

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT**  
**Fall 2021 Semester**  
**Wednesday, 4:55 pm – 7:25 pm via Blackboard Zoom**

**COURSE NUMBER:** GOVT 145  
**COURSE TITLE:** Scope and Methods of Social Science  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Carmen Walker  
**EMAIL:** [cwalker@bowiestate.edu](mailto:cwalker@bowiestate.edu)  
**OFFICE:** 0218 MLK Bldg  
**PHONE:** 301-860-4431  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am – 1:30 pm  
Or by appointment

**I. COURSE PREREQUISITES: GOVT 130/GOVT 140**

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the basic concepts, principles, and research methods employed in social science.**

**III. REQUIRED TEXT:**

- Baglione, Lisa. 2019. Writing a Research Paper in Political Science 4th Edition. Sage Publishing Print ISBN: 9781506367422, 1506367429 eText ISBN: 9781506367415, 106367410
- Additional outside readings will be required and made available via Blackboard

**IV EMERGING ISSUES:** This course is shaped by Bowie State University's overall effort to address issues of environmental preservation and social justice. Throughout this course, students will be encouraged to consider historical and emerging environmental and social justice issues. Additionally, students will be encouraged to reflect on what role and connection they have to these and other issues shaping social science research discussions and activities which address these issues in the United States and across the globe.

**V GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES:**

1. Written and Oral Communications: a. Analyze and discuss critical issues and recurring themes in the discipline; f. Conduct research and evaluate information using the appropriate methods of the discipline;
2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning: a. Analyze and understand the physical and biological world as they relate to the political science discipline;
3. Critical Analysis and Reasoning: b. Apply skill in analysis, synthesis, and problem solving; c. Apply logical reasoning in the examination and resolution of tasks.

4. Technological Competency: a. Create a document using word processing software;
5. Information Literacy: a. Identification of key concepts and terms that describe the information needed; d. Understanding of the ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues surrounding information and information technology.

**VI TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:** This is a synchronous online course which utilizes the university's e-learning system, Blackboard. As with any computer system, there may be glitches during the semester. To access the course, go to <https://bsuonline.blackboard.com>, or click on the Blackboard/BSU online tab from the BSU homepage.

**VII LIBRARY REQUIREMENTS:** Students will be required to utilize the holdings of the university's library as well as other accessible repositories, government sites, and policy think tanks to complete public policy assignments. This course will introduce students to primary and secondary sources/data, reference materials, and resources utilized in political science writing and discussions.

**VIII TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:**

This course utilizes the University on-line learning management system, *Blackboard*. Therefore, a computer which provides internet access is important. Students may access Blackboard through the following link, <https://bsuonline.blackboard.com/>.

**IX COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce students to research expectations for political science students through assigned readings, lecture, and discussion.
2. Develop students' research skills through lecture, writing assignments, instructor feedback, and in-class participation activities.
3. Enhance students' communication skills through discussion, in-class participation activities, discussion board assignments, the completion of a research paper, and oral presentation of research.
4. Encourage students to consider historical and contemporary factors that have shaped the scope and methods of political science research through lecture, discussion, and required readings.
5. Enhance students technological skills as used for the completion of writing assignments, in-class participation activities, and a research paper
6. Strengthen students critical thinking skills through the completion of a research paper.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. ...synthesize multiple scholarly articles into one coherent discussion.
2. ...develop a political science research question.
3. ...communicate research finding in both written and oral format.
4. ...utilize technology to access appropriate scholarly resources for the completion of research.
5. ...describe different methods used to conduct political science research.
6. ...articulate issues shaping political science research.

## **X TEACHING MODES:**

Students will be instructed in Scope and Methods of Social Science Research. This course will incorporate multiple teaching resources and approaches including lecture, class discussion, writing assignments, examination, and collaborative learning activities. This course is designed to introduce students to dominant and emerging issues shaping research and researchers in the field of political science. The course will be guided by selected readings, audio, and visual material. Collaborative and individual research activities will be incorporated to supplement lecture, discussion, and reading/audio/visual materials. Additionally, students will be guided in constructing a research question, defining key concepts, identifying and synthesizing supporting scholarly sources in a literature review, providing a methodological approach to answer the question, and analyzing both primary and secondary data in a research paper.

