



POLITICAL ANALYSIS POLI 2P80

Department of Political Science
Brock University
Fall 2017

Instructor: Bradley Walchuk
Office Location: Plaza TBA
Office Hours: Tuesday evening, by appointment
E-mail: bwalchuk@brocku.ca

Course Timetable:

5087101	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	LEC	1	T	1900-2100	AS202	Walchuk,Bradley
5087201	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 1	1	T	1800-1900	MCC403	
5087202	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 2	1	T	1800-1900	MCC401	
5087203	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 3	1	T	2100-2200	MCC400	
5087204	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 4	1	T	2100-2200	MCC300	
5087205	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 5	1	T	2100-2200	MCD400	
5087206	POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 6	1	T	1800-1900	MCJ209	
5087207	a POLI 2P80	D2	2017/Sep/06	2017/Dec/05	SEM 7	1	T	1800-1900	MCD300	

Course Overview:

How do students of political science find answers to the important and interesting questions about their discipline? This course introduces students to the ethical and methodological challenges of political inquiry. Qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis will be covered including survey research and interviews, the analysis of documents and Official statistics, field research and historical/comparative research. Students will learn how to conduct a content analysis as well as construct a survey.

Required Textbook:

W. Lawrence Neuman and Karen Robson. *Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, 4th Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson, 2017.

Please note any of the previous editions (1st to 3rd) are also acceptable

Readings for seminar will be placed on the course SAKAI page or Library Reserve

Course Requirements and Grade Value:

Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Date
Seminar	20	Weekly throughout
Midterm Exam	20	Oct 24, 2017
Written Assignment	30	Nov 21, 2017
Final Exam	30	TBA December Exam period
Total	100%	

Date for Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty: Monday, November 6th, 2017. The instructor will communicate to students a minimum of 15% of the final course grade no later than the week prior to the applicable deadline.

E-Based Learning: In this course we will be utilizing on-line learning, primarily in the form of SAKAI. Students are automatically members of the class' SAKAI community by virtue of enrolling in the course. The primary use of SAKAI will be for me to post grades, upload PDF files of interest, and send mass messages to students regarding the course. I will also post informative news links and videos to supplement in-class learning.

Students should be aware that when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for e-mail accounts, and any other information shared by students on-line or made publically available will also be apparent to others. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with me. Please note that no marks will be awarded for participation in e-based learning, and this component of the course is completely optional.

As in-class participation remains an essential component of learning, lecture notes WILL NOT be posted on SAKAI, and posts offering them for free or offering their sale will be deleted.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify a variety of qualitative methods used to study politics
- To understand the application and approach of these methods
- To be able to apply at least one of these methods to a hypothetical research project

Seminar Policy: Seminars constitute an important part of your learning experience and final grade. They give you the opportunity to clarify the material and to discuss Canadian political issues with other students. In order to be successful in seminar component of the course, students are required to: 1) prepare, 2) attend, and 3) discuss.

Attendance alone is not enough to ensure a passing grade for the seminar portion of the course. A passing grade can only be attained through preparation and participation. Seminar participation will be graded as follows: students who attend a seminar but who do not participate in the discussion will generally be awarded a failing grade for that seminar.

Students who discuss the readings at least once during the seminar will be awarded a mark ranging between a “B” and “C”, depending on the quality of the contribution. Students who participate more frequently and with high quality will be awarded a mark of “A”, depending on the quality and frequency of their remarks. Students who do not provide an acceptable reason for their absence from a seminar (i.e. documentation of illness or personal emergency) will be assigned a mark of “0” for that seminar. Make-up assignments will not be composed for students who miss seminars.

Students may be required to facilitate at least one seminar. For this component of the course, the teaching assistants will be given leeway in determining how to best conduct seminar.

If you have additional questions about seminars, or if the expectations are unclear, it is your responsibility to speak to the instructor at the beginning of the course.

