

Political Science 379.01W, CID 4191, 3 credit hours
Prerequisite: POL 261
Fall 2007
Dr. Waggener

Class Location/Time: AB1 310, 9:00-9:50 MWF
Office Location: AB1 319B
Office Phone/Email/Fax: (936) 294-1466, pol_taw@shsu.edu, (936) 294-4172
Office Hours: 2:00-4:30 MWF or by appointment

Course Description

The course addresses basic research designs and methods used in political science. The course also addresses writing in the social sciences.

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

Kenneth Hoover and Todd Donovan, *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking*. (Thomson-Wadsworth 2008 9th Edition ISBN – 13: 978-0-495-015857)

Class Format

The class format will be a mixture of lecture and student participation. During class discussions, we will not assume that there is a “correct” position on a particular political issue, but rather that there are multiple positions all of which must be considered. Thus students are strongly encouraged to arrive at their own political opinions. However, students must arrive at their opinions through active debate and informed reasoning. “Off the cuff” political opinions are not credible or productive to class learning.

Exam, Assignments, and Grading

Take Home Exam (50% of final grade)

The exam will consist of two questions based on lectures and readings. The take home exam will be distributed in class two weeks prior to final exam week. Exam specifications: 5 pages single spaced, font no larger than 12, and standard margins. Students may use whatever writing style they are familiar with as long as they apply the style consistently throughout their writing.

Short Writing Assignments (20% of final grade)

There will be 2 short writing assignments worth 10% each. Writing assignments specifications: 1 page single spaced, font no larger than 12, and standard margins. Students may use whatever writing style they are familiar with as long as they apply the style consistently throughout their writing. Each writing assignment question will be distributed in class 1 week before the assignment is due.

Resume (10% of final grade)

Students must complete a professional resume appropriate to employment fields in political science.

In Class Exam (20% of final grade)

Students must complete an in class multiple choice exam based on lectures and readings.

Grading

Final course grades will be based on the following grading scale: 100 – 90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F

Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams will be granted to students who can provide formal documentation of a medical or family emergency. If a student fails to provide this documentation, he or she will receive a zero on the exam. Please note that visitation slips issued by the University Health Center are not considered formal documentation, unless the slip clearly indicates that the student was too ill to attend class. Make up exams will be short answer exams.

Extra Credit

Under **NO** circumstances will extra credit be offered in this course.

Scored Scantron Sheets

Students must keep their scored scantron sheets. A student cannot challenge their grade unless he or she has copies of all scantron sheets.

Class Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student enrolled in this course.

Class Policies

Please see <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus> for class policies regarding:

Academic Dishonesty, Classroom Rules of Conduct, Student Absences on Religious Holy Days, Students with Disabilities Policy, and Visitors in the Classroom. Please see <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html> for classroom rules of conduct.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Class Schedule

Please note that the class schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.

Thinking Scientifically

Aug 20 – 24 Chapter 1

Aug 27 Writing Assignment 1 due in class

Ethics and Research

Aug 27 – 29 Introduction to ethics and research

Aug 31 Students must complete an online tutorial addressing ethics and research:
<http://cme.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learning/humanparticipant-protections.asp>
Students must print out a certificate of completion and bring the certificate to class on September 5. A portion of the in class exam will be based on the online tutorial and thus students are encouraged to print out the online material.

Sep 5 - 7 Ethics and research continued

Sep 10 Writing assignment 2 due in class

The Elements of Science

Sep 10 – 17 Chapter 2

Sep 19 - 21 Discussion of a research project addressing juvenile delinquency

Research Questions, Research Results, and Theories

Sep 24 – Oct 1 Chapter 3

Oct 1 3 - 5 Discussion of a research project addressing racial identity and civil rights

Hypotheses and Variables

Oct 8 - 12 Chapter 4

Oct 15 - 17 Discussion of a research project addressing juvenile delinquency

Measurement and Relationships

Oct 19 - 29 Chapter 5

Oct 31 – Nov 2 Discussion of a research project addressing human rights

Resume Writing and Professional Careers in Political Science

Nov 5 – 9 Students will use class time to complete meet with a career services staff member regarding resumes and job employment offerings and to complete a mock interview.

Nov 12 – 16 Discussion of professional careers in political science

Nov 19 Resumes due in class

Nov 20 – 23 Thanksgiving Holiday

The Contributions of Political Science to Society and Government

Nov 26 – 30 Chapter 6

Dec 3 Review for in class exam

Dec 5 In class exam

Dec 7 Review for the take home exam

Final exam week is Dec 10 – 13. Please see SHSU homepage final exam schedule for information about the time and date for the final exam. The take home exam will be due on the final exam date listed for this course.