WSSR

WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

POLI683/1/AA

Graduate Seminar in Democratic Governance, Public Policy and Research Methodology

Concordia University

Spring 2018

May 4th – June 9th, 2018

Please note: Communication in this course will be primarily by email.
Please make sure to check your inbox regularly.

Course Coordinator: Mebs Kanji
    Phone: 514-848-2424 (x5066 or x2599)
    Office Hours: Fridays 2:00pm-3:00pm in H537, or by appointment
    Email: mebs.kanji@concordia.ca
Teaching Assistant: Sara Gasparello
    Office Hours: Mondays 12:30pm-1:30pm and Thursdays 5:00pm-6:00pm
    Office: H1235
    Email: ta.poli683@gmail.com
WSSR Coordinator: Kerry Tannahill (for all workshop related questions)
    Phone: 514-848-2424 (x7854 or x5473)
    Office: H1225.30
    Email: wssr@concordia.ca

Please note, that there will be an orientation session held on Friday May 4th from 11:00am-4:00pm in room H-1220. During this session, students will meet with the professor responsible for the course, Dr. Mebs Kanji, and receive important information about course requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a unique opportunity for students to take a selection of the Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR) hosted by the Department of Political Science during the months of May through June 2018 for credit.

The WSSR are short intensive learning experiences designed largely to enhance your knowledge and skills in the areas of democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology. These workshops are led by highly reputable and insightful guest lecturers from well-known academic institutions and/or well-qualified and distinguished backgrounds. For this course, you must select, register in, and attend six days' worth of workshops, as well as complete all the requirements listed in this outline below.

The following is a listing of the workshops and bonus event offered for credit during the Spring 2018 term:

# of Credits	Workshops *All workshops run from 9:00am-4:30pm*

Workshops on *Democratic Governance, Public Policy & Social Justice*

0.5 credits	**May 7** - *How Parliament Works and Are Reforms Necessary?* with Honourable Don Boudria, Former Government House Leader
0.5 credits	**May 11** - *Policy-Making at the 'Center': How does it work?* with Rachel Curran, Former Director of Policy to Prime Minister Stephen Harper
0.5 credits	**May 14** - *Women and the Media* with Dr. Shannon Sampert, Director and Editor-in-chief of Evidence Network.ca and Associate Professor, University of Winnipeg
0.5 credits	**May 16** - *Preparing for Election 2019: Key priorities for fairness and representative engagement?* with Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Former Chief Electoral Officer of Canada
0.5 credits	**May 18** - *Language Rights in an Increasingly Diverse Country* with Graham Fraser, Canada's Former Commissioner of Official Languages
0.5 credits	**May 22** - *What is the Role of Government? Rationales, Instruments and Issues* with Mel Cappe, Former Clerk of the Privy Council
1 credit	**May 28-29** - *The Politics of Electoral Reform: Canada in Comparative Perspective* with Dr. Lawrence LeDuc, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto
0.5 credits	**June 1** - *The Role of Media in Democracy* with Carole MacNeil, Journalist and Host of CBC News Network Tonight
0.5 credits	**June 5** - *Leadership in Health* with Dr. David Butler-Jones, Former Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
1 credit	**June 7-8** - *Invigorating Citizenship in Deeply Diverse Societies* with Dr. Matteo Gianni, Associate Professor, University of Geneva

Workshops on *Quantitative Research Methodology*

1.5 credits	**May 8-10** - *Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods* with Dr. Mebs Kanji, Associate Professor, Concordia University & Kerry Tannahill, PhD Candidate
0.5 credits	**May 22** - *Basics of Multivariate Analysis* with Dr. Guy Whitten, Professor and Director, European Union Center, Texas A & M University
1 credit	**May 23-24** - *Modern Regression using OLS* with Dr. Guy Whitten, Professor, Texas A&M University and Dr. Harold Clarke, Ashbel Smith Professor, University of Texas at Dallas
1 credit	**May 23-24** - *Hierarchical Linear Models* with Dr. Jeff Gill, Professor, American University
0.5 credits	**May 25** - *Logistic Regression* with Dr. Harold Clarke, Ashbel Smith Professor, University of Texas at Dallas
0.5 credits	**May 25** - *Non-Linear Hierarchical Modelling* with Dr. Jeff Gill, Professor, American University

Workshops on *Qualitative Research Methodology*

1 credit	**May 14-15** - *Working with Concepts in the Social Sciences* with Dr. Frederic Schaffer, Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
1.5 credits	**May 14-16** - *Introduction to Case Studies and Comparative Case Study Methods* with Dr. Derek Beach, Professor, University of Aarhus, Denmark
1.5 credits	**May 16-18** - *Introduction to Interpretive Methods* with Dr. Matthew Longo, Assistant Professor, Leiden University
1 credit	**May 17-18** - *Process-tracing Methods* with Dr. Andrew Bennett, Professor of Government, Georgetown University
1 credit	**May 22-23** - *Historical Analysis and Historical Methods* with Dr. Robert Adcock, Professorial Lecturer, American University's School of International Service
1 credit	**May 22-23** - *Content and Thematic Analysis* with Dr. Lea Sgier, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva
0.5 credits	**May 24** - *Archival Research* with Dr. Robert Adcock, Professorial Lecturer, American University's School of International Service
1 credit	**May 24-25** - *Discourse Analysis* with Dr. Lea Sgier, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva
1 credit	**May 24-25** - *Focus Groups and Semi-Structured Interviews* with Sébastien Dallaire, Vice President, Ipsos Public Affairs

