This is a graduate Scope and Methods course. It is designed to introduce you to research design and methods in political science. The course is also designed to introduce you to the various fields within political science. We will study both qualitative and quantitative research in this course. Regardless of the methods employed, it is imperative to have a solid research design. Topics will include approaches to political science, constructing a research question, literature reviews, critical reviews, hypothesis development/testing, survey design, experiments, case studies, and some introductory statistics.

Since this is a graduate seminar, it is imperative that you attend all the classes and complete the readings and written work. Accordingly, readings should be completed prior to each meeting. All work should be typed and submitted in class.

**Required texts for Scope and Methods:**
These should be available in the bookstore, or feel free to try to obtain them on Amazon (or any other web source).


*Additional readings will be available on reserve outside of my office or they will be provided to you. Journal articles can be obtained through JSTOR or other library, electronic resources.*

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on a combination of your participation, written work, and the examination. All written work will be reduced by 10% for each day late.

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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
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**Participation**
You are expected to not only attend the class meetings but participate in the class discussions. Therefore, it is important (and required) that you complete the readings as assigned. Your participation grade will be based on your verbal discussions of the materials each week. This will account for 15% of your final grade.

**Exercises and Assignments**
For many of the weeks, you will be required to submit written work from the Babbie and Wagenaar Guided Activity book. Do not remove the page from your book. Please type the exercises and submit them in class. There will be additional assignments that are not in the activity book. These will be worth a total of 30% of your final grade (not including the literature review). Corrected versions of these assignments will become part of your final paper assignment.

**Final Paper/Project**
The final paper/assignment is designed to reflect the material throughout the course of the semester. The sections of this project will be the product of many of the assignments given each week. Accordingly, your assignment will have a research question(s), a literature review, hypotheses, a research design, a survey, a proposed experiment, a case study, etc. You should correct/revise your exercises and assignments above to fit into the final project which is due on the last day of class. It is worth 30% of your grade. More information to follow.

**Literature Review**
You are required to write a 4-5 page literature review of one topic or subtopic in Political Science. Please be aware that a literature review is just that—a review of the literature. If you are not familiar with one, please the readings for week 5 are designed to help you. Additional information will follow. This assignment is worth 5% of your grade and is due 10/8.

**Final Examination**
The final exam will be given on Thursday, December 11th.

**Topic and Reading list:**

**Week 1—August 27th**
Introduction
**Week 2—September 3rd**

**Introduction to Political and Social Inquiry**

**Required Readings**

Babbie Chs. 1-2


**Exercises 1.1, 1.3, 2.1**

**Week 3—September 10th**

**The State of the Discipline**

**Required Reading**


**Develop a broad ranging research question or questions that you will pursue over the course of the semester. Turn in a paragraph on it.**

**Week 4—September 17th**

**Research Design**

**Required Reading**

Babbie Ch. 4

**Exercise 4.3, 4.4 (use an article). Continued next page**
**Write up a research proposal based on the research questions that you developed last week.**

**Week 5—September 24th**

**Literature Reviews, Conducting Research, and Writing about it**


Babbie ch. 17.

***Submit bibliography for your literature review***

**Week 6—October 1st**

**Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement**

**Required Reading**


Babbie ch. 5

**Exercises 5.1, 5.2, 5.3**

**Week 7—October 8th**

**Indexes and Scales; Measurement Continued**

**Required Readings**


Babbie ch. 6

**Exercises 6.1 or 6.2 and 6.3**

**Literature review due**

**Week 8—October 15th**

**Experiments**

**Required Readings**

Babbie ch. 8

**Exercises 8.1 And 8.3

**Devise an experimental design for your topic

**Week 9—October 22nd
Sampling


Babbie Ch. 7

**Exercise 7.4

**Week 10—October 29th
Survey Research and Design
Required Readings
Silverman *Interpreting Qualitative Data* ch. 4

Dillman pp. 32-78

Babbie ch. 9

**Exercises 9.2, 9.3

**Develop one or more hypotheses regarding your research questions. Make sure you identify the relevant dependent and independent variables that will be used to test your hypotheses. Design a survey to test your hypotheses. You should include questions regarding various controls (eg. Age, race, etc.) in your questionnaire.

**Week 11—November 5th
Qualitative Research
Required Reading

Babbie chs. 10, 11, 13

Silverman *Interpreting Qualitative Data* ch. 2

**Exercise 10.1 or 10.2 (your choice)
**Discussion question 1, ch. 11
Week 12—November 12th
Case studies
Required Readings


**Write a case study pertaining to your ongoing project.

Week 13—November 19th
Quantitative Methods I
Required Reading

Babbie chs. 14-16

**Exercise 13.1 or 13.2

Week 14—December 3rd
Quantitative Methods II
Required Reading

**Exercise 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 16.1

Final Exam—December 11th