

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PPOL 505**

#### **APPLIED PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH METHODS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will study research methods, research strategies, and statistical analysis skills necessary to both produce and critically analyze research reports and data compilations used in forming public policy.

#### **RATIONALE**

The study of research is important for those in public policy. Understanding research is an important part of understanding how policy impacts people. In this course, the student will be challenged to explore the basic tenets of the various research methodologies available to public policy researchers. This course will also challenge and equip the student to interpret research findings so that he or she can make policy decisions or provide others with the information needed to make policy decisions.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify examples of the various research methodologies available to public policy researchers.
- B. Explain the appropriate context for the various research methodologies.
- C. Apply an appropriate research methodology based on a specific context.
- D. Interpret research findings.
- E. Evaluate the Christian's role in ethical research.

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Ethical Analysis Paper

In this assignment, the student will reflect on the course readings, course presentations, and biblical precedent in order to evaluate the Christian's role in ethical research. The student will articulate the responsibility of Christians as he or she approaches and takes part in research. This paper must be 750–1250 words and conform to current Turabian formatting. It must also utilize 3–5 sources, which may include course materials (textbooks and presentations) and Scripture, and must include at least 1 scholarly source.

D. Policy Research Project

This assignment consists of the following parts, each of which builds on each other:

1. Annotated Bibliography

In this assignment, the student will begin to focus his or her research on a specific policy interest. This assignment will set the foundation for the student's discussion board posts and the Policy Research Proposal PowerPoint assignment. The student must choose 10 peer-reviewed articles regarding 1 specific policy. Once selected, 5 of the articles must contain qualitative research while the other 5 articles must be based on quantitative research. The student will then summarize each article in 150–200 words (for a total of 1500–2000 words). A template will be provided, and all citations must conform to current Turabian formatting.

2. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will participate in 3 Discussion Board Forums. The student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. The thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student will reply to the threads of at least 3 classmates. Each reply must be 250–350 words.

3. Literature Review: Policy Findings Report

In this assignment, the student will write a synthesis of the findings from the research articles on his or chosen policy interest, examined in the Annotated Bibliography assignment. The student will demonstrate that he or she understands the concept of the literature review and how to interpret and communicate research findings. This paper must be 750–1000 words and conform to current Turabian formatting.

4. Policy Research Proposal PowerPoint

In this cumulative assignment, the student will address the constructive criticism provided to him or her through the Discussion Board Forums and by the instructor and create a PowerPoint that proposes a research study. The slide headings will be provided, and the student will use as many slides as necessary to communicate his or her research proposal.

E. Article Interpretations (3)

In this assignment, the student will choose 1 of the provided articles and interpret the

results of the article’s study. The student will articulate his or her findings in 400–500 words that conform to current Turabian formatting.

F. Quizzes (2)

Quiz material will cover the course readings and course presentations. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 multiple-choice questions, and have a time limit of 30 minutes.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Ethical Analysis Paper	100
Policy Research Project	
Annotated Bibliography	100
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Literature Review: Policy Findings Report	150
Policy Research Proposal PowerPoint	100
Article Interpretations (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Quizzes (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PPOL 505**

Textbooks: Guthrie, *Basic Research Methods* (2010).

O'Sullivan et al., *Practical Research Methods for Nonprofit and Public Administrators* (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Guthrie: chs. 1–2 O'Sullivan et al.: chs. 1, 3 2 presentations 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Ethical Analysis Paper	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Guthrie: chs. 3, 14 O'Sullivan et al.: ch. 2 2 presentations	Annotated Bibliography Quiz 1	100 50
<b>3</b>	Guthrie: chs. 4, 8, 15–16 3 presentations	DB Forum 1	50
<b>4</b>	Guthrie: chs. 5, 9 O'Sullivan et al.: chs. 4–5 3 presentations 4 websites	DB Forum 2 Article Interpretation 1	50 100
<b>5</b>	Guthrie: chs. 6–7, 10–12 O'Sullivan et al.: chs. 6–10 1 presentation 3 websites	Article Interpretation 2	100
<b>6</b>	Guthrie: ch. 13 O'Sullivan et al.: chs. 11–13 1 presentation 4 websites	DB Forum 3 Article Interpretation 3	50 100
<b>7</b>	1 presentation	Quiz 2 Literature Review: Policy Findings Report	50 150
<b>8</b>	Guthrie: ch. 19 O'Sullivan et al.: ch. 14 1 presentation	Policy Research Proposal PowerPoint	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on

Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.