Purpose of the Course

POL 196E is a course designed to bridge the internship experience with the academic study of related disciplines such as political science and public policy. The ability to translate empirical evidence for use in policy debates is central to policymaking. As a member of the policy community students require a sophisticated understanding of a variety of types of data and policy analysis. This course will introduce strategies for data analysis and collection, study design, and principles for evaluating research. Topics will include: experimental design, case study evaluation, small-n studies, survey and questionnaire design, sampling, measurement construction and reliability, formal modeling, game theory, agent-based modeling, and hypothesis testing.

Course Requirements

Attendance, participation, and in-class assignments 20%
Research Poster data proposal 20%
Research Poster rough draft 20%
Research Poster 40%

Attendance, participation, and in-class assignments: Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive to class on time. Students should come to class prepared to discuss any assigned readings and complete the in-class assignments. Grades will be based on attendance and participation in class activities including class discussion, in-class assignments, group work, elevator speeches, and practice poster presentations. Students that constructively contribute to class discussion most regularly and fully participate in other in-class activities will receive a boost to their attendance and participation grade. Students that do not contribute to in-class discussion or fully participate in other in-class activities will receive a lower grade. Students may have two unexcused absences for the class. Any student that has more than two unexcused absences will not be able to receive a passing grade for the class.

During the course of the quarter students will also complete in-class assignments designed to help them with their Research Poster and overall research projects. Assignments will be completed independently or in groups, students are encouraged to bring their laptops to class for these assignments.
**Research Poster data proposal:** During the fourth or fifth week of the quarter students will submit a ~2 page data proposal for their Research Poster via Canvas. The proposal will outline the data you intend to use or collect and provide a road map for your analysis.

**Research Poster:** The Research Poster is designed to provide students with a critical learning experience as well as an opportunity to engage in active research. For the poster you are required to conduct an original research project where you will gather, analyze and report on an important public policy issue in California. The original research for this project will be done in conjunction with your research for POL 195 or POL 108.

This Research Poster will be presented at the UCCS Undergraduate Research Poster Showcase at the end of the academic quarter. A draft of the poster will be due after the seventh week of class. Additional information on the poster will be provided in class and made available on Canvas. The Research Poster will be due, via Canvas, during the last week of the course. All work must be in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct.

It goes without saying that all of your graded work must be done by you without assistance from others. You are encouraged to discuss the class and materials with others, but your answers to exam questions and your written essays must be yours and yours alone, with proper attribution for sources you wish to cite. If you are unfamiliar with the University’s policy on academic dishonesty and associated penalties, see [http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf](http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf).

Please be advised that UC Center Sacramento professors, instructors, teaching assistants, and administrators are mandatory reporters under Title IX. This means that we are required to pass on reports from students, whether communicated verbally during class discussion or office hours or as part of a written assignment or exercise, to the UC Davis Title IX officer and other relevant UC Davis officials. If you wish to seek out help or resources with a non-mandated reporter, please see [https://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu/get-support](https://sexualviolence.ucdavis.edu/get-support).

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet any of the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UC Davis will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities.
Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: Identifying the Focus of Research

Week 2: Data, Research Design, and Experimental Methods

Week 3: Observational Studies

Week 4: Surveys and Qualtrics

Week 5: Measurement Construction
  • Research Poster Data Proposal due

Week 6: Research Posters

Week 7: Data Visualization

Week 8: Analysis
  • Research Poster Rough Draft Due

Week 9: Elevator Speeches and Practice Poster Presentations

Week 10: Public Policy Simulation
  • Undergraduate Research Poster Showcase