

UC 12114 12F

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: Math/Reason Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: POLS College: CLASS

APPROVED OCT 02 2013
M.M.

2. Faculty Contact Person: JW Jackson Telephone: 3-3919 Email: jjackson5@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
POLS / 3312 / Introduction to Research Methods
- Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
POLS / 3312 / INTRO RESEARCH METHODS
- SCH: 3.00 Level: JR CIP Code: 45.1001.0001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No

If Yes, please complete:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
____ / ____ / ____
- Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): _____

- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
- Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title

- POLS / 3312 / Introduction to Research Methods
- Course ID: 20143 Effective Date (currently active row): 2012827

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)

Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: POLS 1336 and 1337 or equivalent, or consent of instructor. Description (30 words max.): Survey of analytical techniques in studying political behavior, political socialization, mass and elite behavior, personality, and politics.

10. Dean's Signature: _____ Date: 10/8/12

Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Political Science

Person Making Request: Jeronimo Cortina

Telephone: 713-743-3894

Email: jcortina@Central.UH.EDU

Dean's Signature: _____

Date: 09-10-2012

Course Number and Title: POLS 3312. Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

Students will be provided with some scientific tools to develop a set of skills in order to conduct and evaluate political and social phenomena.

Students will learn how to formulate research questions and the kind of designs appropriate to answer them.

Students will learn how to apply quantitative and qualitative designs in order to answer distinct causal questions.

Students will learn sampling techniques, survey design and measurement.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

***Note:** If you check the Component Area Option, you would need to also check a Foundational Component Area.

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political

Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Students are provided with a written discussion about a political phenomenon and a small dataset and asked to evaluate the argument in writing.

Sample Assignment: Students will define a null hypothesis and a research hypothesis. After using Excel to perform a difference-of-means test, students will state whether the null hypothesis has been rejected or retained and defend their conclusion.

Communication Skills:

In the aforementioned assignment, students will be required to state whether the null hypothesis has been rejected, and at what level of statistical significance. Students will be required to provide a verbal explanation and interpretation of the p-value. When computing the standard error of the difference-of-means, students will be required to justify their choice between the large-sample and small-sample estimator.

Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

In the aforementioned assignment, students will compute the two-sample t-statistic (also known as the difference-of-means test). Students will use the t-table to find the critical value for rejection of a null hypothesis for the correct degrees of freedom at the 5% level of statistical significance. Students will compare the t-statistic to the t-critical value. Finally, students will compute the 95% confidence interval for the difference-of-means.

Teamwork:

-

Social Responsibility:

-

Personal Responsibility:

-

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course? Yes No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: _____

POLS-3312: Introduction to Research Methods

YEAR COURSE OFFERED: 2012
SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED: Spring
DEPARTMENT: Political Science
COURSE NUMBER: 3312
NAME OF COURSE: Introduction to Research Methods
NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jeronimo Cortina
OFFICE HOURS: Mo/Wed. 11:00am – 12:00pm

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be provided with some scientific tools to develop a set of skills in order to conduct and evaluate political and social phenomena.

Students will learn how to formulate research questions and the kind of designs appropriate to answer them.

Students will learn how to apply quantitative and qualitative designs in order to answer distinct causal questions.

Students will learn sampling techniques, survey design and measurement.

The course is intended primarily for Political Science and Social Science majors (Sociology, Psychology, and Economics), though it is open to any UH undergraduate. **Be warned and advised that since this is a methods course there will be some Math.** It should be especially useful for those students planning to write a senior thesis, for those students heading to graduate school and for those who would like to enroll in more advanced courses such as POLS 3316; Quantitative Methods.

POLS-3312: Introduction to Research Methods

Major Assignments/Exams

In addition to class attendance there will be **two non-cumulative exams** throughout the semester and one **final exam**. The exams will cover five chapters each, while the final exam will be cumulative. Before each exam there will be a review session. **There will be in addition one weekly pop quiz.**

There will be **10 short home assignments**. The assignments will help you develop your analytical skills and prepare you for each of the exams. Home assignments will not be accepted after the deadline (only in extreme/unforeseen circumstances and with the proper documentation assignments can be accepted after the deadline. Please bring all the proper documentation when submitting a late assignment). Home assignments must be done individually.

