

PSCI 2701B – Fall 2011 – FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE

The exam takes place on Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 – 12:00 (location TBA)

Here are the verbatim instructions from the actual exam:

“As stated in the course outline, the final exam counts for 40% of your final course grade. You will have a maximum of 3 hours to complete it.

CHOOSE 6 OF THE FOLLOWING. Each answer is worth **16.5%** of the total 100% for the exam. (Actually, the total is 99%, with the extra 1% being a ‘gift’.) Roughly the same amount of time and space is expected per answer (around 15-20 minutes per answer, including planning time). **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING YOUR TIME ACCORDINGLY.**

You should aim to write around **1 to 1½ pages per answer (single-spacing)**. Generally, less than 2/3rds of a page for an answer will not be sufficiently detailed to score highly. You can write more than 1½ pages if you wish, but avoid being overly repetitive (within AND between answers). Please clearly indicate which questions you are answering by using the corresponding numbers given below. ”

STUDY ITEMS (Note that there will be 8 of the following things on the exam, and you will choose 6 of them; all 8 will be drawn from what is below; there is nothing on the exam that is not on this study guide; the pages given below are not necessarily exhaustive of what you can study to include in an answer)

The scientific approach to politics - define (pp. 3-4), purpose (pp. 3-4), strengths (pp. 9-11), 6 basic postulates (pp. 12-15), limitations

Normative & empirical analysis (pp. 5-7)

Hypothesis (pp. 31, 37-40) - Write TWO distinct hypotheses (bivariate: 1 IV, 1 DV) that propose to explain some aspect(s) of electoral support (or opposition to) the current federal government.

Theory (its role in empirical research) (pp. 30-36)

Inductive & deductive theorizing (pp. 35-37)

Spurious relationships (pp. 42-43)

Ecological fallacy (p. 43, 195)

Intervening & reinforcing variables (pp. 44-45)

Concepts (pp. 48-52, 63, 68)

Variables (dependent/independent) (pp. 50, 68-76)

Operationalization (pp. 67-68, 73-76)

The 3 levels of measurement (pp. 77-82)

Validity (internal and external) & reliability (pp. 83-88, 136-137)

Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) (pp. 103-104)

Confidentiality & anonymity (pp. 104-111)

Informed consent (pp. 106-109)

Quantitative & qualitative research (pp. 125-126)

Comparative research (pp. 145-147, 151-152) – be able to provide an example from the text

Interviewer Effect (Hawthorne Effect) (p. 178, 234)

3 issues of question wording in designing surveys (pp. 180-182)

Open-ended vs. close-ended questions (pp. 182-185)

Cross-sectional vs. longitudinal research (pp. 188-189, 194)

3 key sources of secondary data for political science researchers in Canada (pp.195-197)

Experiments (in political science research) – define and discuss the purpose of experiments, causal inference, treatment & control groups, advantages/disadvantages (see Chap. 11)

Content analysis – define, discuss purpose, substantive & structural content, when/how used in political science research (know at least 1 example from the chapter), the main steps in designing a content analysis (see Chap. 12)

Elite interviews – define, discuss purpose, when is interviewing most useful? what are some shortcomings of the interview as a data collection method? What are the main steps in constructing and implementing elite interviews? What is the main ethical consideration when doing interviews? (see Chap. 13)

Observation & focus groups – define, advantages and disadvantages, obtrusive/unobtrusive research, participant observation (see Chap. 14)