

University of Illinois at Chicago  
Political Science 200  
*Methods of Political Science*

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This course will provide students the opportunity to learn the various methods of social science research by conducting their own research projects. Moreover, because the most difficult part of social science research is developing meaningful research questions, we will also spend some time reading and discussing some of the classic works in which the basic questions regarding the scientific investigation of political behavior were defined.

Research methods addressed:

1. The ethnography;
2. The open-ended survey of opinion;
3. The closed-ended survey of opinion;
4. Macro-political analysis (analyzing legislative, judicial, executive actions, or actions of the general public, such as voting);
5. Text analysis (analyzing the content of a law); and
6. Macro-economic analysis.

Classic works of methodology to be discussed:

1. Aristotle, *Politics*;
2. Machiavelli, *The Prince*;
3. Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*; and
4. Weber, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*.

Grade composition:

- 60% Research project assignments (6x10%, or one per method listed)
- 20% Final research project
- 20% Homework assignments

The reading list and assignments will be distributed separately.

Any student with special instructional needs should consult with me at the beginning of the course.