Southern New Hampshire University

Graduate Course Syllabus

POL 500: Research and Analysis in Political Science

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Political science emphasizes the use of research and data to propose and promote positive changes to public policy. In this course, students will examine a variety of contemporary political challenges and issues through the lens of the public good. Students will be asked to conduct research on and propose solutions for common issues that effectively address the issue in a non-partisan manner while using various research methods and tools used across the field of political science.

Course Outcomes

- Evaluate competing theoretical perspectives of the public good as a central concept in the study and practice of political science
- Evaluate research designs for their compliance with ethical standards governing the use of human subjects as referenced in the Common Rule
- Compare and contrast methodological perspectives to distinguish competing visions, goals, and purposes of political science
- Interpret quantitative and qualitative research data from published academic primary and secondary sources to make informed judgments
- Propose solutions to contemporary political issues through the lens of the public good using an objective, non-partisan approach

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, MBS Direct, rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Political Science Research in Practice

Akan Malici and Elizabeth S. Smith (Eds.)

Routledge

2013

ISBN: 978-0-415-88773-1

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	10	50	500
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	75	75
Milestone Two	1	75	75
Milestone Three	1	50	50
Final Paper	1	300	300
		Total Course Points:	1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the policy page for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	The Challenges of Public Goods 1-1 Discussion: What Makes a Good a Public Good?
2	What Makes Political Science a Science? *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapters 1 and 2 2-1 Discussion: Is Political Science a Science? 2-2 Final Project Milestone One: Contemporary Political Issue
3	Case Studies: Political Science Research in Action *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapter 3 3-1 Discussion: The Comparative Method
4	Reading, Writing, and Political Science 4-1 Discussion: How to Avoid Acts of Academic Dishonesty 4-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Literature Review
5	Interaction is Key: Field Research and Interviews *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapters 4 and 5 5-1 Discussion: Interviews
6	Experimental Research in Political Science *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapter 10 6-1 Discussion: Experiments in the Field of Political Science 6-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Rough Draft
7	Qualitative Approach: Secondary Data Analysis and Content Analysis *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapters 8 and 9 7-1 Discussion: How Do Candidates Engage the Public?
8	Everyone Loves Math: Polling and Statistical Research *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapters 6 and 7 8-1 Discussion: Polls and Surveys, Uses and Limitations
9	Ethical Considerations in Political Science *Political Science Research in Practice*, Chapter 12 9-1 Discussion: Ethics – Is It Necessary? 9-2 Final Project: Final Paper
10	Is Political Science Still a Science? 10-1 Discussion: Is Political Science a Science?

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is

automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the full attendance policy.

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the full late assignment policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Student Handbook

Review the student handbook.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities.

As soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC. Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed.

Contact Information:
Online Accessibility Center
Phone: 866-305-9430
Email: oac@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, visit the Online Accessibility Center website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the Disability Services webpage.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the full academic honesty policy.

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the full copyright policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

Review the full withdrawal policy.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the policy page.

Student Work Samples

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please email assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu.