

Poli 100 Research Paper Guidelines for those opting out of research participation.

All Poli 100 students are required to participate in research studies for up to three hours in order to receive their course grade. Participating in these studies basically involves answering survey questions about important political science topics. Participation helps you learn about the importance of political science research. We strongly encourage you to participate in these studies.

If students do not wish to participate in studies, they must write a five-page research paper where they answer an important political science question. This is the policy approved the UNC Chapel Hill Institutional Review Board.

The following is the guidelines for the research paper.

The research paper could be an extension of material or topics students have learned in the classroom or the textbook; it could be a deeper examination and analysis of a question your professor asked during classroom discussions. If you are having difficulty choosing a topic, send two possible research topics framed as questions to your professor so that he/she can help you choose a topic.

Students should conduct further research into their question of interest so as to inform their analysis. You should read and cite at least seven (7) sources (social science journal articles, books, law reviews, etc). Place your references at the end of your paper.

Your paper should be double spaced, use 12-point font, and have page numbers, and be five pages long. (including the list of references which should be one page long).

Your paper should be organized as follows:

- **Introduction:** What is the question you are going to write about and why is this question important or interesting?
- **Literature Review:** Discuss what other scholars have written about the topic. Have they tried to answer questions similar to yours? How have they tried to answer the questions? Have they failed to do so satisfactorily in your opinion? What is your proposed answer to the question(s)?
- **Analysis:** What evidence is there to show that your proposed answer is good or better than past efforts?
- **Conclusion:** From a political science perspective, what have we learned from your research effort and what does it mean?

Papers are due by the last day of classes. No exceptions. Papers will be graded pass/fail by Professor Anna Bassi, Director of Political Science Subject Pool. Please submit your paper by uploading it in the Dropbox folder of the Political Science Subject Pool Sakai page. All paper needs to be submitted by the due date. If you have not submitted your paper by the due date you will receive an incomplete in Poli 100. The incomplete will show up in your transcript. In that case, you have until the end of the eight week of the next semester to complete your paper and receive your course grade if you pass, thereby removing the incomplete from your academic record. If you fail, you will be given one week to rewrite your paper. Those who fail a second time will receive an F in Poli 100.