

Term	Fall term
Expected students to attend	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 (<i>Kenkyusei</i>) attend (those research students who have completed the course, will be exempt from attending it again when promoted to the Master programme).
Course Title	Politics Research Training
Credit	Although it is not credited course, a pass of the course is a <u>minimum requirement</u> for writing up an academic thesis for degree conferral. In other words, in order to write up the thesis to be conferred an academic degree in Political Science, it is compulsory for you to take the course.
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

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 are described 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.

Focus

As mentioned above, 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 and covers 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 three required textbooks.

Kate Turabian, et.al. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2007, seventh edition. JPY 1,416.

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

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The course is composed of two parts: Basic Literacy and Research Methods. Each class is run by a series of lectures and class exercises.

Basic Literacy

1. Basics of Academic Writing
2. Developing the arguments
3. Organising the Structure
4. Accesses to Academic Resources
5. Plagiarism
6. Styles of Referencing

Research Methods

4. Method: Why compare countries
5. Method: How to compare countries
6. Method: Comparing many countries
7. Method: Comparing few countries
8. Method: Single country studies as comparison

Assessment

The course offers two types of assignments.

- Weekly assignments (50% of grade)

Every week, classes offer short assignments. Most of the assignments are given via the WebCT system (details are explained in the first class), see also <http://webct.kyushu-u.ac.jp/> (Only the Japanese Page)

- 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!)

I do not normally accept queries or do reassessments after a mark is given. However, I will accept students' claims in exceptional circumstances. You need to clarify, before making a claim to me, the reason why the given grade is unacceptable for you, and objectively persuade me. For any further inquiries, please feel free to email me: toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp