

POLS 3350-01 | Fall 2019
Political Science Research & Writing

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Humanities Division

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Class Hours

Monday:

Tuesday:

1:40 to 2:55pm-Weir 109

Wednesday:

Thursday:

1:40 to 2:55pm-Weir 109

Friday:

Office Hours

Monday:

11:30 to 1:10pm

Tuesday:

12:05 to 1:00pm

Wednesday

11:30 to 1:10pm

Thursday:

12:05 to 1:00pm

Friday:

By Appointment

I. Course Description

For most observers, the terms "political" and "science" should not be used in conjunction with each other. At first glance, the day-to-day happenings within the political sphere hardly appear to be scientific. For example, one might consider the contentiousness of political campaigns, the ongoing struggles over public policies (e.g., law enforcement, taxation, individual rights, and disaster recovery), and the constant conflict within international relations. To many, political events within these different spheres represent chaotic actions that hardly conform to the uniform relationships found in areas such as physics, chemistry, or biology.

Despite the prevalence of that perspective, the political context is not truly chaotic. It almost always is organized by balances of resources, individual preferences, and institutional rules. Yet, the study of these various factors cannot completely explain political outcomes. Political processes comprise the actions of human beings, which introduce substantial amounts of error into our analyses.

The discipline of Political Science focuses upon the separation of systematic relationships from random error relationships. The boundaries of this field are wide and porous, with considerable overlap existing with other disciplines such as Anthropology, Economics, Psychology and Sociology. Practitioners of Political Science develop best practices for their particular area of study while adopting strategies from other areas. As such, this course is designed to expose students to the structural aspects of Political Science and to instill the basic components of commonly accepted research design within the discipline.

It also is concerned with the most basic skill of analysis – *writing*. It is the most critical skill in this digital age, and as a graduate, you must be able to effectively communicate your ideas and analysis in a form that an audience can readily understand and trust.

Thus, we will be working on basic components of research design and emphasizing how to effectively write the content that is anticipated in political science research.

Our learning objectives are four-fold this semester:

- 1) Gain a knowledge of academic disciplines, research paradigms, and research literatures
- 2) Develop analytical skills that allow us to create research questions and falsifiable hypotheses.
- 3) Develop the research skills necessary to frame a current policy-debate and explicate the relevant literature
- 4) Learn how to cogently communicate this knowledge in written form

II. Required Text and Readings

A single textbook is not assigned for this course. Instead, the assigned material will cover a broad range of topics that are associated with separate readings from newspapers, journals, and academic books. These readings will be made available to students in Adobe PDF format through the Schreiner Canvas system, which provides a web-based resource for the course that will act as the current calendar of readings/lectures:

Schreiner Canvas System

<https://schreiner.instructure.com/>

Please make note of the help button on the lower left hand menu. It will be useful for issues specific to the Canvas system. For other Schreiner technical issues, such as user accounts, email and passwords, you can utilize:

Schreiner Help Desk

(830) 792-7344

helpdesk@schreiner.edu

III. Calendar of Topics

Tuesday	08/20/2019	Introduction to the Course
Thursday	08/22/2019	Disciplines, Fields and Subfields Krishnan, Armin. 2009. "Disciplines and Interdisciplinarity." National Centre for Research Methods, working paper series, (1-12).