## **XI. STUDENT PREPARATION:**

To prepare for class, student will be expected to consistently utilize the syllabus and Blackboard resources. It will serve as means for communication outside of class. Students will be expected to read all materials prior to class and be prepared to discuss any guiding questions presented on the syllabus for the day. Preparation for class will be reflected in completion of weekly assigned readings, outside research, timely submission of assignments, along with active and informed participation. Students are asked to be on time for the course.

Students who have a disability or think that they need special accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Suite 082 (Room 8212) in the Thurgood Marshall Library, or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301.860.4067. Go to the following website for more information: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-supportservices/> Bowie State University shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or veteran status (ADA and Nondiscrimination Policy).

## **XII. ATTENDANCE and LATE POLICY:**

This is a synchronous online course. Attendance is required to complete the course successfully. Attendance is monitored through weekly assignments and participation. Attendance is taken during the virtual class period. University rules and regulations state that a student may fail a course if he/she misses a certain number of classes [six (6) for a course that meets three (3) times a week; four (4) for a class that meets twice a week; and two (2) for a class that meets once a week]. Students are participate in all activities each week. All students are expected to take examinations and turn in all assignments at the scheduled time. In-class participation activities and extra credit activities cannot be made up. **All written assignments and discussion board responses to others are due by Monday 11:59pm. Initial post for discussion board activities are always due by Saturday 11:59pm. Make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor. Late work will be accepted up to one week after original due date with a 10% penalty. (For example 90 - 10%penalty= 81 grade). After one week, the late assignment is converted to a zero. Late discussion board activities cannot be made up. They must be completed during the assigned week. No assignments will be accepted after the final day of class (December 13).**

### **XIII. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE COURSE:**

According to the “Code of Student Conduct,” students are to achieve high standards of ethical and professional academic standards. This includes behavior in the virtual classroom. For written and non-written scholarship student are encouraged to be creatively responsible for making a contribution to the body of knowledge. This is accomplished through individual and group effort according to assigned activities. Students who commit acts of plagiarism or copying from other scholarship and/or violating academic standards in the classroom will be penalized according to the “Code of Student Conduct” for students as outlined by Bowies State University. “In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of zero (0) for either an assignment and/or course may be administered. Students who are expelled or suspended for academic dishonesty are not admissible to other institutions within the University System of Maryland.” Students engaging in academic dishonesty will fail this course.

### **XIV. CLASSROOM DECORUM:**

Bowie State University “prohibits disorderly or disruptive conduct on University premises or at University sponsored activities, which interfere with the activities of others, including studying, teaching, research, and administrative operations.”

This is a synchronous online course. To enhance the learning atmosphere and create community please conduct yourself in a fashion conducive to learning and encouragement. **Please be mindful of the language and tone used to express comments online. Disrespectful language is not accepted and will result in your dismissal from the course.** Each behavior construed by the teacher/professor as non-contributive to learning will be recorded, properly documented, and appropriately reported to the student and to the chair of the academic department offering the course. The report will be in written form with a copy provided to both the student and the department chair. Additional student behavior codes may be found in Student Affairs.

### **XV. UNIVERSITY POLICY:**

All exams and assignments will be taken or handed in as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in zero points earned for the exercise; therefore, except in the most extreme circumstances, (death, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization. Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade will rarely be given and only in cases where the student is doing passing work and has a valid excuse (distress or illness). **Student must have a C average by midterm.** Please contact the professor prior to an exam in case of an emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. Please note: final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

Students are expected to participate regularly (weekly) in this online class. Weekly attendance (participation) is monitored.

Please note that plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic “F” for both assignment and course.

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and organization of the course content.

