Research Methods in Peace, Conflict and Justice - PCJ461H1-S

Winter 2021, Wednesdays 9:00am – 11:00am, Eastern Time Zone

Instructor: Professor Paola Salardi
Email: paola.salardi@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: By appointment only, sign up at https://calendly.com/paola-salardi
Delivery: Online Only. Synchronous using Quercus and Zoom.
Prerequisite: PCJ460H1F

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Course Description and Learning Objectives
The course guides each student through their own individual research project. Embedded in an interactive group learning process, this course offers 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, this 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!

Organization of the Course
The course is organized in lectures and seminars both held by the instructor. The central feature of this course is the seminars, in which students will play an important and active role in presenting and discussing their research at various stages. Both lectures and seminars will be held online through Zoom in a synchronous fashion. The schedule of lectures and seminars is laid out in the Class Schedule. However, variation from the detailed timetable may sometimes be announced during online lectures or seminars, and on Quercus.

Online 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 online seminars, students will present their research at its different stages, whether it be presenting approaches to the key research question, sharing 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.

U of T’s learning portal (a.k.a. Quercus) can be accessed here: https://q.utoronto.ca/
Announcements, lecture slides, readings, and grades will be posted on Quercus.

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 virtually 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 or missing information about an approaching tutorial, feel free to email me – I would be most grateful, though I may not always be able to reply.
Evaluations and Course Grade
The final course grade reflects your level of demonstrated achievement of the course Learning Objectives listed above. Evaluations provide feedback on your progress towards the final course grade. Turnitin.com will be used in this course and can be done via Quercus. You do not need to sign in to Turnitin.com separately. Evaluation criteria will be explained further in class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluations</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Submit via</th>
<th>Turnitin.com</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Poster Session I: Research Question Pitch</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Presentation: Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 9:00 AM, EST&lt;br&gt;Posters: Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Zoom Quercus</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Presentation I: Literature Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Presentation: Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 9:00 AM, EST&lt;br&gt;Slides: Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Zoom Quercus</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Poster Session II: Research Outline</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Presentation: Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 9:00 AM, EST&lt;br&gt;Posters: Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Zoom Quercus</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Outline (1,000 word essay)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday, February 26th, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Quercus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Presentation II: Final Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Presentation: Wednesday, March 31st and April 7th, 2021 2:00 PM, EST&lt;br&gt;Slides: Tuesday, March 30th, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Zoom Quercus</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper (5,000 word essay)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday, April 9th, 2021 11:59 PM, EST</td>
<td>Quercus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Attendance and Participation

| Attendance and Participation | 10% | Ongoing | Zoom | No |

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.

Illness and Extensions
In the case that you submit an assignment late because of illness, we will follow the Faculty of Arts and Science policy for granting extensions. Please see the Academic Accommodations statement for more information.

Required Text
This course heavily relies on the following textbook. 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 the Class Schedule below. In addition to this textbook, other academic articles and book chapters may 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.

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<tr>
<th>Required Books/Readings</th>
<th>Buy/Access</th>
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Class Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Delivery</th>
<th>Topics and Key Concepts</th>
<th>Tasks and Required Readings</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Week 1  (13/01/21) | Online, Synchronous via Zoom | Lecture 1 Introduction: General Research Orientation | Tasks:  
• Introduction to the Course  
• General Research Orientation  
• In-class brainstorming on research questions  
Required Readings:  
<p>| Week 2  (20/01/21) | Online, Synchronous via Zoom | Seminar 1 Poster Session 1: Research Question | • No required readings |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Lecture 2</th>
<th>Conducting a Research Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• In-class discussion on literature review</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Seminar 2</th>
<th>Presentation I: Literature Review</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• No required readings</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Lecture 3</th>
<th>Research Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• In-class discussion on research outline</td>
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**Family Day and Reading Week: February 15th – 19th – NO CLASS**

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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Seminar 3</th>
<th>Poster Session II: Research Outline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• No required readings</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Lecture 4</th>
<th>The Nature of Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• In-class updates on research progress</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Lecture 5</th>
<th>Data Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• In-class updates on research progress</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Readings:</td>
<td>• Bryman and Bell, Social Research Methods. Fifth Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press, 2019, chapter 5, 6, 10, 11</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Online, Synchronous via Zoom</th>
<th>Lecture 6</th>
<th>Data Analysis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasks:</td>
<td>• In-class updates on research progress</td>
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Week 1 (24/03/21)
Online, Synchronous via Zoom

