations and Discussions:

Questions, attendance, presentations and discussions are what will make this class work; your physical and mental presences in class, as well as consistent participation, are mandatory. Please make sure that you do the reading each and every time and that you come to class ready to express yourself, give effective presentations and discuss the readings.

Final Exams:

The final exam for this course will be a take home exam in which the student will prepare three short essays (Typed) in response to three of five questions posed by the instructor. Each response should be limited to 1000-1500 words in a standard essay that conforms to the MLA format using 12 point Times New Roman font with 2.5 cm margins.

Term Paper:

- Approval of the paper topic (0% of grade).
- Submission of an outline and bibliography (10%of the paper grade).
- Submission of a first draft (10%of the paper grade).
- Submission of a final paper (80% of the final paper grade).

Students are expected to complete a research paper on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be not less than 5000 words. All term papers should include a bibliography of not less than eight scholarly sources which the student can draw on for future research. Papers must conform to the MLA format using 12-point font. You are asked to develop a complete research paper which integrates one of the topics you have studied throughout the class

Guidelines for writing the term Paper

The paper is to address a topic related to the subject that was discussed during classes or to themes included in this syllabus or to a subject related to the course. All paper topics should be approved by the Instructor.

The paper should include a title page: all subsequent pages should be consecutively numbered.

All proposed topics are expected to be specific and narrowly focused.

Papers should be 10-15 pages, double -spaced (excluding title page, endnote page and bibliography) that conform to MLA format using 12-point font, you should summarize all related literature, focusing on the main arguments presented, and set out a framework for discussion.

The structure of a typical paper might look something like this:

Introduction of the subject matter

Statement of purpose

Research problem(s)

Research question(s)

Literature review

Discussion and conclusion

A theoretical framework should be developed in the paper within or after the literature review.

At least eight different scholarly sources Must be consulted and cited within the paper and in the endnotes. These may include books, articles, and newspapers if appropriate. Class lectures and text books may be used but WILL NOT count as one of the eight sources.

Books and Journal Articles will count individually. All newspapers will count as one (1) source. All magazine articles (Times, Newsweek, Economist, etc) will count as one (1) source. All internet recourses will count as one (1) source.

Late papers will be down-graded accordingly.

Course Schedule and outlines:

Week	Topic(s) to be covered	
1 Feb, 16	Introduction <u>The Science of Political Science</u>	<u>Readings:</u> - James K. L. Wong, <i>Evolution of Science in Political Science</i> , 21 st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook, Sage Publication.
2 Feb, 23	Overview of the Research Process	<u>Readings:</u> - Booth, W, Colomb G, and Williams, J, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , chapters: 1, and 2.
3 March, 2	Research Topics, Questions, Statement of Purpose, Research Problem, and the Significant of study	<u>Readings:</u> - Booth, W, Colomb G, and Williams, J, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , chapters 3, and 4. <u>Assignment:</u> Research Topic, Question(s), Statement of Purpose, Research Problem, and the Significant of study sections.
4 March, 9	Conducting Research Question(s) and Literature Review	<u>Readings:</u> - Dina A. Zinnes, <i>Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher</i> , <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , Vol. 24(September 1980), pp. 315-342. - Janet Buttolph and Johnson Richard, <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , pgs: 131- 145. <u>Assignment:</u> Sample Research Thesis (3-4 for references).
5 March, 16	Library Research and Resources	<u>Readings:</u> Booth, W, Colomb G, and Williams, J, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , Chapters 5, and 6. <u>Assignment:</u> Literature Review section (3-5 pages)
6 March, 23	Research Methods: a- Quantitative, Qualitative, and models debate	<u>Readings:</u> - James Mahoney, <i>Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics</i> , <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 2007. - Marijke Breuning, <i>Content Analysis</i> , <i>21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook</i> , Sage Publication.

		<u>Assignment:</u> Choosing the Research Methodology
7 March, 30	Research Methods: b- Case Studies and Comparative Methodology	<u>Readings:</u> - Arend Lijphart, <i>Comparative Politics and the Comparative Methods</i> , University of Leiden.
8 April, 6	Research Methods: C: Discourse Analysis	<u>Readings:</u> - Hans Gadamer, <i>Philosophical Hermeneutic</i> , translated into Arabic by Muhammad al-Zain, pgs: 13-59.
9 April, 13	Collecting and Analyzing Data: <i>Survey, Interviews, Direct and Indirect Observation, Documents, and Content Analysis</i>	<u>Readings:</u> - Janet Buttolph and Johnson Richard, <i>Political Science Research Methods</i> , pgs: 216-233. <u>Assignment:</u> The Research Methodology section
10 April, 20	Research Proposal Presentations Group (A)	<u>Assignment:</u> Draft Research Proposal: Introduction, Research Questions, Problem Statement, Literature Review, Methodology, and References. (8-16 pages). For group C
11 April, 27	Research Proposal Presentations Group (B)	<u>Assignment:</u> Draft Research Proposal: Introduction, Research Questions, Problem Statement, Literature Review, Methodology, and References. (8-16 pages). For group A
12 May, 4	Research Proposal Presentations Group (C)	<u>Assignment:</u> Draft Research Proposal: Introduction, Research Questions, Problem Statement, Literature Review, Methodology, and References. (8-16 pages). For group B
13 May, 11	Philosophy of Science: Foundations, Ontology, Epistemology	<u>Readings:</u> - Michael Crotty, <i>The Foundations of Social Research Meanings and Perspective in the research process</i> (the whole book). - David Austen, and Smith Banks, <i>Social Choice Theory, Game Theory and Positive Political Theory</i> , Annual Review of Political Science, 1998.
14	The Politics and Ethics of	<u>Readings:</u> Booth, W, Colomb G, and Williams, J,

May, 18	Social Sciences	<i>The Craft of Research</i> , pgs: 283-324. <u>Assignment:</u> Final Research Paper
15 May, 25	Holiday	