

COURSE SYLLABUS

Political Science 5350: Logic, Methodology and Scope of Political Science
1:00-3:45 p.m., Monday, Fall Semester, 2007

Contact Information

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Course Information

This course presents students with a rigorous, sharply focused approach to how to do, how to evaluate, and how to communicate innovative, state-of-the-science research in Political Science and cognate disciplines. More specifically, the objectives are to help students learn how to:

- analyze the logic of inquiry – the conduct of research projects, and the failures or successes of research programs in making knowledge gains;
- participate in the conduct of inquiry – the design of research, the identification of interesting and important (and researchable) questions; the construction of coherent, innovative, and multi-method research projects; the communication of research results; the evaluation of the state of knowledge;
- assess the value of inquiry – the state of a field or discipline, including current contributions and future directions.

In turn, the approach and these objectives are essential to dissertation completion, quality research, and knowledge production.

Required Books

American Political Science Association. 2000. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, volume XXXIII. Special Issue: The Public Value of Political Science Research. Washington, D.C.: American Political Science Association

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2004. *Political Science Research Methods*, 5th edition. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.

Polsby, Nelson W., ed. 1998-2006. *Annual Reviews*. Palo Alto: Annual Reviews [can be downloaded through library subscription]

Redman, Deborah R. 1991. *Economics and The Philosophy of Science*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Books

Curd, Martin and J.A. Cover, eds. 1998. *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Hacking, Ian, ed. 1981. *Scientific Revolutions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Calendar

Part I. Political Science and The Logic of Inquiry

August 20. An Introduction to The Course and to The Discipline: Ethics, Research, Science.

August 27. Science: Conditions and Limits.

Required Reading

Redman, *Economics and The Philosophy of Science*:

Ch. 1. The Problems

Ch. 2. The Decline of Logical Positivism

Ch. 3. The Pendulum Swings the Other Director: Sociological Explanations in Science (Polyani, Fleck, Kuhn)

Recommended Reading

Curd and Cover, eds., *Philosophy of Science*:

“Introduction,” pp. 1-2.

Kuhn, Thomas S., “Logic of Discovery or Psychology of Research,” 11-19.

Kuhn, Thomas S., “The Nature and Necessity of Scientific Revolutions,” pp. 86-101.

September 3. Labor Day – University Holiday.

September 10. No Class – Tentative Reschedule.

September 17-24. Science: Conditions and Limits Continued.

Required Reading

Redman, *Economics and The Philosophy of Science*:

Ch. 4: The Popperian School

Ch. 5. Whither The History of Science?

Ch. 6. Conclusions

Appendix I. A Short History of the Is-Ought Problem.

Recommended Reading

Curd and Cover, eds., *Philosophy of Science*

Popper, Karl, “Science: Conjectures and Refutations,” pp. 3-10.

Lakatos, Imre, “Science and Pseudoscience,” pp. 20-26.

Feyerabend, Paul K., “A Plea for Tolerance in Matters Epistemological,” pp. 922-949.

Hacking, ed., *Scientific Revolutions*:

Popper, Karl, “The Rationality of Scientific Revolutions,” pp. 80-106.

Lakatos, Imre, “History of Science and Its Rational Reconstructions,” pp. 107-127

Hacking, Ian, “Lakatos’s Philosophy of Science,” pp. 128-143.

Feyerabend, Paul, “How To Defend Society Against Science,” pp. 156-167.

September 24. Research Craft Paper Preview Due.

October 1. Test 1.

Part II. Political Science and The Conduct of Inquiry.

October 1. Research Basics: The Science in Political Science.

Required Reading

Johnson and Reynolds, *Political Science Research Methods*, chs. 1-2.

Recommended Reading

King, Keohane and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*:

Ch. 1: The Science in Social Science.

October 1-8. Research Design: Major Components, Causal Inferences, and (Non)Experimental Strategies.

Required Reading

Johnson and Reynolds, *Political Science Research Methods*, ch. 3.