Seminar 4
PCJ Fellows Seminar

• No required readings

Week 11 (31/03/21)
Online, Synchronous via Zoom

Seminar 5
Presentation II:
Final Research Paper (I)

• No required readings

Week 12 (07/04/21)
Online, Synchronous via Zoom

Seminar 6
Presentation II:
Final Research Paper (II)

• No required readings

Course Drop Deadlines
The last date to cancel S courses for undergraduates is March 15, 2021. If you need to drop a course, please contact your College Registrar’s Office and the Peace, Conflict and Justice Studies Program and Events Coordinator, Jona Malile, at pcj.program@utoronto.ca.

Grading and Assessment
Final grades for undergraduates 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. 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.

Turnitin.com
Normally, students will be required to submit their essays to Turnitin.com 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 Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Class Attendance
Students are expected to attend every class. Those who miss more than one-sixth of a course due to illness or personal circumstances should inform their instructor and/or PCJ Program Coordinator immediately.

Accessibility Services
Academic accommodations are provided when you experience disability-related barriers that prohibit demonstration of your knowledge and skills. Accommodations are provided to level the playing field upon which you can establish your success. You are encouraged to inform yourself about options in this regard at the website for Accessibility Services.
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, not the instructor. 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.

Students who require consideration for missed academic work for any non-disability related reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) should report their absence through the online absence declaration – until otherwise indicated by the University. A Verification of Illness form is not currently required, but may become required should the public health situation change.

If a non-disability related accommodation request is made along with an absence declaration on ACORN, a resolution will be determined by the instructor. This may take the form of any 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 made along with an absence declaration, the missed or late deliverable will be subject to an academic penalty. The extent of the penalty is at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: In addition to your submission of the accommodation request to the PCJ Program Director, your instructor expects to be informed of any deliverables you will miss beforehand.

Mental Health and Wellness
Feeling distressed? Are you in crisis? There’s help. Call Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454 (Ontario); text GOOD2TALK to 686868. Free, confidential helpline with professional counselling, information and referrals for mental health, addictions and well-being, 24/7/365. You can also contact My Student Support Program (MySSP) 1-844-451-9700 (North America); 001-416-380-6575 (Outside of North America) or the U of T Employee & Family Assistance Program (EFAP) 1-800-663-1142 (toll-free); 1-866-398-9505 (TTY); 604-689-1717 (collect). Visit “Feeling Distressed?” for more resources.

Are you in immediate danger? For Personal Safety – Call 911, then Campus Community Police*
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.

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 websites 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 Writing Centres for Arts and Science websites for further detail and help on the proper use of citations.
Group Work and Behaviour
You are expected to treat teamwork the same way as you would in any professional organization. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Contributing substantially and proportionally to each project
- Committing to a standard of work and level of participation agreed upon by the group
- Ensuring familiarity with the entire content of a group deliverable so that you can sign off on it with your name in its entirety as original work
- Accepting and acknowledging that assignments that are found to be plagiarized in any way will be subject to sanctions for all group members under the University’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters
- Ensuring that all team members voice their opinions, thoughts, and concerns openly and in an inclusive and considerate environment
- Taking personal responsibility for voicing your own thoughts to enhance and contribute to team learning

If you encounter difficulties with any group member that cannot be resolved within the group, please contact your instructor for guidance. Your instructor may refer you to the PCJ Program Director for further assistance.

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.

Class Recordings
Lectures will not be recorded. If a student is in need of a disability-related accommodation to do with recording, please contact the instructor and your Accessibility Services counsellor to discuss suitable arrangements.

Copyright, Trademark and Intellectual Property
As the University moves towards online teaching, many of your assignments will be online and may include mixed media use. Unauthorized reproduction, copying or use of online materials, e.g. video footage or text, may result in copyright infringement. The “fair use” provisions that apply to photocopies used for teaching do not apply to webpages. The Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI) in Robarts Library can provide further guidance. You may also access copyright resources on the University of Toronto Libraries website.