

**PLS 495:
RESEARCH PRACTICUM
SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

Nazarbayev University

Summer 2022

BASIC INFORMATION

Professor: Karol Czuba

Office hours: by appointment

Contact: karol.czuba@nu.edu.kz

OUTLINE

The course is designed for students who have excelled in my regular courses focused broadly on the politics of the Global South—PLS 341 (Politics of Development) or PLS 343 (Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa) —and/or have preexisting research experience and wish to enhance their research skills by assisting me in my ongoing research. To this end, students enrolled in the course will undertake a variety of tasks, from reviews of scholarly literature to collection and analysis of original data, that form integral components of the research projects that I work on. Students will do this under my supervision and with my continuing support, but their work will be largely independent. Overall time commitment to this course should be equivalent to a third of that to regular courses. I may use the work that students complete in the course in my publications; if I do so, I will acknowledge their contributions in line with scholarly norms.

OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary objective of the course is to provide you with an opportunity to enhance your research skills through participation in one of my research projects. By the end of the semester, you should have a good understanding of the research tasks on which you work in the course along with the methods, techniques, and tools needed to perform them in addition to familiarity with the substantive topics under investigation in particular projects. I hope that these skills can serve as a valuable foundation for your own independent research if you choose to go to graduate school or work in another research-related role upon graduation.

ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

Grading scheme

Variable (depending on a project and your preference, either a series of smaller tasks to which I assign individual grades or one larger assignment)

Submission deadlines

Individual smaller tasks	Variable
Final assignment	July 27

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Research support

University librarians are available to help you locate appropriate scholarly sources, learn to use reference management software, and perform other foundational research tasks. You can schedule an appointment with a librarian here: <https://nu-kz.libcal.com/appointments/>. Alternatively, you can reach out directly to April Manabat, the subject librarian for Political Science; her email address is april.manabat@nu.edu.kz.

Assignment formatting

All assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins in Times New Roman 12-point font. All citations should follow the American Political Science Association Style Manual (<https://connect.apsanet.org/stylemanual/>).

Assignment submission

You will submit all assignments via email. Every assignment should be submitted by 11.59 pm on the day that assignment is due.

I strongly advise you to keep rough and draft work *and* final copies of all of your assignments. You should keep all assignments until the marked assignments have been returned to you and the grades have been posted.

Assignment return

I will grade and return all assignments submitted on time no later than two weeks after submission.

Grade appeals

If you wish to appeal your grade for any assignment, you should approach me no earlier than 72 hours and no later than two weeks after that assignment was returned to you. To appeal the grade, please submit a 150–200-word written explanation of why you wish to have the grade reviewed to

me. I will decide whether or not to review the grade based on the strength of your argument. If I decide to review the grade, I may keep the grade that you originally received, reduce it, or increase it.

Grading scale

A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
B-	75-79%
C+	70-74%
C	65-69%
C-	60-64%
D+	55-59%
D	50-54%
F	0-49 %

POLICIES

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct is defined broadly, to include a wide variety of behaviors that conflict with the values and mission of NU. Students should become familiar with the NU Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (Student Code), which is the official document outlining policies and procedures around academic misconduct at NU. Students are responsible for complying with NU policies, as well as those described in the syllabus for an individual class, whether the student has read them or not.

Copyright and data protections

The materials that I create for the course and share with you are my intellectual property and are to be used solely for your learning in the course. The materials may not be reproduced or shared with others outside the course without my written permission.

Online copies of student assignments and other student data will only be stored on university servers or using services (such as Google Drive and Moodle) governed by NU's data protection policies.