

Political Science 5398
Directed Readings and Research

[Patricia M. Shields, Ph.D.](#)

Professor

Texas State University

Ps07@txstate.edu

245-2143

Course Description: The directed readings and research is an opportunity for the student to explore a topic in political science, civil military relations, public administration or public policy. After meeting with Dr. Shields to determine the topic of the course, students complete a set of agreed upon reading material, summarize the reading material and, write a paper on a related topic. Students will use *Step by Step: Building a Research Paper* to prepare the research paper and document the reading.

Course Requirements

1. **Meet** with Dr. Shields to determine the topic and course of study.
2. **Complete** The “Agreement for Study in an Individualized Topic Course” Department of Political Science form. This form must be completed by the twelfth class day. (summer by the 4th day)
3. **Schedule** two other meetings with Dr. Shields and send her two emails keeping her abreast of progress over the course of the semester. Records of meetings and emails should be kept in the “Useful information” tab of the *Step* notebook.
4. **Read and summarize** the books that are assigned. The summaries should be in a narrative form and by chapter. Keep the summaries in the “Handouts” section of the *Step* notebook.
5. The **research paper** should be at least 20 pages, contain at least 15 references and use the *Step by Step* notebook process.
6. The **Step notebook** should be completed and submitted with the paper. It is important to include the things-to-do list, extensive notes integrated outline and drafts.

Deadlines: The *Step* notebook and paper are due the last day of class.

Required Reading

Shields, Patricia M. *Step by Step: Building a Research Project*. Stillwater OK: New Forums Press. 2004.