



University
of Victoria

POLI 338 Approaches to Political Analysis

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Rita Dhamoon

Course delivery: POLI 338 will be delivered online using a synchronous format.

Prerequisite: None

***This course is required for honours students in their third year.*

Course description:

This course introduces students of political science to a variety of approaches in the social sciences. It is designed to help students to design their research projects by developing some familiarity with current methodological debates and by asking a fundamental question: how and to what extent is it possible to combine different perspectives into a coherent research design? This course underscores the fact that there is no single approach to political science, and, there is no unique 'best' approach to understanding and explaining complex political phenomena. There is an on-going debate among political scientists regarding the validity of several competing and complementary approaches. Instead, we will learn in this course that there is a plurality of approaches and we ought to consider the validity of each approach.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop familiarity with current methodological debates
- Understand plurality and validity of approaches to understanding complex political phenomena

Topics may include:

Theories of approaches and methods
Research design

This summary provides an overall sense of the course is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.