POLSC 49300

Conducting and Presenting Political Science Research

Zachary Shirkey Class Room: 208 HW

1724A HW Class Time: Tu 12:30pm–1:20pm

zshirkey@hunter.cuny.edu Office Hours: Tu 10:30am-Noon

212-772-5503

Course Description

The course will focus on refining and reinforcing skills that will help students write better honors theses. It will culminate in the writing of a literature review for the thesis. The course will espouse methodological pluralism as no single method is appropriate for all research projects in the discipline.

Course Requirements

The overall grade will be broken down as follow:

Annotated Bibliography for Literature Review 15%

Outline of Literature Review 15%

Outline of Case Study 15%

Draft Literature Review 30%

Participation 25%

Students are expected to attend every class. Students should complete the assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned with the exception of the first class. **Students are expected to have completed assignments at the places noted in the syllabus so that they can participate in peer review.** The work must be of a reasonable quality and length to have been considered a serious effort. These check points are only for the purpose of this course. **Your thesis advisor may require additional or earlier drafts and all department requirements as to when drafts are due must also be followed.**

Learning Goals

Students will build upon the research skills they have acquired in lower level classes and refine them so that they can be applied to a longer, more independent, and more advanced research project than can be done in the setting of an honors class. These more refined research skills will allow for better theses. Such skills will include: crafting thesis statements; organizing a long research document; writing a literature review; finding and using appropriate scholarly sources; making a political science argument rather than just reporting on events; exploring alternative hypotheses; proper citation; methods for presenting and defending evidence; peer review; and oral presentation skills.

Incompletes and Credit/No Credit

To be eligible for a grade of incomplete, students must have reached an agreement to that effect with the professor prior to the final exam. No grade of incomplete will be awarded without **documentation** of a health issue, mental health issue, or some other **legitimate obstacle** to completing the course in a timely manner. Said health issues can affect either the student or a family member under the student’s care. All work must be completed prior to finishing POLSC 49200 in order to earn honors.

Students cannot take 49300 for P/NC and earn honors. The course must be taken for a letter grade to obtain honors. Students must receive a B+ or better to continue in the honors sequence.

Missed Classes Because of Religious Observances

Students who miss class because of religious observances are entitled to reasonable accommodations to make up missed assignments and missed material. Students should contact the instructor prior to the missed class to inform the instructor about the absence, work out how missed assignments will be made up, and determine how missed material can be learned.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

“In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

* 1. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
  2. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>”

Course Materials:

There is one required book, plus articles available on Blackboard. The book is:

Baglione, Lisa A. 2015. (3rd ed). *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. CQ Press.

It is referred to below as **Ba** and can be purchased on Akademos and at Shakespeare. A few of the readings are available on Blackboard and are referred to below as **Bb**. Additionally, samples of quality writing, examples of proper citation, and other materials are posted on the course’s Blackboard site.

**Course Schedule**

Tu Sep 3:

*What Makes for a Good Research Question?*

* **Ba**: Chapters 1–2: “So You Have to Write a Research Paper” and “Getting Started” Finding a Research Question,” 1–40.

Tu Sep 10:

*Finding Sources*

* **Ba**: Chapter 3: “Learning Proper Citation Forms, Finding the Scholarly Debate, and Summarizing and Classifying Arguments: The Annotated Bibliography,” 41–74.

Tu Sep 17:

*Writing a Literature Review and Paper Organization*

* **Ba**: Chapter 4: “Making Sense of the Scholarly Answers to Your Research Question: Writing the Literature Review,” 75–92.

Tu Sep 24: **Annotated Bibliography for Literature Review Due**

*Citation, Quotation, and Paraphrasing*

* **Bb**: “APSA Style Sheet.”

Tu Oct 1:

*Making Scholarly Arguments, Variables, and Causation*

* **Ba**: Chapter 5: “Effectively Distilling the Argument: The Thesis, Model and Hypothesis,” 93–108.

Tu Oct 8: **Outline of Literature Review Due**

*Peer Review of Literature Review Outline*

* **Ba**: Chapter 7: “Making Your Plan and Protecting Yourself from Criticism: The Research Design,” 121–54.

Tu Oct 22:

*Using Empirical Evidence (I)*

* **Bb**: Lijphart, Arend. 1971. “Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method,” *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682–93.

Tu Oct 29:

*Using Empirical Evidence (II)*

* **Bb**: Fearon, James. 1991. “Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science,” *World Politics* 43(2): 169–95.

Tu Nov 5:

*Using Empirical Evidence (III)*

* **Ba**: Chapter 8: Evaluating the Argument: The Analysis and Assessment Section,” 155–74.

Tu Nov 12: **Outline of Case Study Due**

*Normative Arguments and Peer Review of Case Study Outlines*

Tu Nov 19:

*Presenting Research*

* **Bb**: Cranor, Lorrie Faith and Anivana Mishra. 2010. “How to Write a Research Poster,” *XRDS.*
* **Bb**: Hess, George, Kathryn Tosney, and Leon Liegel. 2013. “Creating Effective Poster Presentations,” website: <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/NewSite/index.html>

Tu Nov 26:

*Incorporating Feedback*

* **Ba**: Chapter 6: “Revising and Editing Your Work: It Ain’t Over ‘til It’s Over,” 109–20.

Tu Dec 3:

*Writing Introductions and Conclusions*

* **Ba**: Chapter 9: “Bringing the Paper Together in Three Essential Ways: The Conclusion, Introduction, and Title,” 175–90.

Tu Dec 10: **Draft of Literature Review Due**

*Peer Review of Literature Review*