

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Research Design 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 Brightspace 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: one outcome per entry

Gain insights into the value of self-reflection as related to conducting research and knowledge generation.

Understand the differences between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods.

Differentiate between different methods used within the three different genre of research methodologies.

Understand the connection between research questions and research design.

Gain valuable practical experience writing a literature review and composing a research proposal.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Loleen Berdahl and Jason Roy, "Conducting Empirical Research in Canadian Political Science," 4th edition, Oxford University Press Canada, 2021. [Estimated cost: \$46.99 - \$108.99 CAD]

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Self-reflection / Autoethnography	October 7th	10

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Midterm exam	October 14th	25
Literature review	November 11th	10
Research proposal	December 2nd	25
Final exam	December 2026	30

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$108.99

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

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