



TRUDEAU CENTRE FOR PEACE, CONFLICT AND JUSTICE STUDIES
MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PCJ461H1S
Research Methods in Peace, Conflict, and Justice
Winter 2022

Instructor: Professor Paola Salardi

Room: 1 Devonshire Place (At Trinity Site), Room #259S

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Office hours: By appointment only, sign up at <https://calendly.com/paola-salardi>

Class Time: Wednesdays 9am-11am

Class Location: SK114 (Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work)

Please note that all weekly classes will be hosted online until at least January 31, 2022 per the University of Toronto's response to COVID-19. I will provide updates about when we can meet in-person for classes.

Course Description: The course guides each student through their own individual research project, embedded in an interactive group learning process, in order to offer an applied introduction to research methods for peace, conflict and justice studies. Students will work through the full research process, including: identifying a research question, learning how to conduct effective literature reviews, developing a rigorous research design, and applying quantitative and qualitative methods to answering those questions. Rather than doing independent research projects, or studying research methods in isolation, the course combines the two: students learn collectively about the different steps in the research process while simultaneously applying those steps to their own research project. This is then complemented by presenting that research and discussing different research projects in class, so as to receive continuous feedback and be exposed to a variety of research methods and approaches.

Welcome on board!

1. Organization of the course

The course is organized in **lectures** and **seminars**. Lectures will be held by the instructor every other week for two hours. Key to the course are the seminars where students will play a central and active role presenting and discussing their research at various stages. The schedule of lectures and seminars is laid out in the detailed timetable for the course in section 5 of this document. However, variation from the detailed timetable may sometimes be announced during lectures or seminars and online on Quercus.

Lectures will focus primarily on introducing the key concepts, topics and choices covered by the course, grounded in the textbook and sometimes in additional academic publications. During the lectures, the instructor will focus primarily on introducing the different stages of the research process, on discussing strategies to succeed at each stage, and on key methodologies that the research might adopt. With respect to research methodologies, the instructor will review key concepts, and seek to offer a deeper understanding of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies that can be applied.

During the seminars, students will present their research at its different stages, whether it be presenting approaches to the key research question, sharing an initial literature, discussing the research outline or presenting the final research paper. Students will play the central role, while the instructor will lead the class, facilitate debate and discussion and seek to support students in the further development of their research project.

In addition to class time, students will have access to office hours held by the instructor as a source of extra support. The instructor's office hours are available through the [Calendly](#) link on the first page of this syllabus, and any variation will be sent by email and posted on Quercus.

This course uses Quercus, U of T's learning portal. Students are expected to check Quercus regularly, which can be accessed here: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>. Announcements, lecture slides, readings, and grades will be posted on Quercus

Teaching materials

This course heavily relies on the following textbook:

Bryman, Alan and Edward Bell. **Social Research Methods**. Fifth Canadian Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

To succeed in this course, you are required to read the chapters of the Bryman & Bell that will be assigned each week as outlined in section 6. On top of this textbook, additional academic articles and book chapters might be assigned. Finally, lectures slides will be also generally be provided via Quercus prior to the date of the lecture. You are expected to read both the lecture slides and the related articles before class: in my experience this strategy puts you in a position to better understand the lecture and to grasp key concepts much more easily. It is important to attend all of the lectures, as they are interconnected, and participation is graded.

2. Student evaluation

This is the grading scheme:

Title	Deadlines	Length	Weight
Poster Session I: Research Question	Wednesday, January 19 at 9am Posters must be submitted the day before the presentation by 11:59 pm on Quercus	1 poster 5-minute presentation	10%
In-Class Presentation I: Literature Review	Wednesday, February 02 at 9am Slides must be submitted the day before the presentation by 11:59 pm on Quercus	7-minute presentation	10%
Poster Session II: Research Outline	Wednesday, February 16 at 9am Posters must be submitted the day before the presentation by 11:59 pm on Quercus	1 poster 7-minute presentation	10%
Research Outline	Wednesday, March 02 by 11:59pm	1,000 word essay	20%
In-Class Presentation II: Final Research Paper	Wednesday, March 30 at 9am Slides must be submitted the day before the presentation by 11:59 pm on Quercus	15-minute presentation	20%
Final Research Paper	Wednesday, April 13 by 11:59pm	5,000 word essay	20%
Attendance and Participation	Throughout the duration of the course	-	10%

3. Relevant dates

Wednesday, January 19: Poster Session on Research Question

Wednesday, February 02: In-Class Presentation on Literature Review

Wednesday, February 16: Poster Session on Research Outline

Wednesday, February 23: No class (Reading week)

Wednesday, March 02: Submission of Research Outline

Wednesday, March 30: In-Class Presentation on Final Research Paper

Wednesday, April 06: Last Day of Class

Wednesday, April 13: Submission of Final Research Paper

4. Other important information

Email policy: Email is NOT an appropriate forum for asking questions. If you want to discuss the course material you should meet with your instructor, during office hours. If you have any personal matter or concern, please similarly come to speak to me during office hours. On the other hand, if there are any issues with the course that you think I should know about, such as mistakes in a specific announcement, missing information about an approaching assignment that have not been posted, feel free to email me – I would be most grateful, though I may not always be able to reply.

