

**Spring 2018 GOV 388L: Research in International Politics  
W 12:30-3:30 (CBA 4.336)**

**Professor:** Dr. Rachel Wellhausen  
([rwellhausen@utexas.edu](mailto:rwellhausen@utexas.edu))  
Office hours: M 12:00-3:00 (Batts 4.138)

***Course Description:***

The collective goal of this course is for each of us to produce a research paper that is publishable in a top, peer-reviewed journal.\* To facilitate our goal, this course provides an intensive, guided, workshop-based independent research experience. Part of our class time will focus on the practicalities of conducting mainstream social science research. Most importantly, we will present our work to each other, intensively and repeatedly. Our success depends on our ability to hold each other accountable for our research and writing.

Your goal is to produce a fully-realized piece of research by semester's end that you will be able to submit to a journal, sooner rather than later. The expectation is that this research paper will also serve as a Master's thesis or as the lion's share of a dissertation proposal.† Your success depends on your ability to push your work in response to feedback and your own critical eye. Success requires thinking well beyond the concepts of "line-item edits" or incorporating a specific list of comments. You will likely have to ditch research topics, hypotheses, design strategies, frames, etc. along the way. This is part of the process. Broadly, your success depends on your ability to take charge of your work as a professional researcher and scholar.

***Grading:***

Draft Components 50%  
Ungraded components (complete/incomplete)

- Narrowing down research question
- Draft introduction and conclusion

Each of the following components receives equal weight:

- Draft literature review
- Draft theory
- Draft research design
- Draft results
- Second draft, front half of the paper

Conference-style presentation	10%
Final paper	25%
Homework	10%

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\* By the way, "us" includes me – I'll be working on a new paper in the context of the class, too.

† If you are working on a dissertation proposal, I still want you to write a stand-alone paper – you'll need this on the market, and you'll find it is surprisingly helpful in moving your dissertation from more abstract ideas to reality. Plus, it is better to minimize work on the proposal and allocate your scarce resources to getting research done.

- Participation 5%
- In seminar, quality of feedback to colleagues, and IR Speaker Series

## **POLICIES:**

**Absolutely no late assignments accepted**, with these possible exceptions:

**Exception 1: Religious Holidays.** By UT Austin policy, the student must notify the professor of the pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Exception 2: Disability Accommodations** (SSD: [ddce.utexas.edu/disability](http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability); 512-471-6259). Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities. Students registered with SSD are required to follow the SSD procedures, which include providing accommodation requirements to the professor (usually in a letter) and then meeting with the professor in office hours to discuss and commit to the approach that will be taken in the course. The professor asks that students registered with SSD be proactive: please raise issues with the professor immediately should we make a mistake in providing accommodations. Students are encouraged to register with SSD and notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor does not make SSD accommodations retroactively.

**Exception 3: Emergency** (SES: [deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency); 512-471-5017; 24/7 Behavior Concerns Advice Line [BCAL]: 512-232-5050). Any student facing severe difficulties during the semester should take advantage of Student Emergency Services. Once a student meets with SES, SES will contact the student's professors on the student's behalf. Thus, students do not need to provide explanations or doctor's notes, etc. to individual professors. Professors rely on SES as an intermediary, because we are not trained to provide students with appropriate services nor evaluate what services would be most useful. There are many staff members at SES – and throughout UT Austin – whose training and focus are exactly in these areas. Thus, students getting in touch with the professor directly about severe difficulties will be referred to SES. However, note that SES involvement puts the professor under no obligation to provide special accommodations for a student. Thus, we will provide special accommodations for students using SES on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:***

All violations of university academic conduct guidelines, including plagiarism, will be referred to the Dean of Students and **will result in a zero on the assignment or exam in question**. Plagiarism is the use of others' ideas or work without credit and/or presenting derivative work as one's own. This includes, but is not limited to, cutting and pasting from someone else's work or an internet source, failing to identify exact quotes, failing to cite a source for information that is only available from that source, failing to cite a source for an idea or argument you borrowed from that source, and turning in work that is not your own. When in doubt, cite.

***University Honor Code:***

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect towards peers and community. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050.

***Emergency Evacuation Policy:***

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [utexas.edu/emergency](http://utexas.edu/emergency).

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## COURSE OVERVIEW:

### **Overall:**

- You will keep a weekly research log. We will discuss this further in class, but it will include a log of your work on your paper, including time spent on idea generation/reading; writing; data collection; analysis; etc. *We will report on these regularly in class.*
- Please be prepared to work during class time. That is, bring materials (i.e. laptop) that facilitate your work.
- You will read the upcoming IR Speaker Series paper and be prepared to comment on it in class, when available. You are required to attend the IR Speaker Series.
- In consultation with you, I may change the structure of the class, readings, and assignments so as to best achieve our goals.

