

**Research Seminar
PLSC 298
Spring 2016
Andrews University
Department of History/Political Science**

Instructor: Dr. Marcella Myers

Buller Hall 106
TR 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Office Hours:

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to basic political science methodology. This includes concepts of both qualitative and quantitative data, data collection and analysis. Students will produce a research proposal and a final research project.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with tools and an understanding of research in the field of Political Science. Students will gain practical research skills through the writing of their own research paper. Through the writing process students will learn how to write a research question, create a research design and how to choose appropriate research methodology that best addresses their research question.

Textbooks:

Baglione, Lisa A. 2016. 3rd ed. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. Los Angeles, CA.: CQ Press.

Turabian, Kate L. 2007. 7th ed. *A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations: Chicago style for students and researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Course Requirements:

Throughout the semester students are expected to complete assignments related to research writing. The assignments build on each other to create a research paper. Students will complete a final draft, research project.

Special needs or students with disabilities should contact me as soon as possible to provide appropriate accommodations. If you are experiencing difficulties with the class, please see me during office hours, make an appointment with me, or visit the Student Success Center in Nethery. 204.

Attendance:

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class period and will be a part of your semester grade. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to be sure to check in with me after class to be marked present. Absences will not be excused except in cases of family emergencies with proper documentation.

Grading:

Your grade is based on your class attendance, assignments, and research paper.

Attendance	20%
Assignments	30%
Research Paper	50%

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

A	94 – 100%	C+	76 – 79%
A-	90 – 93%	C	71 – 75%
B+	86 – 89%	C-	68 – 70%
B	83 – 85%	D	60 – 67%
B-	80 – 82%	F	0 – 60%

Assignments:

Students are required to write a research paper. The writing/research process will be divided into assignments due at the beginning of the designated class period. All assignments must be printed, no had written assignments will be accepted. **Late assignments are not accepted.**

Final papers should be double-spaced, 12 pt. font, with standard 1 inch margins, and must be a minimum of 20 pages in length. Papers must have a title page, and page numbers, the use of headings are encouraged. Students must use Chicago note and bibliography style documentation.

Honors Students:

Honors students intending to write a political science thesis project may use the PLSC 298 research paper as a basis for their Honors project. Honors students should complete all assignments as preparation for the honors thesis. This means students should choose their paper topic for this class as their honors thesis topic. Honors students are required to complete all assignments, including a presentation of their work in the final weeks of the semester, with the exception of the final paper draft.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is an important part of every academic institution and student learning. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the policy of Andrews University. It is your responsibility to be familiar with University policy. The University's Code of Academic Integrity may be found at http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html .

Course Schedule (subject to change at the discretion of the professor):

January 5	Introduction
7	Turabian <i>What Research Is and How Researchers Think about It</i> Baglione <i>So you Have to Write a Research Paper</i>
12	Baglione <i>Getting Started: Finding a Research Question</i>
14	Turabian <i>Moving from a Topic to a Question to a Working Hypothesis;</i>
19	Turabian <i>Finding Useful Sources</i> Research Questions Due
21	Turabian <i>Engaging Sources</i>
26	Turabian <i>Planning a First Draft; General Introduction to Citation Practices</i> Baglione <i>Learning Proper Citation Forms, Finding the Scholarly Debate, and Summarizing and Classifying Arguments</i>
28	Turabian <i>Drafting Your Report</i> Outline Due
February 2	Library – Assignment due at the end of the class period
4	Annotated Bibliography due
9	Baglione <i>Effectively Distilling Your Argument</i>
11	Baglione <i>Making Your Plan and Protecting Yourself from Criticism</i>
16	Baglione <i>Evaluating the Argument</i> Literature Review Due
18	Turabian <i>Presenting Research in Alternative Forums</i> Turabian <i>Presenting Evidence in Tables and Figures</i>
23	Baglione <i>Bringing the Paper Together in Three Essential ways</i>
25	Turabian <i>Writing Your Final Introduction and Conclusion; Revising Sentences</i>
March 1	
3	
8	Rough Draft Due
10	Turabian <i>Learning from Your Returned Paper</i>
22	Turabian <i>Revising Your Draft</i>
24	
29	
31	

April 5	Begin Peer Review
7	
12	
14	
19	
21	
April 28 – noon	Final Draft Due