Tuesday	08/27/2019	<p>Research Paradigms & Approaches</p> <p>Robertson, David Brian. 1994. "Politics and the Past, History, Behavioralism, and the Return to Institutionalism in American Political Science. In <i>The Uses of History across the Social Sciences</i>, ed. Eric H. Monkkonen. Durham: Duke University Press.</p> <p>Loseke, Donileen R. 2013. <i>Methodological Thinking: Basic Principles of Social Research Design</i>. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 2)</p>
Thursday	08/29/2019	<p>The Challenge of Writing</p> <p>Bartholomae, David. 1985. "Inventing the University." In <i>When a Writer Can't Write: Studies in Writer's Block and Other Composing Process Problems</i>, ed. Mike Rose. New York: Guilford.</p>
Tuesday	09/03/2019	<p>Structure of Writing – Paragraph Construction</p> <p>Corbet, Edward P.J, and Sheryl L. Finkle. 1992. <i>The Little English Handbook</i>, 6th ed. New York: HarperCollins. (Ch. 4)</p>
Thursday	09/05/2019	<p>Structure of Writing – Rules of Writing</p> <p>Corbet, Edward P.J, and Sheryl L. Finkle. 1992. <i>The Little English Handbook</i>, 6th ed. New York: HarperCollins. (Ch. 3)</p> <p>Drop Deadline (09/05)</p>
Tuesday	09/10/2019	<p>Structure of Writing – Mark Up and Notetaking</p> <p>Williams, Robert L. and Alan C. Eggert. 2002. "Notetaking in College Classes: Student Patterns and Instructional Strategies." <i>The Journal of General Education</i> 51-3: 173-199.</p>
Thursday	09/12/2019	<p>Structure of Writing – Mark Up and Notetaking</p> <p>Frank, Tom. "How to take notes in college: the 6 best systems," <i>College Info Geek blog</i>, 13 July 2018.</p>
Tuesday	09/17/2019	<p>The Library & Resources</p> <p>[Reading TBA]</p>
Thursday	09/19/2019	<p>Structure of Writing – Style, Format & Headings</p> <p>American Political Science Association. 2006. <i>Style Manual for Political Science</i>. Washington, DC: APSA Press.</p> <p>4 Week Grades Due (09/19)</p>

Tuesday	09/24/2019	Structure of Writing – Outlines Purdue Owl System - Handouts
Thursday	09/26/2019	Introductions and Hooks Rafter, Michelle V., "Writing basics: how to write a lead," Word Count blog, 14 July 2014. Hatemi, Peter K., John R. Alford, John R. Hibbing, Nicholas G. Martin, and Lindon J. Eaves. 2009. "Is There a 'Party' in Your Genes?" Political Research Quarterly 62-3 (September): 584-600.
Tuesday	10/01/2019	Variables and Research Questions Loseke, Donileen R. 2013. Methodological Thinking: Basic Principles of Social Research Design. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 3) Most, Benjamin A. 1990. "Getting Started on Political Research." PS: Political Science and Politics, 23-4 (December): 592-96.
Thursday	10/03/2019	The Literature Review – Climbing the Tree Purdue Owl System – Handouts USC Research Guides – The Literature Review
Tuesday	10/08/2019	The Literature Review – Strains and Maps Carmines, Edward G., and Nicholas J. D'Amico. 2015. "The New Look in Political Ideology Research." Annual Review of Political Science, 18-1: 205-16. Dalton, Russell J. 2016. "Party Identification and Its Implications." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, 9 (May):1-17.
Thursday	10/10/2019	The Literature Review – Strains and Maps Somit, Albert, and Steven A Peterson. 1998. "Biopolitics after Three Decades - A Balance Sheet." British Journal of Political Science, 28-3 (July):559-71. Hatemi, Peter K., and Rose McDermott. 2012. "The Genetics of Politics: Discovery, Challenges and Progress." Trends in Genetics, 28-10 (October): 525-33. <i>Midterm Grades Due (10/10)</i>
Tuesday	10/15/2019	<i>Fall Break</i>

Thursday	10/17/2019	<p>Research Typologies</p> <p>King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. <i>Designing Social Inquiry</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Ch. 1, 1-12)</p>
Tuesday	10/22/2019	<p>Concepts of Measurement</p> <p>Pollock, Philip H. III. 2016. <i>The Essentials of Political Analysis</i>. Los Angeles, Sage. (Ch. 1)</p>
Thursday	10/24/2019	<p>Populations and Samples</p> <p>Loseke, Donileen R. 2013. <i>Methodological Thinking: Basic Principles of Social Research Design</i>. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 7)</p> <p>Drop Deadline (10/24)</p>
Tuesday	10/29/2019	<p>Levels of Measurement</p> <p>Pollock, Philip H. III. 2016. <i>The Essentials of Political Analysis</i>. Los Angeles, Sage. (Ch. 2)</p>
Thursday	10/31/2019	<p>Theory Building</p> <p>Creswell, John W. 2014. <i>Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches</i>, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (Ch. 3)</p>
Tuesday	11/05/2019	<p>Theory Building</p> <p>Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 63-3 (September): 689-718.</p>
Thursday	11/07/2019	<p>Hypotheses and Inference</p> <p>Salkind, Neil J. <i>Statistics for People Who Think They Hate Statistics</i>, 6th ed. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 7)</p>
Tuesday	11/12/2019	<p>Hypotheses and Inference</p> <p>Salkind, Neil J. <i>Statistics for People Who Think They Hate Statistics</i>, 6th ed. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 8)</p>
Thursday	11/14/2019	<p>Building the Research Design</p> <p>King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. <i>Designing Social Inquiry</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1 (12-33).</p>
Tuesday	11/19/2019	<p>Building the Research Design</p> <p>Spector, Paul E. 1981. <i>Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences: Research Designs</i>. Los Angeles: Sage. (11-27)</p>

