

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3324G (550)

RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2019

Dr. P.W. Nesbitt-Larking
Room A301
Tel.: 438-7224 ext. 286
pnesebitt@uwo.ca

Lecture: Wednesday , 12:30-2:30, Room W17.

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30; Thursday 10:30-11:30 and 13:30-14:30.

Antirequisite(s): Health Sciences 2801 A/B, Psychology 2800E, 2820E, 2830A/B, and Sociology 2206A/B.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in 3rd or 4th year of Political Science, International Relations or a BMOS Public Administration module.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Keith Archer and Loleen Berdahl. 2015 *Explorations: Conducting Empirical Research in Canadian Political Science*. 3rd ed. Don Mills, On: Oxford University Press.

This text is available from the UWO Bookstore.

Information on any other required readings will be made available throughout the course.

OWL is used in the course and students will be expected to visit the course site on a regular basis to access required course material.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to a range of methodological approaches to questions in political science. Students will become familiar with qualitative and quantitative data sources and ways of using each to address political issues.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Satisfactory achievement in this course is measured by the degree to which students demonstrate competence in the following assessable categories of expectation:

Depth and breadth of knowledge demonstrated both orally and in written form, through description, explanation, critical understanding and analysis of the principal theories and methods of political science: quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including survey research, experiments, interviews, observation, focus group research, content analyses, inferential and descriptive statistical analyses, sampling, the analysis of univariate, bivariate and multivariate quantitative data, the research report and research ethics.

Communication Skills: An ability to communicate political scientific information, arguments, and analyses with precision, relevance, and adequate style in writing and orally. An ability to address set questions under time-limited examination conditions. An ability to understand and apply scholarly documentation techniques appropriate to political science. A capacity to engage in reasoned dialogue and debate with others over theories, issues, and perspectives on research methods in political science.

EXPECTATIONS

Assignment drop-off

Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

What Your Grades mean

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

Course expectations and aspirations

An expectation of self-directed, independent and active learning.

An expectation of routine attendance in scheduled meetings.

An expectation that assigned readings will be read thoroughly and annotated prior to scheduled meetings.

An expectation that each student will participate in an active and relevant manner, contributing ideas and insights derived from the assigned reading.

An aspiration toward precision, accuracy and clarity in oral communication, including active listening skills.

An aspiration toward enhanced depth and breadth of learning as the course proceeds.

An aspiration toward more critical and analytical thinking as the course proceeds and assignments are completed.

An aspiration toward a continued curiosity toward new ideas and an openness toward others and their ideas.

Political Science Department Regulations

Late Penalties: It is the policy of the Department of Political Science to exact a penalty of 2 marks (i.e. 2 per cent of the grade on the assignment) per working day for late papers. Papers will not be accepted by instructors if they are more than two weeks late.

Documentation: Students must follow the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* Editorial Style Guidelines. Internet Documentation: All information obtained through the Internet must be cited in footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies.

Internet citations must include all of the same information that is provided when citing a book or article. This includes the name of the author, name of the organisation that has posted the website, the title, the date the website was consulted, and the website address. For more details on proper electronic citation, consult the information desk at the Huron University College library.

Assignment Drop-off: Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

Class Attendance: You are strongly advised not to miss any class meetings. Important material, detailed instructions, information and insights on course themes, examinations, written work, course objectives and other essential matters will be presented in these hours.

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES:

Further details of requirements for assignments will be made available in class and on Owl

Research Methods in Political Science

Research Design (10%)	6 February 2019
Quantitative Research Project (10%)	27 February 2019
Qualitative Research Project (10%)	20 March 2019
Final Research Proposal (30%)	3 April 2019
Three In-Class Chapter Assessments (30%)	23 January 2019;13 February 2019;13 March 2019
Participation (10%)	Throughout

COURSE METHODS:

Course methods comprise assigned reading and essay reading research, formal essay composition, journal/editorial/opinion-based writing, instructor-based exposition, large group seminar participation, small group seminar participation, and reader recognition/response written assignments under time-limited conditions.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Note: Each of the readings listed below is **REQUIRED**. Readings should be completed before the start of the specified week.

Date:

1. Jan. 9 The Science in Political Science: Theory and Hypotheses
Archer and Berdahl: 1 and 3
2. Jan. 16 Concepts and Measures
Archer and Berdahl: 4 and 5
3. Jan. 23 Research Ethics

IN-CLASS CHAPTER ASSESSMENT

- Archer and Berdahl: 6
4. Jan. 30 Qualitative Research
Archer and Berdahl: 2 and 13

Research Methods in Political Science

5. Feb. 6 Inferential Research and Probability: Sampling

RESEARCH DESIGN DUE IN CLASS

Archer and Berdahl: 8

6. Feb. 13 Survey Research

IN-CLASS CHAPTER ASSESSMENT

Archer and Berdahl: 10

7. Feb. 27 Experiments and Textual Analysis

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT DUE IN CLASS

Archer and Berdahl: 11 and 12

8. Mar. 6 Interviews and Observations

Archer and Berdahl: 9

9. Mar. 13 The Normal Curve

IN-CLASS CHAPTER ASSESSMENT

Archer and Berdahl: 14

10. Mar. 20 Inferential Statistics

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT DUE IN CLASS

Archer and Berdahl: 15

11. Mar. 27 Bivariate Relationships

Archer and Berdahl: 16

12. Apr. 3 Multivariate Relationships

FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS

Archer and Berdahl: 17



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Conduct* at:

<https://huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details

Research Methods in Political Science

concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Research Methods in Political Science

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

Research Methods in Political Science

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

Research Methods in Political Science

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <https://huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility> (“Cancellations and Closures”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science>