

Research Applications in Political Science

Political Science 601 Department of Political Science

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Monday, 9:30 - 12:30 p.m.
PAS 1229

This course provides students with an opportunity to develop and expand on the methodological and theoretical themes discussed in PSCI 600 and to prepare for the research phase of their respective graduate program. The course is designed to follow the practice of learned conferences where students will act as chairs, discussants and paper presenters each week. The purpose of the course is to prepare graduate students for academic and other professional careers in which they will be required to present or discuss research before expert audiences. The presentations will be based on the research proposals prepared by graduate students in November. A more general aim of the course is to sophisticate student understanding of the role, scope and potential bias of the primary theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches employed in the study of politics.

Optimally, the course will prepare students to write the theoretical chapters of their respective graduate research projects. To accomplish this, each student will be expected to discuss different ways to study the political phenomena they are investigating, and to demonstrate and evaluate the various assumptions underlying these perspectives. The paper presentation will be between 20-25 minutes, followed by two five-minute critical reviews by discussants and a general question period. Each student will receive an electronic copy of the presentation on the Thursday prior to each class. You are expected to read the paper critically and to come to class prepared to challenge the presenter. The success of this course depends on the full participation of all students. Final grades will reflect the level of active participation.

All graduate students will perform three roles in this course: chair, discussant and presenter.

Chair: The role of the chairperson is to maintain a sustained level of professionalism throughout the proceedings. The chairperson is responsible for ensuring that the papers are distributed properly, that the critical reviews are forwarded to the appropriate presenter and that the presentations begin promptly. As well, the chairperson must make certain that the presentations run no longer than 25 minutes, that discussants speak no longer than five minutes and that all audience questions are addressed through the chair. Your task is to manage the panel and subsequent discussion in a professional and scholarly manner.

Discussant: The role of the discussant is to critically review the paper presented. In academic circles the word critical does not mean negative or unfavourable but relates to the clarity and sufficiency of the assumptions underlying the arguments being presented. Are the

assumptions supportable? Is the logic of the argument persuasive? Does the empirical evidence support the argument? Are there other theoretical or methodological ways to approach the research? Alternatively, a discussant may agree in general with the paper's approach and argument but still suggest ways it could be improved. The role of the discussant is always constructive and positive.

Presenter: The oral presentation will be 20-25 minutes maximum. The paper upon which the presentation will be based should be approximately 20 to 25 pages. It may not be read but must be presented. You may work from notes but you must not simply read the paper. All students will have access to PowerPoint or other digital or computer equipment, if required. Each presenter will meet with the instructor at least one week prior to the presentation. Students must arrange this appointment with the instructor. If I am not available, please contact my secretary, Ms Carole Gray, to schedule a meeting in my office. The final paper must be written and forwarded to Ms April Wettig, departmental graduate secretary, on the dates listed below. A copy must also be forwarded to the instructor. Ms Wettig will forward the paper electronically to all members of the class. Ms Wettig will not request the paper and late papers will be severely penalized. Only as a result of an unavoidable and clearly documented circumstance will a student be permitted to alter the schedule listed below. Failure to complete any of these course assignments on time will result in a failing grade. It is the presenter's responsibility to ensure that the paper is received by Ms Wettig at or before the time listed. It is the discussant's responsibility, in consultation with the chairperson, to ensure that the critical reviews are available to the presenter no later than 3:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the class presentation. The presenter must be given an opportunity to read and assess the discussant's comments. Late papers impact 31 people, not simply the instructor, and will not be tolerated. Late papers at conferences are cancelled. Finally, all absences will be recorded.

Grading Scheme:

Paper and Presentation	60%
Discussant (Twice)	30%
Chair and Discussion	10%

The class will meet on January 4 at 10:00 am, followed by a two-week break to allow the first presenters an opportunity to complete their written research presentations. Oral presentations will begin January 25, 2010. All classes begin sharply at 10:00 am except for the last class on April 5 which will begin at 9:30 am. Each oral presentation and subsequent discussion will take approximately 45 minutes, followed by a five-minute break. I will review course details at greater length during the first class scheduled for January 4. You should begin to work on your presentation as soon as the Fall term assignments are complete.