Instructions for the Written Assignment:

The writing assignment for 2P80 is a research proposal. This assignment has you compose a **proposal for hypothetical future research**, in much the same way that academics and policy analysts submit research proposals for projects involving public funding. **You are not actually conducting the research**, merely proposing how you would conduct it, and completing all the required tasks that researchers would undertake up to the point of actually conducting the research.

You are to select a hypothetical project based on one of topics provided at a later date. We’ll discuss the assignment in more detail later in the course.

Your research proposal must include the following areas:

- Purpose of study
- A hypothesis (and rationale behind it)
- Literature review of existing research (this is not an annotated bibliography, but a section that looks at common themes across many authors)
 - o A discussion of overview linking themes and methods of past research
 - o A discussion of how your research differs from existing research
- A clearly developed and justified methodology (ie/ how you plan on conducting the research- interviews, content analysis, etc.)
- A discussion of all variables that you expect to study in your project
- An overview of any ethical concerns that may be relevant to your research
- Appendices outlining your survey and/or interview questions, as appropriate
- ***any other requirements communicated in lecture prior to due date***

In short, you are to explain **how you would** conduct this research; **you’re not actually conducting it.**

Your assignment should be no less than 8 pages in length, with roughly 3-4 pages dedicated to the literature review. In addition, you should include a bibliography for your work. The assignment must be double-spaced, and in size 12 Times New Roman font, and must also include a title page. Further instructions will be provided closer to the due date.

Grading Rubric:

Consistent with the university's Undergraduate Student Calendar, which can be found online, numerical grades will be allocated for each assignment based upon the following criteria:

A - 90 to 100: Reserved for students where work is of outstanding quality that provides clear evidence of a rare talent for the subject and of an original and/or incisive mind.

A - 80 to 89: Awarded for excellent, accurate work in which evidence of a certain flair for and comprehension of the subject is clearly perceptible.

B - 70 to 79: Indicates competent work that shows a sound grasp of the course goals without being distinguished.

C - 60 to 69: Represents work of adequate quality which suffers from incompleteness or inaccuracy.

D - 50 to 59: Given where the minimum requirements of a course are barely satisfied.

F - 49 or lower: Means that minimum requirements have not been met....

If you have additional questions about this rubric, or if it is unclear, it is your responsibility to speak to the instructor in advance of the assignment's due date.

Essay Assignment Submission and Late Penalty Policy: Only print copies of essay assignments will be accepted. Electronic copies will not be accepted. Essays must be submitted in lecture on Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 or deposited in the drop box located outside the Political Science Department (Plaza 328) by 3:30 p.m. on the due date. Do not submit your assignment by sliding it under my office door.

A penalty of 5% per day will be applied to late essays from Monday to Friday, while a 10% deduction applies over the weekend. Extensions of due dates are granted only in circumstances that are beyond the student's control, such as health problems that are supported by a medical certificate, or personal emergencies. Requests for extensions of the assignment deadline must be made in writing and supported by documentation.

In an effort to be eco-friendly, I am happy to accept double-sided assignments.

Services for ESL Students: Students whose primary language is not English are encouraged to consult Brock's Academic-Zone Learning Services. They tailor their programs to the needs of students whose first language is not English, and include:

- One-on-one consultation support with an English as a Subsequent Language (ESL) Specialist
- A drop-in service for writing and study skills
- Talking Circles to practice oral English skills
- Group workshops tailored for ESL students

Most of these services take place daily in the Learning Commons. More information can be found on their website: www.brocku.ca/learning-services.

Accommodations for Students:

- The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. Students should also supply a signed medical certificate. The Medical Certificate can be found at <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>
- As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.
- Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.
- I am also happy to accommodate students whose familial responsibilities (ie/ child-rearing) interfere with their coursework. Please with consult me should the need arise

Academic Integrity: Statement for undergraduate courses

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Polices" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Plagiarism software:

Plagiarism software is not used for this course, but the university's academic integrity statement (above) applies and is strongly enforced.

