FOCUS

Sound research methodology is the foundation upon which political science research and social science research more generally, is built. This course is intended to provide you with the tools that will enable you to conduct quality qualitative or quantitative empirical social science research. Our focus will be on social and scientific scholarly inquiry consisting of the following research methods: experimental research, survey research, field research, and research utilizing available data.

TEXTS

Required:


Recommended:


There will also be additional readings handed out over the course of the semester.

**REQUIREMENTS**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Research Design</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Citizenship</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**CLASS POLICIES**

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class and tardiness will negatively affect your grade in this class. *(class citizenship portion of the course grade)*.

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty **will not be tolerated, and will be punished** to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. *(See Below)*

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-ups will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. In addition, **each calendar day late that an assignment is, will result in a reduction of a full letter grade**.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in the course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

**PLAGIARISM**

The following are some dictionary definitions of plagiarism:

- “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” *(Collins)*.

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1 Source: W. Decoo (2002). *Crisis on Campus: Confronting Academic Misconduct*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press; Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.)
• “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).

• “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:

• “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

• “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism:

• “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

• “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the Internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students:

• Citation Guidelines

- Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed

An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing

- Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:

  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.

  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
3 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
4 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS**

**August 23** – Overview of the Course

**Topic One:** Introduction, (Chapter 1, J & R)

**Topic Two:** The Empirical Approach to Political Science (Chapter 2, J & R)

**Topic Three:** Beginning the Research Process: Identifying a Topic, Developing Questions, and Reviewing the Literature (Chapter 3, J & R)

**Topic Four:** The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables (Chapter 4, J & R)

**Topic Five:** The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Measurement (Chapter 5, J & R)

**Topic Six:** Research Design: Making Causal Inferences (Chapter 6, J & R)

**Topic Seven:** Sampling (Chapter 7, J & R)

**Topic Eight:** Making Empirical Observations: Direct and Indirect Observation (Chapter 8, J & R)

**Topic Nine:** Document Analysis: Using the Written Record (Chapter 9, J & R)

**Topic Ten:** Survey Research and Interviewing (Chapter 10, J & R)

**Topic Eleven:** Making Sense of Data: First Steps (Chapter 11, J & R)

**Topic Twelve:** Statistical Inference (Chapter 12, J & R)

**Topic Thirteen:** Investigating Relationships between Two Variables (Chapter 13, J & R)

**Topic Fourteen:** Multivariate Analysis (Chapter 14, J & R)

**Topic Fifteen:** The Research Report: An Annotated Example (Chapter 15, J & R)

**Important Dates:**

- No Class, October 11, Fall Break
- Thursday, October 27, Midterm Examination
- No Class, Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day
- Last Day of Class, Thursday, December 1
- Research Design is due on December 1
- Thursday, December 13, Final Examination, 11:00AM-1:30PM