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% Bonus	Event
2 %	June 4 (6:30pm-7:45pm) – *Health and Climate Change*
	An Evening with…Dr. David Butler-Jones, Former Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
	Register here: http://bit.ly/butlerjonestalk2018

Important: Any changes in workshop selections must be made by email to wssr@concordia.ca prior to 11:59pm on May 9, 2018 and proper justification is required.

REQUIRED READINGS

Each workshop has a separate outline. All outlines are posted on the WSSR website under each individual workshop page. Each outline provides an overview of the topics covered during each workshop and includes a reading list associated with that workshop. **Students are expected to arrive at each workshop having reviewed the readings assigned.**

Refer to Appendix A, for a sample workshop outline.

Please be sure to check the WSSR website regularly for updates on the workshops you have signed up for: www.concordia.ca/WSSR

GRADING

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on several post-workshop summaries and a final report.

1. Post-Workshop Summaries (60%)

    For each workshop that you take, you will be required to submit a post-workshop summary for evaluation.

Length of workshop	Length of each workshop summary	Worth
One-day workshop	Two pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**10% each**
Two-day workshop	Four pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**20% each**
Three-day workshop	Six pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**30% each**
Due date: All summaries are due by 5pm*, **five working days** after the workshop is completed		

Summaries must be submitted in Dr. Kanji's mailbox in the Political Science department on the 12th floor of the Hall Building. Graded summaries can be picked up from the TA during office hours or at the WSSR registration desk between 8:30am and 9:00am (there will be no registration desk on May 30th, May 31st, June 4th, and June 6th).

*If you are unable to submit a hard copy by 5:00pm please submit your summary electronically to the TA at ta.poli683@gmail.com and submit a hard copy in the mailbox as soon as you are on campus. It is important to note that the TA will only grade your summary once the hard copy has been received.

Attendance in each of the workshops you have selected is compulsory. If you do not attend a workshop in its entirety, you cannot submit a post-workshop summary for that workshop. Also, you must make sure to sign both the morning and afternoon attendance sheets during each workshop for your summary to be accepted for grading.

The general objectives of these summaries are as follows:

1. Summarize what you have learned by attending the workshop.
2. What are the implications of what you have learned for democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology?
3. Evaluate the added value of what you have learned for your current understanding of democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology.

Please use clear reasoning, analyses, and examples in order to address all three objectives.
More specific guidelines for these post-workshop summaries can be found in Appendix B.

2. Final Report (40%)
At the end of the term (on June 22nd, 2018 by 5pm), you will be required to submit a final report (**no more than 20-25 double-spaced pages**).
The final report must be submitted in Dr. Kanji's mailbox in the Political Science department on the 12th floor of the Hall Building.

The core objective of this final report will be as follows:
Inspired by what you have learned through your participation in the WSSR, discuss and demonstrate how future generations might improve (or contribute to) democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology.
More specific guidelines for the final report can be found in Appendix C.

Note: There will be an orientation workshop on strategies for completing this final report on June 9th in H1220 (Session 1 9:00am-12:00pm; Session 2 1:30pm-4:30pm). Students will be sent an email in which they will be given the choice to attend either Session 1 or Session 2.

PLAGIARISM
The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism which the Code defines as **"the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement."** (Academic Code of Conduct, Concordia University: Article 19a)

"In Simple Words: **Do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without saying from where you obtained it!**"

Complete regulations can be found beginning on page 54 of the Undergraduate Calendar or
http://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/17-10.html.

SAMPLE – Outline and Reading List

Concordia FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

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Policy-Making at the 'Center': How does it work?
Rachel Curran
Former Director of Policy to Prime Minister Stephen Harper
May 11, 2018
9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary
Ever wondered what happens around the policy table in the Prime Minister's office? Ever curious about why some policies make it on the agenda and others don't? In her workshop, Rachel Curran, former Director of Policy to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, will take participants through the ins and outs of decision-making and the exercise of political power at the center of our federal government. She will explore the various facets of the PMO, who is on the team, how decisions are made, and the dynamics between the Prime Minister's Office and the public service. She will also explore some of the major decisions that have been made around domestic and international policy crises, as well as what she thinks can be done to improve how policy is made at the 'centre'.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to find out what goes on at the core of our democracy's decision-making!

