

RESEARCH METHODS
PADM 6440 Fall 2009 3 Credit Hours
W 4-6:30pm, ELC

Professor

Dr. Luke Perry
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Office Hours

MWF, 10:30-11:30am, TTH, 10:00-11:00am, GC 406M

Course Description

This course will cover research design using real-life examples and exercises. Students will become familiar with both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, including experimental and quasi-experimental design, surveys, and field research, evaluation research, and policy analysis.

Text

Political Science Research Methods, 6th Edition, Janet Buttolph Johnson, H. T. Reynolds, Jason D. Mycoff, 2007

Course Schedule

Week One: Introduction to Empirical Research (August 26)

Chapter One

Week Two: The Scientific Method (August 31)

Chapter Two, "The Thick and the Thin: On the Interpretive Theoretical Program of Clifford Geertz," Paul Shankman, *Current Anthropology*, 25.3, June 1984, 261-270.

Week Three: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables (September 2)

Chapter Three, "Policy and Politics: The Bush Administration and the 2008 Presidential Election," William Crotty, *Polity*, 41.3, July 2009, 282-311. "What Makes a Concept Good? A Criterial Framework for Understanding Concept Formation in Social Science." John Gerring, *Polity*. 31.3, Spring 1999, 357-393.

Week Four: Measurement (September 9)

Chapter Four, "The Conceptual Travels of Transitologists and Consolidologists: How Far to the East Should They Attempt to Go?" Phillippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, *Slavic Review*. 53.3, Spring 1994, 173-185. "Should Transitologists Be Grounded?" Valerie Bunce, *Slavic Review*. 54.1 (Spring 1995), 111-127.

Week Five: First Exam (September 16)

Week Six: Research Design (September 23)

Chapter Five, “What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?” John Gerring, *The American Political Science Review*, 98.2, May 2004), 341-354. Bring your completed paper proposal to class.

Week Seven: Conducting a Literature Review (September 30)

Chapter Six, Bring two Political Science articles to class, one that uses a small-N research design and one that uses a Cross-sectional research design.

Week Eight: Sampling (October 7)

Chapter Seven, Bring your completed literature review to class.

Week Nine: Second Exam (October 14)

Week Ten: Observation (October 21)

Chapter Eight

Week Eleven: Document Analysis (October 28)

Chapter Nine, Bring your completed working draft to class.

Week Twelve: Survey Research (November 3)

Chapter Ten

Week Thirteen: Third Exam (November 10)

Week Fourteen: Submit Final Papers (November 17)

Week Fifteen: No Class (November 23)

Week Sixteen: Final Exam (November 30)

Evaluation

A) Exams (60% total, 15% each)

You will have four exams. Three exams will be in class. The final exam will be completed on your own time and submitted via e-mail. The exams will cover material discussed in class and the readings. You are provided review sheets for each text chapter to help you prepare for exams.

B) Research Paper (30%)

You are assigned to complete a twenty page original research paper on a Political Science topic of your choice that incorporates detailed discussion of several methodological concepts and approaches that we have examined in the course. Your paper should state a clear hypothesis,

provide detailed definitions for key concepts, identify your measurement techniques, explain your research design, provide a detailed literature review, and identify your sampling and observation techniques.

This paper will be completed in stages throughout the course. In turn, certain portions of the paper will be completed by certain times posted in the course schedule (ex. proposal, literature review, working draft). You will be evaluated on the depth with which you comprehend and put into practice what we have learned about research methodology in Political Science.

The first step will be to construct a proposal and bring it to class on September 23rd. The proposal should include your name, the title of your proposed paper, your thesis statement, a plan for researching your thesis, a list of at least ten specific sources you will use in your paper (no websites), why you chose the topic, what your research hopes to accomplish, and a detailed outline that identifies the specific parts of the paper. The proposal must be approved by me prior to working on the final product. The final paper is due on November 17th.

The body of your final paper should be double spaced, with standard margins (1.25), Times New Roman font, page numbers, and a single staple in the top left-hand corner of the page. You are welcome to use the scholarly format of your choice. Scholarship in Political Science heavily relies on endnotes as dictated in *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Stylistic requirements can vary from journal to journal. The primary concern here is that you cite all outside information in a way that is clear and uniform throughout the paper.

C) Participation (10%)

This class only meets once a week. You are expected to come to each class session. The course will be an intimate seminar. Regular participation is necessary and expected. Excellent scores in this method of evaluation will be dependent on coming to class regularly and participating extensively in each class session.

Electronic Device Policy

The use of electronic devices during class is prohibited. This includes cell-phones and computers. Text messaging is inappropriate in class and will be considered as a sign of disrespect toward classmates and the professor. I appreciate that some students like to type their notes on their computer. Past experiences with students at SUU demonstrated that the temptation to do other things during class is too great to grant this privilege. Exceptions will be considered for those who need to type out of medical necessity. Please speak to me during office hours if this applies to you.

Disclaimer

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Student Disability Notice

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Academic Integrity Policy

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.