

**Department of Political Science  
Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences**

Academic year 2025–2026

**Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science**  
PS210 – – 3 ECTS

**Course Description**

This course teaches everything you ever wanted to know about the Fellowship of the Ring. You will learn how to melt rings in volcanoes, evade Nazgûls, and not to trust Saruman.

**PROFESSOR**

Jaye Seawright

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**ASSISTANT**

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**Syllabus**

**Course Aims**

This course has two main purposes. First, it provides a deeper understanding of resisting the Power of the Ring. Second, it applies these insights through practical exercises.

**Course Structure**

Extraordinarily, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, we will be moving this course online for the remainder of the semester.

**Course Materials**

There is no required textbook for this course. All materials can be found on Moodle.

## Course Evaluation

Evaluation is by a combination of participation, term papers, and exam.

**Participation (10%):** This is about participation.

**Papers (40%):** This is about the term papers.

**Exam (50%):** This is about the exam.

## Course Policies

*Auditing* is possible. Please contact me.

*Grading* is according to the Swiss 1-6 scale.

*Plagiarism* is not tolerated at the Graduate Institute. If you are unsure, please contact the TA.

## Import Bibliography

Are you using a bibliography manager like Zotero or Mendeley to manage your PDFs? [Click here](#) to get the `.bib` file of this course to import it into your software of choice!

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1 (14 Sep): Inheriting a Ring**

Inheriting a ring can lead to a great adventure!

#### *Required readings*

Darwin, Charles (1859). *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. John Murray.

#### *Additional readings*

Hollway, James (2020). *Iheiddown: A RMarkdown class for IHEID dissertations*. <https://github.com/jhollway/iheiddown>.

**Week 2 (21 Sep): Escaping the Shire**

*Required readings*

Satchell, Christine, & Dourish, Paul (2009). "Beyond The User: Use And Non-Use in HCI". *Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Australian Computer-Human Interaction Special Interest Group (OZCHI '09)*, November, 9–16.

**Week 3 (28 Sep): Fleeing from the Nazgûl**

**Week 4 (5 Oct): Meeting Strider**

**Week 5 (12 Oct): Arrival in Rivendell**

**Week 6 (19 Oct): On the road to Mordor**

– This syllabus is subject to change –