Outline
I. How Decisions are Made: the Executive Branch in a Nutshell
II. The Prime Minister's Office
    a. The team
    b. The decision-making structure
    c. The relationship with the public service
III. Setting the Policy Agenda
    a. What gets on and how
    b. Challenges
IV. Dealing with crises at home and abroad
    a. Domestic policy crises
    b. International policy crises
V. Improving Policy-Making for Future Generations

Required Readings*
Goldenberg, E. (2007) Chapter 5: "The Prime Minister's Office", In *The Way it Works: Inside Ottawa*. Toronto: McLelland & Stewart, p.70-96 http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF010F
Craft, J. (2016) Chapter 1: "A 'No Surprises' Environment", In *Backrooms and Beyond: Partisan Advisers and the Politics of Policy Work in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00C0

Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR)
1455 de Maisonneuve W. – H1225.30
Montreal, Qc H3G 1M8
Telephone: 514-848-2424 x7854, x5473

Source: http://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/artsci/polisci/wssr/2018/05/11/curranworkshop.html?c=artsci/polisci/wssr/wssr-calendar

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Appendix B

Post-Workshop Summaries – Specific Guidelines

For each workshop that you take, you will be required to submit a post-workshop summary for evaluation.

Length of workshop	Length of each workshop summary	Worth
One-day workshop	Two pages* (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**10% each**
Two-day workshop	Four pages* (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**20% each**
Three-day workshop	Six pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins)	**30% each**
Due date: All summaries are due by 5pm, **five working days** after the workshop is completed		

*Anything submitted that runs over these page limits will not be read.

Objectives	Grading Key
1. <u>Summarize</u> what you have learned by attending the workshop (no more than one third of the total length of the assignment) – Provide an <u>analysis</u> and <u>synthesis</u> of what is key, along with examples; not a mere *description* of what happened in the workshop – Careful thought-out assessment of the core message that the workshop is trying to convey, providing clear reasoning and examples	<u>Summary (/3)</u> 1/3=provides basic description of workshop 2/3=provides some analysis 3/3=provides clear synthesis, reasoning, and examples
2. What are the <u>implications</u> of what you have learned for democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology? – State the implications of what you have learned – What does the content of the workshop tell you about the current state of democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology? (do not provide just a statement or description) – Provide a clear analysis, reasoning and examples	<u>Implications (/3)</u> 1/3=provides basic description 2/3=provides some analysis and reasoning 3/3=provides clear analysis, reasoning and examples
3. Evaluate the <u>added value</u> of what you have learned for your current understanding of democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology. – What was your understanding before attending this workshop? How has this workshop contributed to that understanding? – Provide clear reasoning and examples	<u>Value Added (/3)</u> 1/3=provides pure description 2/3=provides some analysis and reasoning 3/3=provides clear analysis, reasoning and examples

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Appendix C

Final Report – Specific Guidelines

At the end of the term (on June 22nd, 2018 by 5pm), you will be required to submit a final report (**no more than 20-25 double-spaced pages**). This final report will be worth 40% of your total grade.
Make sure to list all the workshops that you attended on the title page. Any report text submitted that is over the allotted page limit will not be read. You are permitted to include supplemental materials in appendices (i.e. graphs, tables, bibliography).

Core Objective: Inspired by what you have learned through your participation in the WSSR, discuss and demonstrate how future generations might improve (or contribute to) democratic governance, public policy and/or research methodology.

Please employ the following template when completing your final report. Please double-space and use 12 pt. font and 1" margins.	Grading Key
1. Introduction Explain clearly what it is that you are trying to demonstrate and why it is important – Problem (what is the problem I am addressing?) – Purpose (what I will do in this report and how I will do it?) – Relevance (why it is important?)	Introduction (/3) Provides clear introduction and includes each of the following: 1/3=Problem 1/3=Purpose 1/3=Relevance
2. Review (*Potential sources*) – What does the literature state about the topic I am presenting on? – What have I learned about this subject from my university classes/experiences so far? – What have I learned about this topic from the workshops I have attended?	Review (/3) 1/3=weak review (covers one aspect) 2/3=satisfactory review 3/3=excellent review (covers all necessary aspects)
3. What I propose What are you proposing to better the situation or problem that you have identified? – Present reasoning, evidence, analysis and examples	What I propose (/3) 1/3=simply states what is being proposed 2/3=also provides some reasoning 3/3=also provides evidence and examples
4. Potential Challenges What are some potential challenges that may be faced through the implementation of your proposal?	Challenges (/3) 1/3=simply states challenges 2/3=also provides some reasoning 3/3=also provides evidence and examples
5. Conclusion What can you conclude based on the evidence and analysis presented in your report? – Summarize key findings and conclusions – Clearly relate findings to the problem that you have identified – Discuss the implications of what you have learned and what you propose for future generations	Conclusion (/3) 1/3=states key conclusions 2/3=states how this betters the problem 3/3=provides implications

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