

Research Applications in Political Science

Political Science 601
Department of Political Science

Richard Nutbrown
Hagey Hall 316 (36567)

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

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 discussions held individually with graduate students in November. A more general aim of the course is to sophisticate the students' understanding of the role, scope and potential bias of some 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. 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 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 25 minutes, that discussants speak no longer than five minutes and that all general questions are addressed through the chairs.

Discussant: The role of the discussant is to critically review the paper presented. The word critical does not necessarily mean negative but relates to the clarity and sufficiency of the assumptions underlying the paper 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 argument but still suggest ways it could be improved. The role of the discussant is always constructive.

Presenter: The paper presentation will be 20-25 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 paper electronically to all members of the class. Ms Wettig will not request the paper and late papers 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. Late papers impact 38 people, 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 Discussion	10%

Paper presentations will begin January 21, 2008.

Jan. 21- Papers due Thursday, January 17, 3:00 pm

B. Gallant (Chair)
V. Arrojado (Paper)
J. Grensewich (Discussant)
M. Kay (Discussant)

S. Daley (Chair)
M. Mavrikkov (Paper)
L. Chipp (Discussant)
R. Ryan (Discussant)

C. Jerema (Chair)
D. Donovan (Paper)
D. Kenny (Discussant)
K. Sahota (Discussant)

Jan. 28, Papers due Wednesday, January 23, 3:30 pm

C. Miller (Chair)
A. Caramento (Presenter)
K. Omstead (Discussant)
S. Chen (Discussant)

J. Grensewich (Chair)
A. Neilsen (Presenter)

S. Daley (Discussant)
M. Middleton (Discussant)

J. Prentice (Chair)
B. Joyce (Presenter)
A. Mirsalari (Discussant)
J. Jung (Discussant)

Feb. 4, Papers due Wednesday, January 30, 3:30 pm

M. Al Balushi (Chair)
C. Maclennan (Presenter)
A. Dabovic (Discussant)
M. Vieira (Discussant)

B. Gallant (Chair)
E. Schneider (Presenter)
A. Nielsen (Discussant)
B. Miller (Discussant)

L. Chipp (Chair)
P. Dinis (Presenter)
Z. Zhang (Discussant)
Y. Liu (Discussant)

Feb. 11, Papers due Wednesday, Feb. 6, 3:30 pm

V. Arrojado (Chair)
V. Madej (Presenter)
A. Mirsalari (Discussant)
J. Jung (Discussant)

K. Omstead (Chair)
J. Prentice (Presenter)
M. Yamasaki (Discussant)
B. Joyce (Discussant)

L. Jansen (Chair)
S. Chen (Presenter)
A. Caramento (Discussant)
D. Donovan (Discussant)

Feb. 25, Papers due Thursday, Feb.14, 3:00 pm

A. Mirsalari (Chair)
M. Middleton (Presenter)
V. Arrojado (Discussant)
A. Nielsen (Discussant)

M. Middleton (Chair)
M. Memon (Presenter)
P. Dinis (Discussant)
E. Schneider (Discussant)

M. Kay (Chair)
A. Date (Presenter)
S. Chen (Discussant)
A. Dabovic (Discussant)

Mar. 3, Papers due Wednesday, Feb. 27, 3:30 pm

K. Sahota (Chair)
M. Vieira (Presenter)
V. Madej (Discussant)
C. Maclennan (Discussant)

D. Kenny (Chair)
A. Mirsalari (Presenter)
J. Prentice (Discussant)
B. Gallant (Discussant)

A. Date (Chair)
K. Al Balushi (Presenter)
C. Jerema (Discussant)
M. Memon (Discussant)

Mar. 10, Papers due Wednesday, Mar. 5, 3:30 pm

M. Memon (Chair)
Z. Zhang (Presenter)
Y. Liu (Discussant)
K. Omstead (Discussant)

S. Chen (Chair)
Y-C. Lo (Presenter)
J. Uhde (Discussant)

R. Ryan (Discussant)

V. Madej (Chair)

J. Jung (Presenter)

P. Dinis (Discussant)

K. Sahota (Discussant)

Mar. 17, Papers due Wednesday, March 12, 3:30 pm

C. MacLennan (Chair)

D. Kenny (Presenter)

D. Donovan (Discussant)

A. Date (Discussant)

A. Dabovic (Chair)

M. Kay (Presenter)

V. Arrojado (Discussant)

M. Mavrikkou (Discussant)

P. Dinis (Chair)

J. Grensewich (Presenter)

M. Al Balushi (Discussant)

M. Yamasaki (Discussant)

Mar. 24, Papers due Wednesday, March 19, 3:30 pm

A. Caramento (Chair)

B. Gallant (Presenter)

L. Jansen (Discussant)

V. Madej (Discussant)

A. Nielsen (Chair)

A. Dabovic (Presenter)

E. Schneider (Discussant)

B. Joyce (Discussant)

H. Alakozai (Chair)

C. Miller (Presenter)

M. Vieira (Discussant)

J. Prentice (Discussant)

Mar. 31, Papers due Wednesday, March 26, 3:30 pm

E. Schneider (Chair)
Y. Liu (Presenter)
A. Caramento (Discussant)
M. Al Balushi (Discussant)

Z. Zhang (Chair)
K. Sahota (Presenter)
Y-C Lo (Discussant)
M. Kay (Discussant)

Y-C Lo (Chair)
L. Chipp (Presenter)
S. Daley (Discussant)
J. Uhde (Discussant)

April 7, Papers due Wednesday, April 2, 3:30 pm

Y. Liu (Chair)
M. Yamasaki (Presenter)
A. Date (Discussant)
Y-C Lo (Discussant)

J. Jung (Chair)
S. Daley (Presenter)
M. Memon (Discussant)
C. Miller (Discussant)

R. Ryan (Chair)
K. Omstead (Presenter)
M. Middleton (Discussant)
C. Jerema (Discussant)

April 9, Make-up class. Papers due Thursday, April 3, 3:30 pm

M. Marvrikkov (chair)
C. Jerema (Presenter)
B. Gallant (Discussant)
D. Kenny (Discussant)

M. Vieira (Chair)
J. Uhde (Presenter)
L. Jansen (Discussant)

L. Chipp (Discussant)

M. Yamasaki (Chair)

R. Ryan (Presenter)

J. Grensewich (Discussant)

C. MacLennan (Discussant)

J. Uhde (Chair)

L. Jansen (Presenter)

Z. Zhang (Discussant)

M. Mavrikkov (Discussant)

Special arrangements will need to be made for H. Alkozai, including a chair and discussants, pending confirmation of enrolment.