III. Grading Procedures:

• One Weekly Pop Quiz	10 %
• Homework	15 %
• Exam 1	20 %
• Exam 2	20 %
• Final	<u>35 %</u>
	100%

Final letter grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

95-100% = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
90-94 = A-	84-86 = B	74-76 = C	64-66 = D
	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-	60-63 = D-
			59 or less = F

Extra Credit

Students wanting extra credit will have the option to participate in a survey conducted by members of the Political Science Department. All students enrolled in this class will be invited to participate in the extra credit activity. If you participate, you will receive **5 points on your final grade**. Invitations and instructions on how to participate will be sent to your UH EMAIL (i.e., johndoc@uh.edu) be sure that your UH email account is working. We cannot send invitations to other email accounts.

POLS-3312: Introduction to Research Methods

Required Reading

Trochim, William M.K. *Research Methods: The Concise Knowledge Base*. Mason, OH: Atomic Dog, 2005.

Trochim, William M.K. *Research Methods: The Concise Knowledge Base Workbook*. Mason, OH: Atomic Dog, 2005.

Recommended Reading

Johnson, Janet Buttolph, and H.T. Reynolds. *Political Science Research Methods*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2008.

Shively, W. Phillips. *The Craft of Political Research*. New York: Prentice Hall, 2004.

List of discussion/lecture topics

Topic		Homework & Due date
Week 1: Foundations		
1/18/2012	Sections 1-1 to 1-3	
1/23/2012	Sections 1-4 and 1-5	
Week 2: Sampling		
1/25/2012	Sections 2-1 and 2-2	1-2d
1/30/2012	Sections 2-3 to 2-5	
Week 3: Analysis		
2/01/2012	Section 11-1	2-2b (Case 2) and 2-3a (Study 2)
2/06/2012	Sections 11-2 and 11-3	
Week 4: Theory of Measurement		
2/08/2012	Section 3-1 Section 11-1	11-2b; 11-3a; 11-3b; 11-3c
2/13/2012	Sections 3-2 and 3-3	
Week 5: Survey Research		
2/15/2012	Section 4-1	3-3b (Case 1 and Case 3)
2/20/2012	Sections 4-2 and 4-3	
Week 6: Review and Exam 1		
2/22/2012	Review Chapters 1-3, 11, 4	4-3a and 4-3b
2/27/2012	Exam 1	

POLS-3312: Introduction to Research Methods

Week 7: Scales and Indexes

2/29/2012	Section 5-1
3/05/2012	Sections 5-2 and 5-3

Week 8: Qualitative and Unobtrusive Measures

3/07/2012	Section 6-1	5-3a and 5-3b
3/19/2012	Section 6-2	

Week 9: Design

3/21/2012	Section 7-1	6-3b (Study 1 and Study 2)
3/26/2012	Sections 7-2 and 7-3	

Week 10: Experimental Design

3/28/2012	Sections 8-1 and 8-2	7-3a, 7-3b and 7-3c
4/02/2012	Sections 8-5 and 8-6	

Week 11: Quasi-Experimental Design

4/04/2012	Section 9-1	8-3a (Study 1) and 8-3b
4/09/2012	Sections 9-2 and 9-3	

Week 12: Designing Designs and Review

4/11/2012	Section 10-1	
4/16/2012	Review Chapters 6-10	9-3a (Quasi-Experiment 1 and 3)

Week 13: Exam 2 & Write Up

4/18/2012	Exam 2
4/23/2012	Section 13-1

Week 14: Final Exam

4/25/2012	General Review
4/30/2012	Final Exam

POLS-3312: Introduction to Research Methods

IV. Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a grade penalty or failure of the course. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Houston's policies against cheating and plagiarism. The University's statement on academic honesty is available from the student handbook, which can be found at <http://www.uh.edu/dos/pdf/2010-2011StudentHandbook.pdf>

You are encouraged to work, study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lectures and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment (this applies to homework, exams, quizzes, etc.). Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

V. Accommodations for students with disabilities

The University of Houston is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities, including students who have learning disabilities, health impairments, psychiatric disabilities, and/or other disabilities. If you believe you have a disability which requires accommodation, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at 713-743-5400 voice or 713-749-1527 (TTY)

VI. Cell Phones, Beepers & Laptops

Since they cause interruptions and distractions, cell phones and beepers should be turned off during class time. Please do not use any Instant Messaging software if you bring your laptop to take notes. I strongly recommend not using laptops since they are distracting. In particular, no cell phones, beepers and laptops may be accessible during exams.