Thursday	11/21/2019	Presenting Relationships – Figures and Tables Salkind, Neil J. <i>Statistics for People Who Think They Hate Statistics</i> , 6th ed. Los Angeles: Sage. (Ch. 4)
Tuesday	11/26/2019	Presenting Relationships – Figures and Tables Queensland Treasury - Handout Reading Statistical Tables - Handout
Thursday	11/28/2019	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Tuesday	12/03/2019	Ethical Considerations in Research Holden, Constance. 1979. "Ethics in Social Science Research." <i>Science, New Series</i> , 206-4418 (November 2): 537-40. Humphreys, Laud. 1980. "Social Science: Ethics of Research" <i>Science, New Series</i> , 207-4432 (February 15): 712-14. Hawkins, Derek, "Researchers use facial recognition tools to predict sexual orientation. LGBT groups aren't happy," <i>Washington Post</i> , 12 September 2017
Thursday	12/05/2019	Final Project Due

IV. Course Requirements / Grading

The greatest component of the final grade will be associated with a comprehensive written research assignment. The project will comprise of introduction, literature review, and research design sections and will emulate an existing political science research article. The research project will be broken up into smaller assignments that you will create and revise into a comprehensive document that is due at the end of the semester.

You will also be completing an initial assignment on writing with structure. In that assignment you will be composing a political obituary of a future successful self. The task is to create a strategy for an appropriate outline of the assignment. You will then operationalize that outline with sound composition.

Attendance will be recorded for each class session. An excused absence will be allowed per university guidelines. Typically, universities allow for a number of acceptable reasons to miss a class session, such as illness, family emergencies, religious holidays, and participation in athletic or academic events. In these cases, you will be granted an excused absence that will not count against your grade. The prerequisite for an excused absence, however, is prior notification. That means you must send an email to me before the missed class period (send to mhendshot@schreiner.edu) Attendance will begin with the first class session.

Occasionally, a student will be traveling for academic or athletic events during a regularly scheduled examination period. Please contact me the week before the examination, so that we can arrange an alternative time or format.

Students with a documented medical excuse that conflicts with a course assignment should likewise contact me to establish an alternative time for submission / completion. All others that miss an assignment or exam deadline potentially are subject to a late penalty. Typically, I will assess a 5% penalty for each school day that it is delayed.

The breakdown of the course grade will be the following:

	Requirement	Weight
1.	Attendance	5%
2	Structural Writing Assign	20%
3.	Introduction Section	20%
4.	Literature Review Section	25%
5.	Complete Research Design	30%
		100%

Numerical	Letter
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-0	F

V. Policies and Guidelines

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policies

Activity in this course is subject to the *Schreiner University Academic Code of Conduct* and the *Student Code of Conduct*, both of which are located within the *Student Handbook*:

<http://www.schreiner.edu/student-life/student-handbook.aspx>

Schreiner University Academic Code of Conduct

These rules govern the standards and penalties for violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, collusion and other questionable practices. Broadly speaking, an incident of *academic dishonesty* occurs when a student presents another's work (in whole or part) as his or her own. More specifically, *plagiarism* is the act of stealing or using the ideas or written text of another and representing them as one's own.

These types of behaviors can occur within exam answers, research papers, and other course assignments.

