

PSC 7000
Research Concepts and Approaches

This course is required of everyone entering the MA program, because in it you will:

- Acquire the tools you need to think critically and intelligently about the questions you will face elsewhere in your studies;
- Encounter the various ways political scientists think about social phenomena;
- Learn to read political science literature thoroughly and thoughtfully; and
- Develop the skills necessary to write cogent essays and conduct original research.

In the weeks ahead, you will begin to sift through the competing methodologies scholars employ to make sense of the political world, exploring the connection between theory and hypothesis, hypothesis and data, data and analysis, all the while deciding for yourself what constitutes an intelligent claim to knowledge. The effort will be both abstract and applied, as we strive both to know political science and to do political science