

Research Applications in Political Science

Political Science 601 Department of Political Science

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Monday, 9:30 - 12:30 p.m.
MC 4042

This course provides graduate students with an opportunity to develop and expand on the methodological and theoretical themes discussed in PSCI 600. 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 learned audiences. The papers 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 biases of some of the primary theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches employed in the academic 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 25-30 minutes, followed by two five-minute critical reviews by discussants and a general question period. The success of this course depends on the full participation of all students. Final grades will reflect the level of active participation.

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

Chair: The role of the chair is to assure a sustained level of professionalism in the proceedings. The chairs will insure that the presentations begin promptly, that the presentations run no longer than 30 minutes, that discussants speak no longer than five minutes and that all general questions are addressed through the chair.

Discussant: The role of the discussant is to critically review the papers presented. The word critical does not necessarily mean negative but relates to the clarity and sufficiency of the assumptions underlying the paper's argument. Are the assumptions supportable? Is the logic of the argument persuasive? Does the empirical evidence support the argument? Are there other theoretical or methodological approaches that might be more appropriate to the intended research? Alternatively, a discussant may agree in general with the paper's argument but still suggest ways it could be improved. The role of the discussant is always constructive. The discussants assigned for each presentation must provide written comments to the presenter at

least 24 hours before the conference session. These comments must also be forwarded to the instructor prior to the presentation. The discussants must comment on the two or three papers scheduled for presentation. The presenter must insure that the paper is made available to the discussant as early as possible. All students will receive electronic copies of papers prior to presentation. All students are expected to read the papers carefully and come to class prepared to question the presenter.

Presenter: The paper presentation will be 25-30 minutes. The paper may not be read. All students will have access to PowerPoint or other equipment, if required. Each presenter will meet with the instructor prior to the presentation. The final paper must be written and forwarded to Ms April Wettig, departmental graduate secretary, on the dates listed below. She will forward the papers electronically to all members of the class. Ms Wettig will not request the papers and late assignments will be severely penalized. It is the presenter's responsibility to assure that the paper is received by Ms Wettig at or before the time listed below. Late papers impact 20 students, not simply the instructor, and will not be tolerated. Late papers at conferences are cancelled.

Grading Scheme:

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

The class will **NOT** meet on either January 5 or January 19. There is no possible way to begin classes until students have prepared the papers for presentation. On January 19 I must be away. The class will meet on January 12 at which time I will discuss the course, my expectations and suggest ways to prepare the written assignments. Paper presentations will begin Monday, January 26, 2009.

Session 1 (Paper due electronically to April by 2:00 pm, Thursday, January 22)

- Paper Presentations: 1) Khuon
2) Sarson
- Discussants 1) Spooner
2) Torre
- Chair: Bondy

Session 2 (Feb. 2) (Paper due Jan. 28, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Burns
2) Pruysers

Discussants 1) Charlton
2) Ericsson

Chair Akinosho

Session 3 (Feb. 9) (Paper due Feb. 5, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Oropeza
2) Otto

Discussants 1) Melissa Harris
2) Singh

Chair Burns

Session 4 (Feb. 23) (**NOTE CHANGE:** Paper due Feb. 13, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Ericsson
2) Shaye Harris

Discussants 1) Hoare
2) Kamadia

Chair Charlton

Session 5 (Mar. 2) (Paper due Feb. 26, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations 1) Hoare
2) Melissa Harris

Discussants 1) Khuon
2) Lopez

Chair Ericsson

Session 6 (Mar. 9) (Paper due Mar. 5, 2:00 pm)

Presentations: 1) Kamadia
 2) Lopez
 3) Mann

Discussants: 1) Oropeza
 2) Otto
 3) Roden

Chair Melissa Harris

Session 7 (Mar. 16) (Paper due Mar. 12, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Bondy
 2) Torre

Discussants 1) Pruysers
 2) Sarson

Chair Shaye Harris

Session 8 (Mar. 23) (Paper due Mar. 19, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Charlton
 2) Roden

Discussants 1) Akinosho
 2) Mann

Chair Hoare

Session 9 (Mar. 30) (Paper due Mar. 26, 2:00 pm)

Paper Presentations: 1) Akinosho
 2) Singh
 3) Spooner

Discussants 1) Shaye Harris
 2) Bondy

Chair Kamadia