You should know that plagiarism and any other forms of cheating will not be tolerated and it will be handled according to the appropriate provision within these university regulations. Student papers are subject to review by a plagiarism checking service (e.g., turnitin.com). Violations will be pursued and may result in an F grade for this course and possible expulsion from the University.

Student Code of Conduct

The *Student Handbook* also addresses more general matters of personal conduct, such as violations of criminal law, fraud, alcohol/drug use, student hazing, and sexual misconduct or violence (see also, Title IX below). Although these particular items are less likely to be encountered within a classroom setting, an issue could present itself. To the extent that this set of policies become relevant, we will abide by the intent and purpose of Schreiner University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

Title IX: Sexual Discrimination/Harassment/Misconduct/Assault

Schreiner University is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from inappropriate conduct based on gender. As required by *Title IX*, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student or employee who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct by another student, member of the faculty or staff, or campus visitor or contractor, to immediately report the incident to any of the individuals or offices listed below:

<https://schreiner.edu/campus-life/title-ix/>

Dr. Travis Frampton (Title IX Coordinator)
Provost & VP for Academic Affairs
830-792-7351
provost@schreiner.edu

Wendy L. Blaettner (Deputy Coordinator)
Director of Human Resource Services
(830) 792-7375
wblaettner@schreiner.edu

Dr. William Davis (Deputy Coordinator)
Dean of the Faculty
830-792-7415
wdavis@schreiner.edu

Dr. Charles Hueber (Deputy Coordinator)
Dean of Students
(830) 792-7278
cmhueber@schreiner.edu

Schreiner University takes acts of sexual violence and sexual harassment seriously. In an effort to comply with the *Violence Against Women Act* and the Office for Civil Rights federal guidelines, all students are required to complete training on sexual violence prevention. Along these lines, you are already aware of these policies and understand that you are expected to abide by them.

For those who have confidentiality concerns regarding a Title IX report, you should know that faculty and staff are *Mandatory Reporters* under this act. If you discuss a potential violation with a professor, then he or she *must* report it.

You do have a couple of other options for consultation. First, you may take advantage of Schreiner University Counseling Services, which has stronger confidentiality protections. You may also utilize the Campus Conduct Hotline as an anonymous means of reporting questionable conduct:

Kim Woods
Director of Counseling Services
Mountaineer Fitness Center | CMB 6220
(830) 792-7279 | kjwoods@schreiner.edu
<https://schreiner.edu/campus-life/campus-services/health-services/>

Campus Conduct Hotline
(866) 943-5787

Given this course is in the discipline of political science we will throughout the semester be discussing issues and policies that are discomfoting or controversial in some manner. We will make every attempt to take an academic orientation toward these topics, but students and faculty can and do make errors that can be insulting or off putting to others. Feel free to contact me in a confidential manner and we will address any such issue.

Matters of Accommodation

Schreiner University supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and welcomes requests for reasonable accommodation. The University in compliance with Title VI and VII

of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or status as a veteran in any of its policies practices or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

Every effort will be made to make accommodations for those who fall under the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* and the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. Students desiring academic adjustments/auxiliary aids should contact:

Dr. Jude Gallik

Director of Learning Support Services/Section 504 Coordinator
(830) 792-7258 | jgallik@schreiner.edu

In terms of accommodations and this particular course, please contact me directly and we will handle it in a discrete manner according to University guidelines.

Unanticipated Events, Incomplete Grades & Withdrawals

On some occasions, a student will come down with an extended illness, or get called up for military duty, etc. These situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis and are often resolved through withdrawal from the course or through an incomplete grade agreement between the student, academic advisor and professor. I am extremely reluctant to go forward with an incomplete grade in any course. In the event that a substantive cause is present to do so, we will proceed through the guidelines found in the *Student Handbook*.

Withdrawal from this course will be governed by the University's procedure and applicable deadlines. Students contemplating withdrawing from the university during the term, or not returning after a break, should contact the Registrar. In addition to discussing reasons for withdrawing, it is very important that the withdrawal policy be followed, so that severe financial problems can be avoided. Please refer to the *Schreiner University Catalog* for more information about withdrawals.