Recommended Reading

King, Keohane and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*:

Ch. 3: Causality and Causal Inference

Polsby, *Annual Reviews*:

Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elmen, "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods," v. 9: 503-27.

McDermott, Rose, "Experimental Methods in Political Science," v. 5: 31-61.

October 15. Research Tools: Literature, Concepts, Variables, Hypotheses, Measurement.

Required Reading

Johnson and Reynolds, *Political Science Research Methods*, chs. 4-5-6.

October 22-29. Research Observations: Documents, (In)Direct Sampling, and Surveys.

Required Reading

Johnson and Reynolds, *Political Science Research Methods*, chs. 7-8-9-10.

Part III. Political Science and The Value of Inquiry

November 5. Assessing The Discipline: Democratization, Globalization and International Relations.

Required Reading

Polsby, ed., *Annual Reviews* – Read 3 that are thematically related:

Berger, Suzanne, "Globalization and Politics," v. 3: 43-62.

Broz, J. Lawrence and Jeffrey A. Frieden, "The Political Economy of International Monetary Relations," v. 4: 317-43.

Bunce, Valerie, "Democratization and Economic Reform," v. 4: 43-65.

Cheibub, Jose and Fernando Limongi, "Democratic Institutions and Regime Survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered," v. 5: 151-79.

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink, "Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics," v. 4: 391-416.

Geddes, Barbara, "What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?," v. 2: 115-44.

Huth, Paul K., "Deterrence and International Conflict: Empirical Findings and Theoretical Implications.

Levy, Jack S., "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace," v. 1:139-65.

Milner, Helen V., "The Political Economy of International Trade," v. 2: 91-114.

Powell, Jr., G. Bingham, "Political Representation in Comparative Politics," v. 7.

Powell, Robert, "Bargaining Theory and International Conflict," v. 5: 1-30.

- Robinson, James, "Economic Development and Democracy," v. 9.
 Schofield, Norman, "Constitutional Political Economy: On The Possibility of Combining Rational Choice Theory and Comparative Politics," v. 3: 277-303.
 Thelen, Kathleen, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," v. 2: 369-404.
 Treisman, Daniel, "What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research?," v. 10: 211-44.
 Walt, Stephen M., "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations," v. 8:23-48.

November 12. Assessing The Discipline: Institutions and Processes.

Required Reading

Polsby, ed., *Annual Reviews* – Read 3 that are thematically related:

- Baum, Lawrence, "The Supreme Court in American Politics," v. 6: 161-80.
 Benoit, Kenneth, "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining The Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions," v. 10: 363-90.
 Bowles, Nigel, "Studying The Presidency," v. 2: 1-23.
 de la Garza, Rodolfo O., "Latino Politics," v. 7: 91-123.
 Graber, Doris, "The Media and Democracy: Beyond Myths and Stereotypes," v. 6: 139-60.
 Graber, Mark A., "Constructing Judicial Review," v. 8: 425-51.
 Hart, David M., "'Business' Is Not An Interest Group: On The Study of Companies in American National Politics," v. 7: 47-69.
 Hart, John, "Neglected Aspects of The Study of the Presidency," v. 1: 379-99.
 William T. Gormley, "Public Policy Analysis: Ideas and Impacts," v. 10: 297-313.
 Iversen, Torber and David Soskice, "New Macroeconomics and Political Science," v. 9: 425-53.
 Jackman, Robert and Ross A. Miller, "Social Capital and Politics," v. 1: 47-73.
 Layman, Geoffrey, Thomas M. Carsey and Juliana Menasce Horowitz, "Party Polarization in American Politics: Characteristics, Causes and Consequences," v. 9: 83-110.
 Morehouse, Sarah M. and Malcolm E. Jewell, "States as Laboratories: A Reprise," v. 7: 177-203.
 Polsby, Nelson, W. and Eric Schickler, "Landmarks in The Study of Congress since 1945," v. 5: 333-67.
 Segura, Gary M. and Helena Alves Rodriguez, "Comparative Ethnic Politics in the US: Beyond Black and White," v. 9: 375-95.
 Watts, Ronald L., "Federalism, Federal Political Systems, and Federations," v. 1: 117-37.