## **XVI. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Final Research Paper 50%**

<b>Paper Element</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Points</b>
Introduction and discussion of problem	1-2 pages	5pts
Research Question and thesis/hypothesis	1 clear sentence with at least two identifiable variables	10 pts
Key Concepts	1-2 pages	10pts
Literature Review (10 scholarly article minimum)	3-4 pages	20pts
Significance of your research - how will your research expand what we already know about this subject?	1-2 pages	15pts
Methodology and Research Design	1-2 page	15pts
Analysis	2-3 pages	10pts
Conclusion	1 -2 pages	5pts
Recommendations for future research	1 page	5pts
Bibliography	1-2 pages	5pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>12(minimum)-20 (maximum) pages</b>	<b>100pts</b>

- **Weekly In-class Participation, Written Assignments and Discussion Board Activities 35%**
- **Research Paper Presentation 15%**
- **Please note that extra credit assignments may be given and will be factored into the Weekly In-class and Discussion Board Response Activities category for final grading.**

Grading Scale:

**Below 60 = F, 60-69 = D, 70-79 = C, 80-89 = B, 90-100 = A.**

**Course format guidelines for all assignments:** I thank you for all the effort you will put into this course.

Please note the following:

1. It is your responsibility monitor the announcements board and modules for information AND updates regarding your assignments and expectations.
2. Please be sure that all work is typed. I do not accept scanned or copied handwritten work under any circumstances.
3. Please make sure your assignments are submitted on or before the designed deadlines.
4. Participation activities will be assigned and factored into the written assignments grade. Participation activities are not required. However, they can help to improve your final assigned grade.

5. Please do not submit assignments to my email address. They will not be accepted or graded. All class assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard.
6. All papers should be typed using 12 pt New Times Roman, 1-inch margins (top/bottom/sides)
7. Cited and reference page material must be formatted according to Kate Turabian style guidelines. **Please note: Assignments submitted without citations will receive an automatic zero.**

## **XVII. LATE POLICY:**

1. Late papers, not including in-class participation, extra credit, and discussion board activities, will be accepted up to 1 week after original due date with a 10 percent penalty. After one week, the assignment is a permanent zero.
2. No late assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes (December 13, 2021) as indicated on University academic calendar for the fall semester
3. Missed midterm examinations or quizzes will be given at the discretion of the instructor. It will be a make-up examination and thus different from the original test.
4. Discussion Board activities must be completed during assigned week. Initial post are due on or before Saturday 11:59pm; responses to at least two others are due by Monday 11:59pm
5. All written activities are due by Monday 11:59pm.

## **XVIII. Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and plagiarism go against the value and mission of this university. Neither will be tolerated. **Cheating or attempts at cheating will result in an “F” for this course.** Cheating involves giving or receiving academic information or work that is deceptive, dishonest or unfair by copying another student’s work, using unauthorized information via electronic devices, theft, talking, notes, or other means. Again, **plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and possibly this course.** There are no exceptions. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s words and ideas as one’s own. This misrepresentation is a breach of ethics that seriously compromises a person’s reputation. Professional careers have been ruined by such acts. Please do not attempt to buy research papers, I regularly access online sites (included for fee sites) to examine papers.

Researchers, therefore, must be careful to acknowledge sources to give proper credit for borrowed materials. The following rules should be observed to ensure the distinction between one’s own words and ideas and those of others is justly maintained. Submitting a paper that is completely the work of another person is plagiarism in its most extreme form.

1. Words, phrases, and sentences of another person should be enclosed in quotation marks and footnoted in proper form.
2. Paraphrases and summaries of the ideas of others should be indicated with a footnote. These paraphrases and summaries should not represent merely the rearrangement of sentence elements but should be rewritten in one’s own style.
3. Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries should be introduced with the name of the writer being cited.
4. Every item footnoted in the paper (i.e., all sources of other’s words and ideas) should appear in the bibliography in proper form.

5. Footnotes should contain all the information required by standard footnote form and specifically indicate the location of the material cited. Page numbers should be checked for accuracy before a paper is submitted; the reader must be able to find the source of the material quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

**XIX Course Schedule:**

<p>Instructor reserves the right to modify course schedule of activities and syllabus.</p>	<p>Theme</p>	<p>In class</p>	<p>Your initial post for the discussion board is due by Saturday 11:59pm; you must respond to at least two others by Monday by 11:59pm</p>
<p>Module 1 August 30-September 5</p>		<p>Introduction and overview of course</p> <p>The goal for this course: A completed research paper</p>	<p>Discussion Board Assignment due: Tuesday, September 7th</p> <p>Please introduce yourself. For example, your major/career aspirations, and classification, if you work, or something else significant that you would like to share. Why do you think political science research is important to society?</p>
<p>Module 2 September 6-September 12 (September 6 – Labor Day)</p>		<p>Out of class assignment - We will not meet virtually this week. I will be attending a conference.</p> <p>Information literacy</p>	<p>Written Assignment due – due Monday, Sept13</p> <p>After watching the information literacy videos in M</p>



<p>Module 3 September 13- September 19</p>	<p>What is political science? What types of questions do political scientists ask? Information literacy and Bowie State University Thurgood Marshall Library resources Understanding the purpose of a research paper</p>	<p>Class discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morgenthau, H. J. 1966. The Purpose of Political Science</li> <li>• Jones. M. H. The Responsibility of Black Political Scientists. Endarch.</li> <li>• Baglione, Chapter 1</li> <li>• Discussion of research paper components</li> </ul>	<p>Written response: due Monday September 21 Discuss a topic that you would like to explore through a research paper based. In your response please address the following: (1) What do you already know about this topic? Have you completed previous research (ie paper, essay, independent research) on the topic or something related? (2) What do you want to know about this topic and why? Last, (3) Explain how and why you think your topic is important and relevant to the discipline of political science.</p>
<p>Module 4 September 20- September 26</p>	<p>What are the key characteristics of a research question?  Developing a “probing” research question  Identifying variables</p>	<p>Baglione, Chapter 2</p>	<p>Written Assignment:  Research question due Monday September 20  One scholarly article related to your research question due Monday September 20 (You should be prepared to discuss your article during class)</p>
<p>Module 5 September 27-October 3</p>	<p>Citation Format  Defining key concepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baglione, Chapter 3</li> </ul>	<p>Revised research question and key concepts due Monday due September 27  One scholarly article related to your research question due Monday September 27 (You should be prepared to discuss your article during class)</p>

<p>Module 6 October 4-October 10</p>	<p>Understanding the purpose of the literature review</p> <p>Stating your hypothesis and thesis</p>	<p>Baglione, Chapter 4 and 5</p>	<p>2 Written Assignments due Monday October 4</p> <p>Working Bibliography – You must have a minimum of 4 relevant scholarly articles and 2 non-scholarly articles – using Turabian format</p> <p>Written Assignment – due Monday October 4 Discuss two of your scholarly articles. You must identify and discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) research question;</li> <li>2) why did authors consider their paper important?</li> <li>3) methodology used in paper;</li> <li>4) what type of evidence did the authors gather and analyze?</li> <li>5) results or author’s conclusion;</li> <li>6) significance/connection of the research article to your topic –</li> <li>7) identify at least one thing the scholars discussed and one thing the scholars failed to discuss that is critical to understanding the topic you want to explore;</li> </ol>
<p>Module 7 October 11-October 17</p>	<p>Methodology - What specific steps will you take to answer your research question?</p> <p>Research Design</p>	<p>Baglione, Chapter 7</p>	<p>Written assignment due Monday, October 11 A clear discussion of the following: 1)what will be examined to answer your research question; 2) A clear discussion of key concepts and how you will measure the concepts; 3 What information is needed to answer your research question and why.</p>
<p>Module 8 October 18-October 24</p>	<p>Midterm Assessment</p>		<p>Midterm Assessment – Due Wednesday, October 20th The following should be submitted as one document: Research question Concepts Literature Review (5 article minimum) Hypothesis/Thesis Statement Methodology Research Design</p>

Module 9 October 25- October 31	<b>Paper Consultations</b>		
Module 10 November 1- November 7	<b>Paper Consultations</b>		
Module 11 November 8 – November 14	Evaluating your evidence and revising your work	Baglione, chapter 6 and 8	
Module 12 November 15 – November 21	<b>Paper presentations</b>		
Module 13 November 22 – November 28	<b>Paper presentations</b>		
Module 14 November 29 – December 5	Pulling it all together	Baglione, chapter 9	Discussion Board Reflection: Please discuss what this research experience has taught you about yourself and your ability to contribute to the broader body of social science scholarship? What are some of the most important skills and values learned over the course of the semester?
Module 15 December 6 – December 12	<b>Final papers due Wednesday, December 6 Virtual Celebration!!!</b>		
December 13 (Last Day)			