

Introduction to Political Science Research | POU22040

Year	Senior Fresh
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	20 hours of lectures, 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	Full Year
Module Leader & Lecturer	TBD (MT) Lisa Keenan (HT)
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Module Outline

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Critically read and evaluate journal articles
- Conduct a literature review
- Identify a gap in an existing body of literature
- Evaluate different research methods
- Propose a research question and develop an appropriate strategy to answer it
- Identify sources of data that could be used to answer a research question
- Create a plan for how to manage a research project
- Understand the obligations of a social science researcher
- Collect and choose a strategy for data analysis

Module Learning Aims:

This project aims to build students' understanding of core research skills, introduce them to the fundamental principles of research design in Political Science, and provide an introduction to the analysis of different kinds of data. This module will be prerequisite for the Capstone in Political Science, providing the foundations for the prerequisites that students will need to fulfil in their Junior Sophister. Students wishing to complete a Capstone in Political Science in their Sophister should consult their programme handbook and/or module outlines on the Department website prior to making their module selection for 2025-26.

Module Content:

This module is an introduction to evaluating and carrying out research as a political scientist. It provides an introduction to the principles of good research design, a review of the suite of available methods of data collection and analysis, and a particular guide to carrying out an original research project.

Assessment

Short assignments [20%]

Paper critique [10%]

Term Paper [20%]

End-of-year exam – anonymous, 3-hours in duration [50%]

In the event that a student must sit the supplemental exam (as a first attempt or as a repeat), this will take place during the assessment session in August (see the Academic Year Structure 2025/26).

The supplemental exam is the same format as the end-of-semester exam. It is not possible to request an alternative exam format (i.e., a move to online). It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they are present in person at scheduled examination sessions.

Recommended Reading List

There are two textbooks for this module:

1. Bryman, A. (2012). *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
2. Manheim, J.B., Rich, R. C., Willnat, L., & Brians, C. L. (2012). *Empirical political analysis*. Edinburgh: Pearson Education UK.