

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

**Course Title:** Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science

**Course Number and Section**

POLISCI

2325F - 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Laszlo Sarkany

**Instructor Email(s):** lsarkan@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

The aim of this course is to familiarize the students with both, quantitative and qualitative methodologies used for scholarly inquiry relevant for political science. The course will begin with an overview of theories of knowledge, or how do we know what we know. Next, emphasis will be placed on how we are able to acquire such knowledge, as well as how best to communicate this knowledge. In practical terms, students will be asked to uncover their topic(s) of research interests relevant for political science, conduct a literature review, choose appropriate methodologies to conduct this research, and finally communicate their research agendas in the form of a research proposal, or, alternately, a grant proposal.

### Learning Outcomes:

Familiarize the students with both, quantitative and qualitative methodologies used for scholarly inquiry relevant for political science

Uncover topic(s) of research interests relevant for political science, conduct a literature review, choose appropriate methodologies to conduct this research, and finally communicate a research agendas in the form of a research proposal, or, alternately, a grant proposal.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required:

Loleen Berdahl and Jason Roy, "Conducting Empirical Research in Canadian Political Science," 4th edition, Oxford University Press Canada, 2021.

Recommended:

Cresswell, John W. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches. 4th ed. SAGE Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA: 2013. [Available to download as a PDF.]

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese. Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Wheelan, Charles. Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York: 2014.

I strongly encourage you to purchase the books and keep them for future reference, in addition to

reading them for the lectures. I will also assign additional readings which will be marked with an asterisk (\*). These readings will be available in the library under course reserves.

\*\*\*The rest of the readings assigned are accessible on-line in the appropriate journals, which are available electronically through UWO library web page.

Recommended:

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese. Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012.

### Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Self-reflection / autoethnography	October 4th	10 %
Midterm exam	October 25th	25 %
Literature review (group)	November 8th	10 %
Research proposal (group)	December 6th	25 %
Final exam	December, 2023	30%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.