

## **Political Science 461 – Senior Thesis in Political Science ASSIGNMENT: Research Methodology**

Due Friday, November 17 by email: [mag@cpp.edu](mailto:mag@cpp.edu)  
It must be sent by 5:00PM. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Parameters:

- 3-4 pages
- Double-spaced. **No single-spaced papers please.**
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- File must be in .doc or .docx format
- This assignment should be in formal academic writing.

The methodology section of your literature review details the systematic approach and plan of your project. This assignment is a written description of your research design. Basically, the research design is how you will provide evidence for your argument. It should be clear and detailed.

Each project will have a dramatically different methodology section. In addition, the final methodology section will be slightly longer (4-5 pages). This assignment is intended to be a brief first draft of the methodology section.

### **Overview**

What is the method you are using? Why is this method the most appropriate methodology to provide evidence for your argument? What decisions have you made in order to collect evidence for your argument? The reader should be persuaded that the writer has made an informed choice best suited to the needs of the project. This is a tricky assignment, as you should write the methodology as if you are already done with your collection of evidence.

Keep in mind, the first half of your thesis is structured as:

- Introduction (proposal): 3-5 pages
- Literature review: 8-10 pages
- Methodology: 4-5 pages

Note: You should be choosing one research design. You should speak knowledgeably about that design and your own implementation of the design to provide evidence for your argument. It will be clear if you do not know what you're doing: read Chapter 4 and 5 of the guide, come seek help in office hours.

Week 8 (Friday): Methodology due

Week 9 (Monday): No class

Week 10 (Monday): Exchange session with methodology

Week 10 (Friday): Methodology re-write due

Finals week (Friday): Literature review re-write due