November 19. Assessing The Discipline: Public Management and Decision Making

Required Reading

Polsby, ed., *Annual Reviews* – Read 3 that are thematically related:

- Austen-Smith, David and Jeffrey S. Banks, "Social Choice Theory, Game Theory, and Positive Political Theory," v. 1: 259-87.
 Bendor, J., A. Glazer, and T. Hammond, "Theories of Delegation," v. 4: 235-69.
 Comfort, Louise K., "Risk, Security, and Disaster Management," v. 8: 335-56.
 Converse, Philip, "Assessing The Capacity of Mass Electorates," v. 3: 331-53.
 Jones, Bryan D., "Bounded Rationality," v. 2: 297-321.
 Marcus, George E., "Emotions in Politics," v.3: 221-50.
 Miller, Gary J., "The Political Evolution of Principal-Agent Models," v. 8: 203-25.
 Ostrom, Elinor, "Coping with Tragedies of The Commons," v.2: 493-535.
 Wirtz, James, "Responding To Surprise," v. 9: 45-65.

November 19. Test 2.

November 26. Assessing The Discipline: *The Public Value of Political Science Research*

Recommended Reading

Lupia, Arthur, "Evaluating Political Science Research: Information for Buyers and Sellers," pp. 7-13.

Munger, Michael C., "Political Science and Fundamental Research," pp. 25-30.

Ostrom, Elinor, "The Danger of Self-Evident Truths," pp. 33-44.

Brady, Henry E., "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science," pp. 47-57.

Siverson, Randolph M., "The Contributions of International Politics Research to Policy," pp. 59-64.

November 26. Research Craft Paper Due.

Grading Criteria and Assignments

Class participation: 20%; Test 1: 20%; Test 2: 20%; Research craft paper: 40%.

A: 85-100%; B: 70-84%; C: 60-69%; F: below 60%.

Class Participation: Assigned reading prior to the class meeting when it will be discussed, regular attendance, and constructive and frequent contributions to seminar discussions.

Two Tests: Review questions are available one week before each test. They are scheduled for October 1 and November 19. All students are expected to take the tests on these dates. The tests are closed book and essay answer.

A Research Craft Paper: a 15-page, double-spaced, typed/word-processed, paper that:

- introduces the topic, and discusses what motivates its selection in terms of why it is interesting, important, and researchable;
- reviews a selection of relevant research literature that includes published (or presented) scholarly books, articles, or both on the topic in either a chronological (date-of-publication) or a knowledge-production (set-of-ideas) form;
- presents an intelligent strategy for conducting inquiry on the topic, including single or rival theoretical perspectives, conceptual problems and advances, model specification as appropriate, the use of unique or hybrid methodologies, and "data collection" that would allow another user to challenge findings and conclusions;
- lists endnotes and references appropriate in form.

A 2-page preview of the paper is due September 24. The final version is due November 26. All students are expected to comply with these dates.



Course Policies

Student Conduct and Discipline	<p>The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the <i>Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).</p> <p>A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.</p>
Academic Integrity	<p>The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.</p> <p>Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.</p> <p>Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.</p>
Copyright Notice	<p>The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe on the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Use of such material is only appropriate when it constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UTD student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, go to http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm.</p>
Email Use	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the</p>

	<p>same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts. If you have a problem with your UTD account, then you may seek help from assist@utdallas.edu, or the UTD Computer Helpdesk at (972) 883-2911.</p>
Withdrawal from Class	<p>The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.</p>
Student Grievance Procedures	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>.</p> <p>In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.</p> <p>Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.</p>
Incomplete Grades	<p>As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.</p>
Disability Services	<p>The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:</p>

	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22 PO Box 830688 Richardson, Texas 75083-0688 (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)</p> <p>Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.</p> <p>It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.</p>
Religious Holy Days	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.</p> <p>If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.</p>
Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities	<p>Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.</p>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.