### **My interactions with you:**

- You are always welcome to resubmit a piece of work after you receive feedback, from me and/or from your colleagues. I'll let you know when my feedback needs to stop and your creativity and sharp eye needs to begin. Note that I will not be providing in-line edits, nor will I be giving you a list of "to dos" that, once done, means that the thing is "correct."
- When you are planning to come to my office hours (Monday 12-3), you should always send me a note by at least 10 AM with a **concise** description of what you want to talk about. If you'd like me to read and talk about new writing, please give me more time. I can best serve you when I have a chance to think before we speak. It is in your interest to avoid having me come in "cold."
- In office hours and over email, I may sometimes cut off conversations/feedback on your work. Do not take this personally! Sometimes the best advice I can give is to encourage you to think more on your own and come back to me later. (Please do come back later!)

### **Initial Advice – Project Management:**

Think carefully about your project management strategy, and spend time developing or refining your current approach. Our resources are scarce – especially time. The more up-front time you dedicate to your project management strategy, the more you can focus on your actual work, for this class and in your career.

Some various (non-exhaustive) sources/means for task management. Note that some of these may prove more useful when you work on co-authored projects:

- Spreadsheet of ideas/priorities/papers/progress/status/deadlines on all of your (potential) projects.
- Open Science Framework: <https://osf.io/>
- Overleaf
- ShareLaTeX
- Box (available for free through UT Austin), or Dropbox, Google, etc.
- Post-its and written reminders (don't underestimate the value of these)
- Do **not** rely on emails. Take it from me – that is not an adequate system.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Assignments:**

- **All assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59 Tuesday night before class.** I require submissions on Canvas because this is my best strategy when it comes to managing a course. Please only submit PDFs.
- **Unless stated otherwise, you must bring one paper copy of your assignment to class.**

### **January 17: Setting Goals**

- **Homework Assignment due:** Write 3 potential research questions for your paper.‡ That means, write down three questions that articulate three different topics. (A question need only be one sentence.) Your questions can be related or not. I also encourage you to throw in a fourth “wildcard” question.

#### ***Readings:***

Gary King, “Publication, Publication.” <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/paperspub.pdf>

Don Davis, “PhD Research: Where do I start?”

<http://www.columbia.edu/~drd28/Thesis%20Research.pdf>

Lieberman, E. (2016). Can the Biomedical Research Cycle be a Model for Political Science? *Perspectives on Politics*, 14(4), 1054-1066.  
doi:10.1017/S153759271600298X

### **January 24: Articulating a Research Question**

- **Homework Assignment due (Excellent Abstracts, 2017 articles):** Look over the abstracts of papers published in top journals in 2017. Find 2 abstracts that you see as particularly well-written. Copy and paste the citations and abstracts into a document. (I would prefer that these papers **not** be related to your direct research interests. You need not read the papers in great detail.)
- **Homework Assignment due (2):** Write titles and abstracts for 2 potential research questions for your paper. Abstracts should include everything but a sentence on the results of your hypotheses. Note that abstracts are typically 150 words or less – shoot for that.

#### ***Readings:***

Lebo, M. (2016). Managing Your Research Pipeline. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 49(2), 259-264. doi:10.1017/S1049096516000160

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‡ If you’re writing a dissertation proposal, it would be best if you think of actionable sub-questions within the dissertation – i.e., ones that can be answered in a dissertation chapter/stand-alone paper that you will produce in our class. That said, I also want to write down your (current) overall dissertation question.

### **January 31: Structuring Research (1)**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** (Re)write the title and abstract for your finalized research question.
- ***Homework Assignment due (Structure: Subheadings):*** Find and read 2 papers relevant to your research question that have been published in top journals sometime from 2012-present. For each paper, copy and paste the citation and each of the paper's subheadings into a document.

#### ***Reading:***

Daryl Bem, "Writing the Empirical Journal Article." In Darley, J. M., Zanna, M. P., & Roediger III, H. L. (Eds) (2002). *The Compleat Academic: A Career Guide*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7bd5jnp>

D. Thunder (2004). Back to Basics: Twelve Rules for Writing a Publishable Article. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 37(3), 493-495.  
doi:10.1017/S1049096504004779

### **February 7: Structuring Research (2)**

- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Imagine you are applying for a grant to fund your research for this class. Write a two-page (double-spaced) proposal that informs a non-specialist of the following: (1) your research question, (2) why your question is important, (3) a rough budget, and (4) an explanation as to why you need the funding you are requesting. Then identify 3 real grant opportunities that you might qualify for (if not now, then in the future).

#### ***Reading:***

Joshua Tucker. 25 August 2016. "Here's what happens when scientists evaluate research without knowing the results." Monkey Cage.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc47hts6>

Mike Findley, Nate Jensen, Eddy Malesky, Tom Pepinsky. 2016. "Can Results-Free Review Reduce Publication Bias? The Results and Implications of a Pilot Study." *Comparative Political Studies* 49(13): 1667-1703.

### **February 14: Using Literature**

- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Write an annotated bibliography for at least 15 works relevant to answering your research question. We will have discussed the form of this last week. A quick preview here: (1) group together works that speak to the importance of your research question; (2) group together works that offer alternative theories that you will need to knock down or test; (3) group together works that offer theories on which your theory will build; (4) group together works that relate to your (nascent) research design. These categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

#### ***Reading:***

Jeffrey Knopf, "Doing a Literature Review." 2006. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39(1): 127-132.

