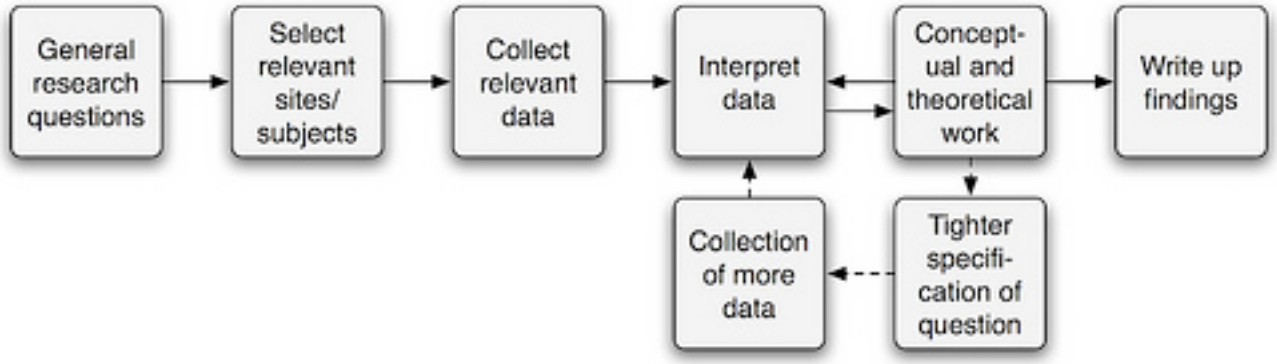

POS 6736 Conduct of Political Inquiry

Dr. Waltraud Q. Morales

Syllabus

Fall 2013

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Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Waltraud Q. Morales
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Course Information

Course Name	POS 6736 - Conduct of Political Inquiry
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2013
Location	HPH 305G, Mon 6-8:50 pm

Course Description

Catalogue Description and Prerequisites:

POS 6736. Conduct of Political Inquiry (3 hr.) Admission to graduate program or C.I. Research design and quantitative and qualitative analysis in political science.

This course primarily focuses on basic qualitative methods employed in political science research, including case studies, the logic of comparison, theory and concept development, and archival and interview-based research, as well as other general elements of a qualitative research design and the practical how-to of writing a research paper. The overall goal of the course is to serve as a practical guide to the structure, process and methods of inquiry in the discipline.

Course Objectives

- Exposure to diverse strategies and methods of inquiry
- Evaluate the process of investigation and the role of creativity
- How to ask and answer researchable questions

- Develop analytical and critical thinking skills
- Foster informed discussion and debate
- Develop effective writing, research and synthesizing skills
- Implement lessons learned in a seminar research paper

Required Readings

- Baglione, Lisa. ***Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods.*** 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: Sage/CQ Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-60871-991-4.
- Brady, Henry E., and David Collier. ***Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards.*** 2nd ed. New York: Roman & Littlefield, 2010. ISBN 978-1-4422-0344-0.
- Diez, Thomas, et al. ***Key Concepts in International Relations***. Washington, D.C.: Sage, 2011. ISBN 978-1-4129-2848-9.
- Hammersley, John. ***What is Qualitative Research?*** New York: Bloomsbury, 2013. ISBN 978-1-8496-6606-0.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. ***The Structure of Scientific Revolutions***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-226-45812-0. (Any earlier edition is fine as well).
- Landman, Todd. ***Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An* Introduction.** 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2003. ISBN 9780415272704.
- Maxwell, Joseph A. ***Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach.*** 3rd ed. Washington, D.C.: Sage, 2013. ISBN 978-1-4129-8119-4.

Course Requirements

There are six required components to passing and doing well in this course.

1-2: There are two written examinations--midterm and final. Both are take-home exams, allowing more time for reflection and organization. Exams are primarily essay-format, and the final exam may be comprehensive, in order to incorporate all the theories studied.

3-4: There are also two written papers of 10-15 pages in the class--the Creative Thinking and Seminar Research papers. The first will be due in the early weeks of the class; the latter near the end of the semester. Detailed instructions will be posted online in Canvas.

5: There is a required class presentation and summary of assigned readings. This is in the form of a power-point presentation which summarizes, outlines and critiques the material and poses discussion questions for the class to consider. Students will be assigned when to present. More instructions will be posted online and available the first weeks of class.

6: Attendance and participation are important and essential. A record of consistent attendance and active and meaningful participation which demonstrates that the assignments have been read and digested is mandatory. An inconsistent and/or poor showing here may mean the loss of 10 points from the overall course grade.

Missed Assignments, Make-Ups and Extra

Credit

There is no extra credit in the class. There are no make-ups for missed exams, except with documented medical reasons.

Due date policies: Late submission of assignments may be reduced a full letter grade for each day of the week late. Please advise the instructor in advance if you are having a problem.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment and final course grading will be based on the scale below.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76

	points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Midterm Exam-take home	20%
Final Exam--take home	20%
Creative Thinking Paper	20%
Seminar Research Paper	20%
Class Presentation	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Total	100%

Attendance and Participation Policy

Consistently regular attendance is mandatory. More than two absences

in a class that meets only once a week may reduce attendance and participation points. You must also actively participate in class and demonstrate that you have read and can discuss the assigned reading materials and interact with your classmates. Please advise the instructor if you are having a problem.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at

the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly

may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.