



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 397, LECTURE 01  
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS  
FALL 2020

**Instructor:** Jack Lucas  
**Email:** [jack.lucas@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jack.lucas@ucalgary.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 1:45-2:24pm via Zoom  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4037025906>  
**Course Day / Time:** Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm  
**Delivery Method:** Web-based  
**Course Pre-Requisites:** None  
**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to the questions, strategies and rationales of political science research methods. Emphasis on the practical and theoretical advantages and disadvantages of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students who commit themselves to the readings, lectures, class discussions, and assignments in this course will finish the course with (a) substantial knowledge of the methods employed in contemporary political science research, (b) the ability to competently consume and critique political science research, and (c) practical experience with research methods and design.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

There is no assigned textbook. All readings are available on D2L.

#### **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

Computer device with internet connection. Web camera strongly recommended.

## COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

*Schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises. A full list of course readings is available on D2L, along with PDF copies of each reading.*

WEEK	TOPIC
<b>Part One: Foundations</b>	
September 8	Course Introduction
September 15	Philosophy of Social Science
September 22	Theories and Models
September 29	Descriptive Inference 1 - Measurement
October 6	Descriptive Inference 2 - Description
October 13	Causal Inference 1 – Causes and Experiments
October 20	Causal Inference 2 – Causes from Observational Data
October 27	Case Studies
<b>Part Two: Tools and Techniques</b>	
November 3	Gathering String: Found Data
November 17	Talking to People: Interviews
November 24	Talking to People: Surveys
December 1	Watching and Reading: Ethnography and Discourse
December 8	Conclusion and Review

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Evaluation Item	Due date	Value
Assignments		
Methods Lab	November 5	25%
Participation and Tests		
Weekly quizzes	10 * 4% each	40%
Participation	Ongoing	10%
Final Take-Home Exam	December 11 <sup>th</sup>	25%

**Assignments (25%):** This assignment is designed to provide students with practical experience in research methods using real-world data. Details are available on D2L. I will also discuss the assignment in more detail in class before the due date. The assignment will be submitted to the instructor electronically via D2L.

- 1) *Methods Lab*. In this assignment, you will try out one of the research methods we have discussed in class. You will have several options to choose from, based on your interests and strengths. This assignment is due on **November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**.

**Weekly Quizzes (40%):** These multiple-choice weekly quizzes will be available on D2L each week from Thursday at 2pm until Friday at midnight. Each quiz will consist of 15-20 multiple choice questions, and must be completed no more than 30 minutes after they are started.

**Participation (10%):** Students are expected to contribute to online discussion groups (via Slack) as well as our class discussion (via Zoom) on Thursdays. I will provide more detail regarding participation expectations in class.

**Final Take-Home Exam (25%):** The final take home examination will consist of 1-2 essay questions which allow students to integrate material from the course and demonstrate overall comprehension. It will be distributed on December 7<sup>th</sup> and is due on **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

### **LATE PENALTIES**

In the absence of formal approval from the instructor, all late assignments will **receive a grade of zero**. Please speak with the instructor **well in advance of the due date** if you have any concerns about assignment or test timelines.

### **GRADE SCALE**

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

### **CONTACT AND ASSISTANCE**

Students who wish to discuss course material, or who have questions about assignments or any other aspects of the course, are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours and/or to ask questions on the course Slack workspace. All meetings will be held virtually.

### **WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

### **Deferral of a Final Examination**

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

## **Appeals**

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

## **University Regulations**

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

## **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

## **Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

## **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031)

## **Copyright Legislation**

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)**

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625].

### **Important Contact Information**

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

## **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

*SU Wellness Centre:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

*Student Wellness Services:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

*Campus Mental Health Strategy website:* <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.