Explore: <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/> including:  
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/politicalscience>  
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/economic>  
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/BGS>  
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/BRC>

### **February 21: Theory (1)**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** Draft literature review. (*Submit on Canvas. You need not bring this to class.*)

#### ***Reading:***

Karl Popper, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations." 1953. Lecture given at Peterhouse, Cambridge. <https://tinyurl.com/68kjsdy>

Thomas Kuhn. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. U Chicago Press.

\*\* Ideally, read the whole book. As a second-best, read a heck of a lot of reviews, summaries of, and responses to the book. Either way, be prepared to discuss it in detail.

### **February 28: Theory (2)**

- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Draft theory (2-5 pages).

*(No reading)*

### **March 7: Research Design**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** Draft theory (full). (*Submit on Canvas. You need not bring this to class.*)
- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Find and read 1 (mainly) quantitative article and 1 (mainly) qualitative article that are related to your research question but that you did **not** include in your draft literature review. Submit the citations on Canvas. Come to class prepared to discuss their research designs in such great detail that you can act as a "surrogate" for the author(s) in summarizing and defending their design choices.

#### ***Reading:***

Spend some time looking at <http://retractionwatch.com/>

### **March 14: SPRING BREAK**

### **March 21: Results**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** Draft research design. (*Submit on Canvas. You need not bring this to class.*)
- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Find 4 published articles that you think do an excellent job in presenting statistical results as well as tables, figures, and any other visuals. Submit the citations on Canvas. Come to class ready to discuss in detail what you like about these presentations. Have the papers ready on your laptop so you can flash them in front of your colleagues.

***Reading:***

Hanmer, M. J. and Ozan Kalkan, K. (2013), Behind the Curve: Clarifying the Best Approach to Calculating Predicted Probabilities and Marginal Effects from Limited Dependent Variable Models. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57: 263–277. doi:10.1111/j.1540-5907.2012.00602.x

**March 28: Connecting Theory, Research Design, and Results**

- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Preliminary research results, assembled in some way to make them interpretable to your colleagues.

***Reading:***

LaPorte, J. (2014). Confronting a Crisis of Research Design. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 47(2), 414-417. doi:10.1017/S1049096514000328

Ahmed, A., & Sil, R. (2012). When Multi-Method Research Subverts Methodological Pluralism—or, Why We Still Need Single-Method Research. *Perspectives on Politics*, 10(4), 935-953. doi:10.1017/S1537592712002836

**April 4: Publishing Research**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment Due:*** Draft results. (*Submit on Canvas. You need not bring this to class.*)
- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Assemble writing you have completed thus far that you will circulate to your colleagues for in-depth discussion and comments. What you circulate is up to you. In class, be prepared to discuss, in general, what you're circulating and what you're looking for. Submit your writing on Canvas.

***Reading:***

Rich, T. (2013). Publishing as a Graduate Student: A Quick and (Hopefully) Painless Guide to Establishing Yourself as a Scholar. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46(2), 376-379. doi:10.1017/S104909651300005X

ISQ annual report for 2016: <https://www.isanet.org/Publications/ISQ/About>  
 AJPS annual report for 2015: <https://tinyurl.com/ya6xvy9e>

**April 11: Serving as Discussant**

- ***Homework Assignment due:*** You will act as a discussant for 2 of your colleagues' writing that they circulated last week. The best discussants send notes reiterating

their main points to the author after they perform their duties in person. So, you will write and submit your discussant notes on Canvas. (These need to be comprehensible both to the author and to a third party, though they need not be formal.) You will also orally present 5-7 minutes of discussant comments in class (twice, once for each colleague).

***Reading:***

Miller, B., Pevehouse, J., Rogowski, R., Tingley, D., & Wilson, R. (2013). How To Be a Peer Reviewer: A Guide for Recent and Soon-to-be PhDs. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46(1), 120-123. doi:10.1017/S104909651200128X

**April 18: Framing**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** Second draft, front half of paper (including introduction, ending with research design [thus not including results/conclusion]). *(Submit on Canvas. You need not bring this to class.)*
- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Read 5 recent Monkey Cage articles (on different topics). Step back and focus on their “hook,” structure, and conclusion. Be prepared to discuss in class. (You need not submit anything on Canvas.)
- ***Homework Assignment due:*** Read 3 symposia from International Studies Quarterly (on different topics). Step back and focus on what makes each symposium “work.” Be prepared to discuss in class. (You need not submit anything on Canvas.)

**April 25: Conference-style Presentation**

- ***PRESENTATION:*** Upload presentation slides to Canvas. You will give a conference-style presentation in class. We will discuss the parameters during the semester.

***Reading:***

Wellhausen slides, on Canvas.

**May 2: Wrap-up; Finishing a Paper**

- ***YOUR PAPER Assignment due:*** Draft introduction and conclusion.

*(No reading)*

**FRIDAY, MAY 11, BY 11:59 PM: FINAL PAPER DUE**