

# POLI 2000: Designing Political Research

Yue Hu

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: 12:30 – 15:30 M

Office: 313 Shaeffer Hall

Web: TBD

Class Hours: 15:30 – 16:45 MW

Class Room: 105 EPB

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## Overview

Why do candidates win elections? Why do states get involved in international crises and wars? Why do states cooperate on transnational problems like climate change? What explains differences in how countries treat their citizens? What explains the choices of violent non-state actors like terrorists? There are just some of the questions that political scientists study. The goal of this course is for you to understand how political scientists study these questions. This course will introduce students to political science research and the many different ways that research is undertaken.

This class will help students understand how social scientists study political phenomena. You will learn how to develop causal explanations about politics and society, develop testable research hypotheses, and design different approaches to empirically studying these theories. Emphasis will be on an active hands-on learning environment (TILE classroom). You will also be able to more fully understand research that is produced in Political Science.

## Requirements

I will base your grade for the course on your performance in the four areas below. For each component of the course grade, I assign a numerical score. I then calculate the course grade with the weighted average of the component scores. Scores of 90-100 correspond to A, 80-89 to B, etc., with pluses and minuses for the top and bottom third of each decile.

1. Class attendance and performance (30%: 10% participation + 10% leading discussion + 10% attendance). Regarding participation, I am looking for you to show that you have read and critically evaluated the assigned readings and are engaged with our in-class discussions. Each student will
2. In-class quizzes (24%)
3. Midterm examination (20%)
4. Final examination (26%)

## Readings

### Required textbook:

Earl R. Babbie. *The Practice of Social Research*. 12th ed. Australia: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010. ISBN: 9780495598428 0495598429.

S. Van Evera. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Cornell paperbacks. Cornell University Press, 1997. ISBN: 9780801484575.

**Week 1 (2017-08-21~2017-08-27): Being a Political Scientist**

**Week 2 (2017-08-28~2017-09-03): Being Scientific**

**Week 3 (2017-09-04~2017-09-10): Labor Day**

**Week 4 (2017-09-11~2017-09-17): Research Question**

**Week 5 (2017-09-18~2017-09-24): Concepts**

**Week 6 (2017-09-25~2017-10-01): Theory**

**Week 7 (2017-10-02~2017-10-08): Measurement**

**Week 8 (2017-10-09~2017-10-15): Design: Experiment**

**Week 9 (2017-10-16~2017-10-22): Design: Singal Case Study**

**Week 10 (2017-10-23~2017-10-29): Design: Small-N**

**Week 11 (2017-10-30~2017-11-05): Design: Large-N**

**Week 12 (2017-11-06~2017-11-12): Content Analysis**

**Week 13 (2017-11-13~2017-11-19): Profession**

**Week 14 (2017-11-20~2017-11-26): Thanks Giving Week**

**Week 15 (2017-11-27~2017-12-03): Presentation**

**Week 16 (2017-12-04~2017-12-10): Presentation**

**Week 17 (2017-12-11~2017-12-17): Final Week**