

Term	Fall term
Expected students to attend	See outline
Course Title	Politics Science Literacy
Credit	See outline
Class	Tuesday 5 (16:40-18:10) * Room is TBA
Lecturer	Dr. Toru OGA
Office	202-1 (2nd Floor)
e-mail	toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Outline

Requirements: All foreign students in the Graduate School of Law majoring in Political Science and pursuing the conferral of an academic degree (MA. or Ph.D.) in English are required to register. It is highly recommended that any research students (*Kenkyusei*) attend (those research students who have completed the course will be exempt from attending it again when promoted to the Master's programme). Although it is not a credited course, a pass of the course is a minimum requirement for writing up an academic thesis for degree conferral. In other words, in order to write up the thesis to achieve an academic degree in Political Science, it is compulsory for you to take the course. Second year students are also **highly recommended to audit** the class.

[IMPORTANT] Students who plan to take (or audit) this course need to email toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp and let me know in advance (at the latest, October 15, 2010).

Objectives

The aim of this course is to introduce essential knowledge and techniques of basic academic literacy in pursuing political science degrees. For the purpose of developing academic literacy in research, this course focuses on two sorts of skills (more details below): (1) basic literacy of academic writing, and (2) research methods in political science. At the end of the course, students will have a strong knowledge and understanding of the basic features of political science writings and methodologies and thus be familiar with writing research proposals for any political science subject. The focus of the course is to develop basic literacy of academic research with a strong emphasis on the writing and methodological skills generally used in political science. As for academic research and writing skills, the course covers the basic components of writing essays and theses and also includes instruction on how to use the library to access materials, including the usage of academic databases. As for research methods in politics, the course introduces the basic concepts and techniques of researching and writing politics papers, including some case studies of writing research proposals.

Text Books

For the purpose of effectively achieving the objectives mentioned above, there are two required textbooks.

Allan Glatthorn and Randy Joyner, *Writing The Winning Thesis Or Dissertation: A Step-By-Step Guide*, Corwin Press, 2005, second edition, JPY 3,496.

Todd Landman, *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*, London: Routledge 2003, second edition. JPY 3,507.

Course Structure

There are basically six components for research literacy. The basic components are as follows:

1. Basics of Academic Writing and Plagiarism
2. Academic Resources and Referencing
3. Developing the Arguments
4. Organising the Structure
5. Research Methodology
6. Comparative Research

Assessment

The course offers two types of assignments.

- Weekly assignments (50% of grade)

Every two week time, classes offer short assignments related to the class components.

- Research Proposal (50% of grade)

Students are required to submit a research proposal (3000-5000 words) by the end of January.

For the marking scheme, see *Rules of Assessment*, which is given at the first class.

Notice (Important!)

For any further inquiries, please feel free to email me: toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp