

Research and Writing
POLS 3379 – 01, CRN 21672, 3 hours of credit
Spring 2018
Department of Political Science
Dr. Waggener

Class Time/Location: 11:00 – 12:20, CHSS 495
Office Location: CHSS 490B
Office Phone/Email: (936) 294-1466, tamarawaggener@shsu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives

This course has three primary objectives: students will learn to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions), students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, and students will learn to express themselves in writing.

Course Themes

Broad themes addressed in the course include: the development of the discipline of political science, basic research methods and designs in the social sciences, and federal regulation of research.

Required Readings

Akan Malici and Elizabeth S. Smith (eds), *Political Science Research in Practice*. Routledge, 1st edition, 2013. ISBN 978-0-415-88773-1

Assignments and Grades

Professional Development Report and rewrites	25 points
2 Short paper and rewrites	25 points each
Exam (multiple choice)	25 points

Instructions for the professional development report and short papers will be distributed in class.

Students' final grades will be the average of the three assignment grades. Final grades will be based on the following grading scale: 100 – 90 = A, 89 – 80 = B, 79 – 70 = C, 69 – 60 = D, 59 – 0 = F

Class Policies

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be offered in this course.

Make Up and Late Assignments

Students may submit late assignments only if they can provide formal documentation of a medical or family emergency. Late assignments will not be accepted if students fail to provide such documentation. Any student who submits an assignment late without the required documentation will receive a zero on the assignment. Please note that slips from the University Health Center are not considered acceptable documentation, unless the slip clearly indicates that the student was too ill to attend class.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be turned off during the class period.

Other Policies

For other class policies such as absences on religious holy days, academic dishonesty, etc. see <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Plagiarism Policy

Students who engage in plagiarism will receive an F in the course.

SHSU Writing Center

Sam Houston Writing Center is located in the CHSS building. Writing tutors are available to help students with writing. Students can call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Course Schedule

(Please note the course schedule may change if more class time needs to be devoted to certain sections of the course)

January – Discussion of professional development report

February 1 - 16

The Scientific Study of Government and Politics
Research questions, hypotheses and variables

February 15 First draft of professional report due

February 20 – March 1

Measurement, validity, and reliability

March 1 Final draft of professional report due

March 6 – 8

Research designs common to political science research

March 12 – 16 Spring break

March 22 First draft of short paper 1 due

March 20 – 29

Research designs common to political science research

April 3 – 10

Ethics, research, and institutional review boards

April 3 Final draft of short paper 1 due

April 12 – 19

In class peer reviews of paper 2

April 12 First draft of short paper 2 due

April 24 – 26

SHSU Career Services presentation

April 24 Final draft of short paper 2 due

May 1 – 3

Connecting class themes

Exam May 10 12:00 – 2:00