

GOV 388L: Research in International Politics, Spring 2016

Tentative Syllabus

Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin

1 Instructor Information

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Office: BAT 3.108

Office Hours: T 9:00–12:00; & by appt

Class Location: BAT 5.102

2 Course Overview

This course is designed to give second- and third-year IR graduate students an intensive, guided, workshop-based independent research experience, with the final aim of producing a piece of work suitable for a master's report or dissertation proposal (depending on progress in the program). In other words, students will be expected to produce a fully-realized piece of research by semester's end. Class time will be focused on the practicalities of conducting, designing, and writing mainstream social science research. Extensive participation is required, from presenting one's work at specific stages throughout the process to seeking and giving feedback in class discussions. Think of it as one big semester-long workshop.

3 Requirements**3.1 Required Readings**

There are no required books. Some required readings are listed in the course schedule below. I will also assign additional articles based on needs I identify during the course.

3.2 Assignments

The following components make up your final course grade:

- 10% Homework & discussion
- 5% Grant proposal
- 10% Annotated bibliography
- 10% Draft literature review
- 10% Draft theory section
- 10% Draft research design section
- 10% Professional poster preparation and presentation
- 10% Conference-style presentations

- 25% Final paper (due date TBA)

Note that each assignment, except the final paper, must be submitted to the whole class (including me, of course) by 5pm the day before we discuss them in class. I reserve the right to require additional work, such as further drafts of specific assignments if deemed unacceptable or reflection pieces based on topics that come up during the course of the semester. Finally, due dates are firm. Late assignments simply will not be accepted.

4 University and Course Policies

4.1 Academic Integrity

UT students should seek to be completely honest in their dealings with others. They should complete their own work and be evaluated based upon that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct. Students are expected not only to be honest but also to assist other students in fulfilling their commitment to be honest.

While students should make a general commitment to proper academic conduct, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in the age of the internet, as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers.

Writing submitted for credit at UT must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit a writing lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current *Harbrace College Handbook*, the *MLA Handbook*, and James D. Lester's *Writing Research Papers*.

Please also see the University Honor Code site for more information at:
<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>.

4.2 Access

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please

contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

4.3 Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

4.4 Emergencies

Please also see the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>. 1. Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. 2. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. 3. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. 4. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. 5. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. 6. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. 7. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.

5 Tentative Course and Reading Schedule

5.1 January 19: Overview, research ideas, and publication in political science

5.2 January 26: Choosing research questions

- Bring in three candidate research questions; write a paragraph or two on why each is (a) puzzling and (b) worth answering.
- Davis, Don. "Ph.D. Thesis Research: Where Do I Start."
" <http://www.columbia.edu/drd28/Thesis%20Research.pdf>
- Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher: Presidential Address."
International Studies Quarterly 24(3): 315–342.
- Varian, Hal. "How to Build an Economic Model in Your Spare Time."
<http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/hal/Papers/how.pdf>

5.3 February 2: Preparing research — IRBs, Preregistration, Grant proposals

- Create a profile on Open Science Framework (OSF) and begin a project page and share it with the class
- Belmont Report
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Loehle, Craig. 1990. “A Guide to Increased Creativity in Research: Inspiration or Perspiration?” *Bioscience* 40(2): 123–129.
- Przeworski, Adam, and Frank Salomon. 1995. “On the Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions.” Canvas.
- Blattman, Chris. “PhD Students: Writing an NSF application.” <https://chrisblattman.com/2012/09/09/phd-students-writing-an-nsf-application/>

5.4 February 9: Structuring your research

- Submit a single-spaced, two-page grant proposal for a project you are interested in conducting; Post the proposal to OSF
- Bring in an article that you believe to be well-executed and well-organized. Outline the relevant parts, identifying their roles in the overall structure of the article.
- Barry Weingast comments. Canvas.
- Nisbett, Richard, E. 2002. “The Anticreativity Letters: Advice from a Senior Tempter to a Junior Tempter.” Unpublished Manuscript: University of Michigan.
- King, Gary. 2006. “Publication, Publication.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39: 119–125.

5.5 February 16: Abstracts and Introductions

- Zinsser, William. 2001. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. New York: Quill/Harper. Read Introduction & Pp. 1–32.
- Collier, David. 2012. “Notes on Writing and Editing.” Canvas.
- Bem, Daryl. 2002. “Writing the Empirical Journal Article.” In J.M. Darley, M.P. Zanna, and H.L. Roediger III (Eds.) *The Compleat Academic: A Career Guide*. Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.

5.6 February 23: Literature Reviews

- Submit annotated bibliography of at least ten works relevant to answering your particular research question. Post to OSF
- Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. “Doing a Literature Review.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39.1:127–132.
- Stimson, James A. “Professional Writing in Political Science: A Highly opinionated Essay.” Canvas.

5.7 March 1: Theory building

- Submit a draft literature review summarizing existing work as it relates to answering your particular research question. Post to OSF
- Starbuck, Bill. 1999. “Fussy Professor Starbuck’s Cookbook of Handy-Dandy Prescriptions for Ambitious Academic Authors or Why I Hate Passive Verbs and Love My Word Processor.” <http://people.stern.nyu.edu/wstarbuc/Writing/Fussy.htm>

5.8 March 8: Research design

- Submit a draft theory section. Post to OSF
- Bring in an article with what you believe to be a strong, appropriate research design. Outline the research design section and explain how/why each element connects to the theoretical motivation.
- Gerring, John, Joshua Yesnowitz & Stephen Bird. “General Advice on Social Science Writing.” Canvas.

5.9 March 15: Spring Break – No Class

5.10 March 22: Results

- Submit a draft research design section. Post to OSF
- Abelson, Robert. 1995. *Statistics as Principled Argument*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. Pp. 1–16 & 156–198.

5.11 March 29: Replication, Post research reporting, Op-Eds

- King, Gary. 1995. “Replication, Replication.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 29: 443–452.
- Jarful, David. 2013. “How to Write an Op Ed Article.” http://newsoffice.duke.edu/duke_resources/oped

5.12 April 5: Writing a journal review, book review, and workshopping

- Presentations on everything through the research design and an initial cut at results
- Edwards, Paul. 2004. "How to Give an Academic Talk: Changing the Culture of Public Speaking in the Humanities." Accessible online at <http://www.si.umich.edu/pne/PDF/howtotalk.pdf>. Copyright 1998–2004, Paul N. Edwards. All rights reserved.

5.13 April 12: Publishing research: process and strategy

- Submit a polished draft of everything through the research design and an initial cut at the results. Post to OSF
- Read submissions, decision memos, revisions, etc. from IR faculty.
- Read Data Access and Research Transparency Standards: <http://www.dartstatement.org/>

5.14 April 19: Discussion and workshopping

- Turn in full, polished **poster** suitable for a poster presentation; don't need to print, but will present poster from slide. Post to OSF
- Purrington, C.B. "Designing conference posters." Retrieved 19 January 2016, from <http://colinpurrington.com/tips/poster-design>.

5.15 April 26: Presentations and feedback

- Final presentations on papers; Peace Science / IPES level presentation. Post to OSF.
- Presentations will be 20 minutes plus 10-15 minutes for comments

5.16 May 3: Conclusions: On producing solid research

- Ioannidis, John P.A. 2005. "Why Most Published Research Findings Are False." *PLoS Medicine* 2(8): 696–701.
- Spend some time reading on <http://retractionwatch.com/>

5.17 Final paper due date TBA. Post to OSF