**POLS 6940 Political Research: Theories and Approaches**

**Fall 2019**

**Professor:** Janine Clark

**Class Hours:** Tuesdays 2:30am - 5:20pm

**Class:** ANNU (Animal Science and Nutrition), Room 306

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00pm to 2:00pm andThursdays 10:30 am to 11:20 am

**Office**: MacKinnon 540

**E-mail:** jclark@uoguelph.ca

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The primary aim of this course is for students to learn how to develop and write a literature review and research question for their major research paper/thesis or dissertation. In the process of doing so, student will: identify the major world views that shape research questions in Political Science; discuss how these world views dictate different research methodologies; identify and formulate a research problem and research question; examine field research ethics; and review some qualitative research methods.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed so that students will learn the skills needed to write a research proposal and design a research project. The goal of the course is that all students submit a fully-developed literature review and research question for their own MA and PhD research projects. The course therefore requires a significant reading load as students are expected to complete assigned readings and relevant readings for their own projects.

**SKILLS-BASED LEARNING**

Through the classroom activities and assignments, you will:

* develop your grant writing skills
* develop your ability to evaluate work
* develop your ability to grasp abstract concepts and theoretical debates
* improve your research design skills
* improve your writing skills
* improve your communication skills
* develop professional skills such as proposal writing and ethics

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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| * **Participation.** Worth 10% of Final Grade.
* **Presentation.** Worth 10% of Final Grade
* **Research Puzzle.** Due October 8th in class. Worth 5% of Final Grade.
* **Conference Proposal.** Due October 29th in class. Worth 10% of Final Grade.
* **Research Proposal Critique.** Due Nov. 12th in class. Worth 20% of Grade.
* **Peer Review of a Classmate’s Draft Literature Review:** Due November 28th in class. Worth 10% of final grade.
* **Literature Review/Proposal with Research Question.** Due Dec. 12th by 9:00am via Dropbox on Courselink. Worth 35%
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