Illness and Extensions: For 2021-22, the Verification of Illness (or “doctor’s note”) is not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work have been asked to record their absence through the ACORN online absence declaration. The absence declaration is considered sufficient documentation to indicate an absence and no

additional information or documentation should be required when seeking consideration from an instructor. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence. Instructors can contact their Undergraduate Administrators if they have questions or would like confirmation for a particular student.

Late Penalty: A 3% penalty will apply to late assignments, deducted per day, including weekends. Any assignments received a week or more after the deadline will continue to be deducted a full letter grade (i.e. from an A- to a B-) per week.

Grading and Assessment: Final grades in the course are given as percentage grades, which correspond to a letter grade that is used to calculate GPA according to the University of Toronto marking scheme. For more information, see the Faculty of Arts and Science [Academic Handbook, section 10](#). They reflect your overall performance in achieving the stated Course Learning Outcomes. Assessment on interim evaluations can take many forms and are intended to give you an indication of where you stand relative to others. This will allow you to make adjustments to your approach, your expectations, and your performance. Please contact your instructor if you would like more guidance on your individual course performance.

Plagiarism: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)

Class Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class, online or in person for this course. Those who miss more than one-sixth of a course due to illness or personal circumstances should inform their instructor and Registrar's Office immediately.

Accessibility Services: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please register with [Accessibility Services](#) at St George Campus.

Academic Accommodations: Occasionally students will need to apply for an academic accommodation due to disability, illness, religious observance or personal emergency. All requests for an academic accommodation due to disability are handled by the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services, as specified in the Faculty of Arts and Science [Academic Handbook, section 13](#). All requests for non-disability related accommodations are handled by the instructor, or the PCJ Program Director.

For disability-related accommodations, Accessibility Services staff will determine suitable accommodations on a case-by-case basis based on recommendation from health providers and with student input. If a non-disability related accommodation request is approved, a resolution will be determined by the instructor and may take the form of an alternate deliverable, deadline extension, re-weighted course grade calculation, make-up exam, or another solution deemed appropriate by the instructor. If an accommodation request is not approved, the missed or late deliverable will be subject to an academic penalty. The extent of the penalty is at the discretion of the instructor.

Mental Health and Wellness: Feeling Distressed? Are you in crisis? There's help. Call Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454. Free, confidential helpline with professional counselling, information and referrals for mental health, addictions and well-being, 24/7/365.

Are you in immediate danger? For Personal Safety - Call 911, then Campus Community Police*
UTSG Police: 416-978-2222 | U of T Mississauga Police: 905-569-4333 | U of T Scarborough
Police: 416-978-2222 |

Centre for International Experience Safety Abroad 416-946-3929.

*24/7/365; Campus Community Police can direct your call to the right service

Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: Please read the University's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). It applies to all your academic activities and courses. The Code prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and the use of unauthorized aids. Violating the Code may lead to penalties up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University. You are expected to know the Code and inform yourself of acceptable academic practices – ignorance of the Code or the acceptable academic practices is not a valid defense if you are accused of a violation.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Academic Integrity: Case write-ups, papers, assignments, and all other deliverables must be original work, giving credit to the work of others where appropriate. This applies to individual and group deliverables. All members of a group are accountable for the academic integrity of their submissions. You are encouraged to consult the following sites to ensure that you follow the appropriate rules. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense in cases of violations, which can result in very serious academic sanctions. Please visit the [University of Toronto Academic Integrity](#) and the [UofT Writing Centre Resources](#) websites for further detail and help on the proper use of citations.

Use of Technology: Course offerings at the University have moved online, creating new ways to connect and collaborate with your professors and peers. Like any professional organization, the Munk School expects all of its members to behave responsibly and with courtesy and respect for others when using technology. The Munk School is committed to equity, human rights, and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. Please read the University's Student Code of Conduct and policy on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology.

Notice of video recording and sharing (download and re-use prohibited): This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

5. Detailed Timetable

Week	Date	Session	Topic
1	January 12	Lecture #1	Introduction to the Course General Research Orientation (In-class brainstorming on research questions)
2	January 19	Seminar #1	Poster session I: Research Question
3	January 26	Lecture #2	Conducting a Research Project (In-class discussion on literature review)
4	February 02	Seminar #2	Presentation I: Literature Review
5	February 09	Lecture #3	Research Design (In-class discussion on research outline)
6	February 16	Seminar #3	Poster Session II: Research Outline
7	February 23	NO CLASS	Reading week
8	March 02	Lecture #4	The Nature of Research (In-class updates on research progress)
9	March 09	Lecture #5	Data Collection (In-class updates on research progress)
10	March 16	Lecture #6	Data Analysis (In-class updates on research progress)
11	March 23	Seminar #4	PCJ Fellows Seminar
12	March 30	Seminar #5	Presentation II: Final Research Paper (I)
Extra	April 06	Seminar #6	Presentation II: Final Research Paper (II)

6. List of Readings

Lecture #1: Introduction to the Course / General Research Orientation

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 1 and appendix to Part I.

Lecture #2: Conducting a Research Project

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 16.

Lecture #3: Research Design

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 2.

Lecture #4: The Nature of Research

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 4 and 9.

Lecture #5: Data Collection

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 5, 6, 10, 11

Lecture #6: Data Analysis

Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 8 and 13.