Jan. 25 - Papers due Thursday, January 21, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Bedford
(Presenter)- Demasi
(Discussant) - Javdan
(Discussant) - Laurin

(Chair) - Brar
(Presenter) - Ganness
(Discussant) - Bulloch
(Discussant) - Turcsik

(Chair) - Cole
(Presenter) - Gomez
(Discussant) - Wilkes-Thiel
(Discussant) - Blencowe

Feb. 1, Papers due Thursday, January 28, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Chater
(Presenter) - Bedford
(Discussant) - Owusu
(Discussant) - Cain

(Chair) - Vu
(Presenter) - Preiss
(Discussant) - Circelli
(Discussant) - Williams

(Chair) - Downe-Dewdney
(Presenter) - Cole
(Discussant) - Ameh
(Discussant) - Koczorowski

Feb. 8, Papers due Thursday, February 4, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Bulloch
(Presenter) - Preston
(Discussant) - Bedford
(Discussant) - Vu

(Chair) - Cain
(Presenter) - Chater
(Discussant) - Fraser
(Discussant) - Zhao

(Chair) - Circelli
(Presenter) - Johnson
(Discussant) - Nicol
(Discussant) - Ganness

Feb. 22, Papers due Thursday, Feb. 4, 3:00 pm. Please note that Feb.15-19 is break week.

(Chair) - Fraser
(Presenter) - Downe-Dewdney
(Discussant) - Brar
(Discussant) - Gomez

(Chair) - Koczorowski
(Presenter) - Motley
(Discussant) - Chater
(Discussant) - Russell

(Chair) - Preiss
(Presenter) - Blencowe
(Discussant) - Johnson
(Discussant) - Demasi

March 1, Papers due Thursday, Feb.25, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Ganness
(Presenter) - Javdan
(Discussant) - Downe-Dewdney
(Discussant) - Cole

(Chair) - Nicol
(Presenter) - Laurin
(Discussant) - Mansouri-Moayed
(Discussant) - Motley

(Chair) - Turcsik
(Presenter) - Russell
(Discussant) - Preston
(Discussant) - Vu

Mar. 8, Papers due Wednesday, Mar. 4, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Gomez
(Presenter) - Brar
(Discussant) - Preiss
(Discussant) - Price

(Chair) - Williams
(Presenter) - Mansouri-Moayed
(Discussant) - Ameh
(Discussant) - Blencowe

(Chair) - Wilkes-Thiel
(Presenter) - Vu
(Discussant) - Circelli
(Discussant) - Cain

Mar. 15, Papers due Thursday, Mar. 11, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Ameh
(Presenter) - Owusu
(Discussant) - Bedford
(Discussant) - Turcsik

(Chair) - Zhao
(Presenter) - Price
(Discussant) - Javdan
(Discussant) - Laurin

(Chair) - Motley
(Presenter) - Ameh
(Discussant) - Koczorowski
(Discussant) - Fraser

Mar. 22, Papers due Thursday, March 18, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Blencowe
(Presenter) - Nicol
(Discussant) - Ganness
(Discussant) - Johndson

(Chair) - Javdan
(Presenter) - Cain
(Discussant) - Gomez
(Discussant) - Owusu

(Chair) - Laurin
(Presenter) - Williams
(Discussant) - Demasi
(Discussant) - Chater

Mar. 29, Papers due Thursday, March 25, 3:00 pm

(Chair) - Owusu
(Presenter) - Bulloch
(Discussant) - Nicol
(Discussant) - Wilkes-Thiel

(Chair) - Preston
(Presenter) - Fraser
(Discussant) - Brar
(Discussant) - Downe-Dewdney

(Chair) - Price
(Presenter) - Zhao
(Discussant) - Mansouri-Moayed
(Discussant) - Motley

April 5, Papers due Thursday, April 1, 3:00 pm

Class will begin at 9:30 am.

(Chair) - Vu

(Presenter) - Koczorowski

(Discussant) - Cole

(Discussant) - Price

(Chair) - Demasi

(Presenter) - Circelli

(Discussant) - Bulloch

(Discussant) - Preston

(Chair) - Johnson

(Presenter) - Wilkes-Thiel

(Discussant) - Preiss

(Discussant) - Russell

(Chair) - Cain

(Presenter) - Turcsik

(Discussant) - Zhao

(Discussant) - Williams