



Independent Study: Readings and Research

PS 4308

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an independent study. You will be working with me to develop an original piece of scholarly writing.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required materials for this class.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will have produced an original piece of scholarly writing. In doing this, you will be sharpening the following skills:

- Paper planning
- Writing a literature review
- Identifying data sources and relevant research
- Analyzing data
- Reporting results
- Scholarly writing

GRADING

The grade for the course will be based on the following:

Assignment	Points
Research questions	100
Outline and sources	100
Draft of literature review	100
Draft of methods	100
Draft of results	100
Final paper	500

COURSE POLICIES

MEETINGS/DUE DATES: We will also be meeting at least once every two weeks (by phone, virtual, or in-person) to discuss your progress and review your submissions. The meeting dates and times and the deadlines for items above will be set at our first meeting.

APA STYLE: For this course, you are expected to use APA style for your paper. Please refer to the APA guide (link provided in Blackboard).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid engaging in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. ***In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism.*** Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at:
<https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/>

Please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments. Also, all work on your paper must be completed in a Google Doc with the Process Feedback extension added.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

LATE WORK:

All assignments in this class have due dates, and you are expected to submit work by those due dates. If you have an extenuating circumstance, you need to communicate with me ASAP, and

we will discuss any due date adjustments that are appropriate. If you submit late work without an approved extension from me, I reserve the right not to grade it.

COURSE BLACKBOARD RESOURCES:

There are several resources on Blackboard in your course shell. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact [SRSU's Counseling and Accessibility Services Office](#) at 432-837-8203. Office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](#). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

SRSU LIBRARY INFORMATION

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using Blackboard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience.

You can reach the support desk:

- By calling 888.837.6055
- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

TUTORING:

- a) Tutoring and Learning Center located in the library (call 432-837-8982 for a reservation with a tutor)
- b) Tutor.com (online tutoring services available—access via Blackboard Tools) – be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time for a writing assignment

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

The graduating student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

MARKETABLE SKILLS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Students can effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing
- Students can distinguish between credible/relevant information and information lacking credibility/relevance
- Students can identify critical and common institutions of political decision-making and policymaking across different nation-state settings
- Students can engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions