

Greeting All,

Welcome to CJUS/POLS 367: Introduction to Research Methods. I appreciate you enrolling in this course and hope it will serve you well. This course is designed to provide an important building block for your undergraduate studies and professional practice to follow. The emphasis of the course is on helping you to frame research questions, seek subject matter expertise and generate conclusions about the questions you studied. This skill set will help you develop skills in a number of areas and pursue knowledge in a variety of professional disciplines.

If this is your first online course at the University I would suggest that you review the new student's guide for online learning for valuable information to help you be successful as an online learner, as well as necessary information on how to log-in if you are not familiar with USD's D2L environment. The guide can be found at the following URL [www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf](http://www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf).

There are two required books for this course listed in the D2L course syllabus. I have posted the readings and assignments for the semester on the D2L calendar. The calendar will serve as your main organizational tool for the course. It links to lectures, reading assignments, quizzes, the paper assignment and expected due dates. If you keep to the schedule it presents, the calendar will direct your efforts to learn the material in this class.

Meet other classmates - I would like to get know each of you as the course begins. This can be done in the discussions section of the course. I made the first entry and I would like you all to enter one. There will be other discussions posted throughout the semester, so be sure to participate in these asynchronous discussions with me and other students in the course.

Course Requirements - There are a series of course modules to complete, including lecture materials, text readings and quizzes. One of the modules relies on the on-line training for human subjects research. There is a research paper due at the end of the semester, which could serve as the preliminary questions and research design for your professional report – if you plan well and your interests do not change between now and then. At the conclusion of the course, I will assess your learning of the major concepts of the course with a 50 item multiple choice online examination. More information on each of these requirements is listed in the course syllabus and throughout the course.

The University has established minimum hardware and software requirements to ensure the effective delivery of online courses. Those requirements are listed in the student guide at [www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf](http://www.usd.edu/ce/Orientation.pdf). I will ask that you submit all of your assignments to me as an e-mail attachment so you will also need to know how to attach Word documents to an e-mail within D2L.

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please feel free to e-mail me through the D2L e-mail program.

Best,  
Rich Braunstein