This course introduces students to basic concepts in the scientific approach to studying politics, and provides students with the fundamental building blocks for conducting empirical research in political science. These include the identification of a research problem, constructing a hypothesis, as well as collecting and analyzing data. Along with indicating that they have learned the necessary concepts, students will collect, describe, and analyze relationships using data and statistical software during the course.

**Required Text:**
Other readings are available as listed.

**Assignments:**

**Group:** There will be one group assignment in which students must develop a research question, propose a hypothesis, and identify an Independent and Dependent Variable as well as at least 2 Control Variables. Students will then collect data relating to the research question. The group project will consist of a proposal in which students will outline the study, theory, and variables (approximately 300-500 words). The final group assignment paper will consist of submitting completed questionnaires as well as a 2000-2500-word paper. No sources are necessary. The instructor reserves the right to construct or change the members of groups.

Groups will need to provide printed, completed survey forms (or a link to full information if an online survey tool is used) along with the D2L submission.

**Individual:** Students will submit a research proposal on the proposed topic for the individual research paper. It will identify a research question, propose a hypothesis, and briefly explain a theoretical relationship between an Independent and Dependent variable (from the dataset being used in class). It will also identify 2 Control Variables and explain their expected roles in the relationship. The proposal should be approximately 300-500 words and include at least 2 academic sources that are related to the main theory being researched.

The individual research paper will require students to use statistical software to produce and analyze results using data. Use of literature will be necessary, though not extensive (min. 4 academic sources not including mass media, data website and textbook), and students will be required to build upon the proposal, and conduct an analysis to test their
theory and the effects of 2 control variables. The paper should be approximately 2,000-2,500 words not including tables or bibliography.

**Assignment submission:**
All assignments must be submitted in the appropriate dropbox on D2L (online.mun.ca). Only PDF (Adobe) and WORD (Microsoft) files may be submitted. If you use a different program, you must convert it using an on-campus computer before submission. Assignments will be considered submitted according to the D2L date of submission of the specified file.

All written assignments must:
- Include the student’s last name, first initial and course name as the filename. (Example BlidookK-Posc1000.pdf)
- Include page numbers.
- Be typed using text that is double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with margins of approximately 3 centimetres (1.25 inches).

Late Penalty: All penalties are -3% per day (of 100% total). Penalties are added if the assignment is not submitted on the date stipulated, and accumulate based upon the date shown on D2L (i.e. if due date is Nov. 6 and submitted date is Nov. 7, penalty = -3%). In order to be fair to all students, these rules will be strictly followed. Exceptions can be made with official medical documentation, in which case the instructor will determine a reasonable extension period if none is stipulated in the document.

Plagiarism: Memorial University values academic integrity. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences. If you are unsure when writing, give the source and indicate clearly all the text that it applies to. See http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0748

Copyright of class content: All class presentations/lectures are owned by the instructor. Anyone engaging in unauthorized audio or visual recording or copying can be legally prosecuted.

**Grading:**
- Group Assignment Proposal (due Oct. 9) 5%
- Group Assignment Paper (all materials due Oct. 23) 30%
- Individual Research Proposal (due Nov. 6) 10%
- Individual Research Paper (due Nov. 20) 35%
- Final Exam (lectures and readings) 20%

**Schedule:**
(subject to change based on missed classes or topics taking longer/shorter than expected)

Week 1. Introduction (Sep. 10)

Week 2. Introduction to Methods in Political Science (Sep. 15)
   An Introduction to Inquiry (Ch. 1)
   Concepts and Theories
   Paradigms Theory and Research (Ch. 2)
Week 3. Ethics in Research (Sep. 22)
   Ethical Issues for Social Researchers (Ch. 3)

   Structure of Research
   Research Design and the Logic of Causation (Ch. 4)

Week 4. Structure of Research (Cont.) (Sep. 29)
   Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement (Ch. 5)

   Data Collection (Quantitative)
   Control Variables (Ch. 16 pp. 435-448)

Week 5. Data Collection… (Oct. 6, Group Proposal due Fri, Oct. 9)
   Survey Research (Ch. 9)
   Indexes, Scales and Typologies (Ch. 6)

Week 6. Data Collection … (Oct. 15 – no class Oct. 13)
   The Logic of Sampling (Ch. 7)

Week 7. Describing and Analyzing Data (Oct. 20 - Group Project due Fri, Oct. 23)
   Quantitative Data Analysis (Ch. 15)
   Elaboration (Ch. 16)

Week 8. In Lab Instruction – Not in regular classroom (SN-4022). (Oct. 27)

Week 9. Data Collection (Qualitative) (Nov. 3 - Individual proposal due Nov. 6)
   Qualitative Field Research (Ch. 11)
   Qualitative Interviewing (Ch. 12)

Week 10. Data Collection (Qualitative cont.) (Nov. 10)
   Elite and Specialized Interviewing (Manheim et al Ch. 21 – on reserve)

   Other forms of Data Collection
   Experiments (Ch. 8)

Week 11. Open Lab Session (SN-4022) (Nov. 17 – Research paper due Nov. 20)

Week 12. The comparative method (Nov. 24)
   J.S. Mill “Two Methods of Comparison” - http://poli.haifa.ac.il/~levi/Mill.htm

Week 13. Catch-up, Critiques and Review (Dec. 1)