Academic Accommodation:

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th floor

Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations:

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

Medical Exemption Policy:

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at:

<http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy:

Brock University's "Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy" applies to all students, course participants, staff, faculty and volunteers of Brock University. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Develop and support a work and learning culture that values diversity and inclusion, fosters respect, and does not tolerate prejudice, discrimination, harassment and/or bullying;
- Outline rights, responsibilities and types of behaviour which fall within the scope of this policy;
- Make provision for support services, including training and awareness initiatives, to promote a respectful work and learning environment; and
- Outline procedures for handling and resolving complaints when this policy is breached by discrimination, harassment and/or bullying.

The policy may be viewed at

<http://www.brocku.ca/secretariat/admin/>.

Personal Safety:

For those in evening classes, BUSU offers a "foot patrol" to safely escort students to their vehicles. Call extension 4700 to request assistance.

The Brock Student Sexual Violence Support Centre -* supports and advocates for people who have experienced sexual violence. A full list of services can be found at *www.ASaferbrock.org*. If you or a friend needs support or have questions you can text *289-990-SAFE(7233)*. All services are 24/hr, anonymous, confidential, and free.

Course Outline

Relationship between attendance and grades:

Students are expected to attend all classes and must submit all assignments in order to pass this course.

Tuesday September 12: Methodological and Theoretical Approaches to Studying Politics

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 1 and 2

Seminar Reading: n/a (No Seminars This Week)

Tuesday September 19: Planning and Designing a Research Project

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 4

Seminar Reading: Introductory Seminar, and Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 5

Tuesday September 26: Ethical Issues in Social Research

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 3

Seminar Reading: Stanley Milgram, "Behavioral Study of Obedience," *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, vol., 67, no. 4 (1967): 371-378 and Diana Baumrind, "Some Thoughts on Ethics in Research: After Reading Milgram's Behavioral Study of Obedience," *Psychology in Action* (1967): 421-423.

Tuesday October 3: Measurement in the Study of Politics

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 6

Seminar Reading: Stephen Azzi and Norman Hilmer, "Evaluating Prime Ministerial Leadership in Canada: The Results of an Expert Survey," available on-line at: <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/410/443>

Tuesday October 10: NO CLASS- READING WEEK

Tuesday October 17: Sampling

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 7

Seminar Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 7

Tuesday October 24: Mid Term Examination

Lecture Reading: n/a

Seminar Reading: n/a

Tuesday October 31: Survey Research

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 8

Seminar Reading: David McDonald and Mark Mitchell, "Elected Officials and Aboriginal Politics in Canada: A Survey of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Attitudes," available on-line at: <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2012/MacDonald-Mitchell.pdf>

Tuesday November 7: Conducting an Interview

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 12

Seminar Reading: Michael Howlett and Samuel Oliphant, "Environmental Organizations and Climate Change Policy Capacity: An Assessment of the Canadian Case," available on-line at: <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/168>

Tuesday November 14: Field Research

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 13

Seminar Reading: Excerpts from Dr. James Maskalyk, *Six Months in Sudan: A Young Doctor in a War-torn Village*. Toronto: Anchor, 2010. **ON RESERVE**

Tuesday November 21: Content Analysis and Coding

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 10

Seminar Reading: Linda Trimble and Angelina Wager, "'Wildrose Wild Card': Alberta Newspaper Coverage of the 2009 Wildrose Alliance Leadership Contest," available on-line at: <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/473>

Tuesday November 28: Historical Comparative Research

Lecture Reading: Neuman and Robson, *Basics of Social Research*, ch. 14

Seminar Reading: Seymour Martin Lipset, "Historical Traditions and National Characteristics: A Comparative Analysis of Canada and the United States," *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, vol. 11, no. 2 (1986): 113-155.

Tuesday December 5: Conclusions and Exam Review

No Readings