Research Methods in Political Science

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Course Description

政治學研究方法(961; Fall 2007)
Time: R 9 ~ 12 am
Classroom: 社3010-2
Difficulty Level: Frist-year graduate students
Office Hours: R 1-3pm & by appointment
Office: 社4041
Phone Number: 07-5252000 ext. 5555
E-mail: csliu@mail.nsysu.edu.tw
Course Website: http://www2.nsysu.edu.tw/politics/liu

Assigned Texts


Supplemental Texts

- Other journal articles assigned in class.

Grading Policy

- In-class Mid-term Exam (40%)
• Term Paper (40%): write up a 10-to-15-page review essay, evaluating self-chosen 2 SSCI articles and 2 TSSCI articles published in the recent 5 years. It must begin with a clear statement of your research interest, research questions. The second section must show your ability to apply the knowledge you learn from this class to evaluate the (1) structure, (2) research topic, (3) theory, and (4) contribution of the papers. Paper due in class on Jan 10, 2008.

• Oral Presentation (10%): effectively present your term paper in 5 mintues.

• Class participation, group activities, and attendance (10%)

Course Schedule

1. [Sep. 20] Introduction to the Class
   • After Class:

Part I: Why Do Research? Findings Alone and without Theory Cannot Contribute to General Knowledge!

2. [Sep. 27] Science and Theoretical Concepts
   • Before Class:
     – [STL] Chapters 1 & 2

   • Before Class:
     – [STL] Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6

5. [Oct. 18] Constructuring a Theoretical Model
   • Before Class:
     – [C] Chapters 6 & 7
     – [STL] Chapter 7

   • Before Class:
     – [STL] Chapters 8 & 9
   • In Class:
     – Demo the installation and basic use of JabRef.
     – Homework 1 is out.
Part II: What to Research? The Subjects for Research

7. [Nov. 1] Surveying the Topics for Research
   • Before Class:
     – Group work: Searching topics of interest
   • In Class: Group presentation about the topics of interest

8. [Nov. 8] Finding Topics from Empirical Puzzles
   • Before Class:
     – [C] Chapters 4 & 5
   • In Class: Show how to use Web of Science.

9. [Nov. 15] Finding Topics from Literature Survey
   • Before Class:
     – [C] Chapter 2
   • In Class: Show how to import entries checked out from Web of Science to JabRef.

10. [Nov. 22] Midterm Exam
    • In Class Exam and Homework 1 is due in class.

Part III: How to Do Research? Research Design and Approaches

11. [Nov. 29] Research Design and Overview of Quantitative Approaches
    • Before Class:
      – [C] Chapters 1 & 8

12. [Dec. 6] Survey Research
    • Before Class:
      – [C] Chapter 9

13. [Dec. 13] Qualitative Research: Focus Group
    • Before Class:
      – [C] Chapter 10
14. [Dec. 20] Experiments
   • Before Class:

Part IV: How to Present a Research Work?

15. [Dec. 27] Writing Strategies, Literature Review, Citation, and Formatting
   • Before Class:
     – [C] Chapter 3
   • In Class: Talk about paper formatting (APA & APSA)
   • Reference:

16. [Jan. 3] Presenting and Your Work in a Conference and in a Journal
   • Before Class: Work on your term paper
   • In Class:
     – Polsky, Andrew J. (2007). Seeing your name in print: Unpacking the mysteries of the review process at political science scholarly journals. PS: Political Science and Politics, XL (3), 539-543.

17. [Jan. 10] Student Presentation
   • Turn in your paper in the class.