

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Research Design in Political Science**

**Course Number and Section:**

POLISCI

2325F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** 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:

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:

Required textbook:

Loleen Berdahl and Jason Roy, "Conducting Empirical Research in Canadian Political Science," 4th edition, Oxford University Press Canada, 2021. [Cost: \$103.99]

Students are welcomed to purchase earlier editions, or a second-hand book as well.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Self-reflection / Autoethnography	10/09/2025	10
Midterm exam	10/30/2025	25
Literature review	11/06/2025	10
Research proposal	11/27/2025	25
Final exam		30

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2025