

**POLS 9200
Election Sciences
Fall 2016**

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Course Overview:

With the advent of the 2000 presidential debacle a new subfield was formed within political science to study election-related issues which is now known as Election Sciences. As opposed to traditional inquiries related to voter turnout for instance, this new area has sought to analyze questions focusing on the nuts and bolts of elections. Some topics in this area include the accuracy of voting systems, ballot design, election fraud, non-precinct voting, voter identification requirements, redistricting, and voter confidence and trust. Each week we will have a two-hour discussion organized around a specific topic and then a one-hour practicum where we will discuss some of the more applied issues surrounding election administration. We will also have a number of guests speakers involved in various aspects of administering elections during this hour block.

Course Requirements/Expectations:

Requirements for this course can be organized into the three primary areas outlined below:

Participation: Each week students will be assigned a specific article to critique. This critique will take the form of a written article review (approximately 2 pages) along with a short oral presentation (10 minutes) to your fellow seminarians. We will discuss expectations for article reviews during the first course meeting. In addition, I will post the specific format to be used and other relevant information pertaining to this subject on the course website. A schedule pairing students with specific readings will also be developed during our first meeting and will be available on the course website. It is expected that those not involved in leading the discussion of a particular article will, of course, be adequately prepared to participate, having read and analyzed the assigned readings. As part of thinking about the materials assigned each week I would also like students to come to each seminar armed with a question that is designed to generate discussion pertaining to the assigned topic. The easiest way to accomplish this task is to take note (record) some particular conundrum/problem/question/puzzle that comes to mind as you read the seminar materials and prepare for class each week.

Group Research Project: I will be presenting the class with a puzzle that needs to be solved by the end of the semester. Solving includes developing a game plan (research design), locating and collecting the requisite data, analyzing the data, interpreting the findings, and reporting the results. I will be providing guidance to help ensure the process stays on track; however, I expect this effort to be student-designed and led. Part of our practicum component will be devoted to discussing this project. In addition to a written report, the results will also be presented in class on the December 7th meeting (The written report is also due on that date). The goal of this exercise is not only to get some practice thinking and acting like a social scientists, but to have a manuscript that can be published as an article in a peer-reviewed journal at the end of the day.

Research Note:

Each of you will also be required to write a research note. Implementation should involve empirically testing a hypothesis related to Election Sciences area of study. For this assignment students will be required to produce a manuscript that could be submitted to an appropriate peer reviewed journal. Approximate length: 15 pages. Due Date: December 5th.

Grading Procedure:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following distribution:

Class Participation, Article Reviews, and Presentations	30%
Research Note	35%
Group Research Project	35%

Materials:

Most materials for this course are available in electronic format. Articles are available via [Galileo](#) through [JSTOR](#) or [EBSCOhost](#). Those readings not available electronically will be posted on the course website. In addition, there is one book that you will be responsible for purchasing: *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality, and Turnout in the United States* (used and new copies are available on Amazon).

Brief Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/15	Course Introduction
2	8/22	The Act of Voting
3	8/29	Voter Registration Issues
4	9/5	Labor Day Holiday
5	9/12	The Effect of Motor Voter
6	9/19	The Effect of Registration Deadlines
7	9/26	Early In-Person Voting
8	10/3	Voting Absentee by Mail
9	10/10	The Accuracy of Voting Systems
10	10/17	Polling Place Geography
11	10/24	Voter Trust and Confidence
12	10/31	Testing for Vote Dilution
13	11/7	Voter ID
14	11/14	Voter Fraud
15	11/21	Thanksgiving Holiday
16	11/28	Redistricting
17	12/5	Last Class: Research Note Due; Voting and the Institutional Context
17	12/7	Final Exam Period: Group Research Project Due

Date:	Topic:	Reading Assignments:
8/15	Course Introduction	
8/22	The Act of Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leighley and Nagler, Chs. 1-3
8/29	Voter Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mitchell, Glenn E. and Christopher Wlezien. 1995. "The Impact of Legal Constraints on Voter Registration, Turnout, and the Composition of the American Electorate." <i>Political Behavior</i> 17:179-202. ▪ Ansolabehere, Stephen and David M. Konisky. 2006. "The Introduction of Voter Registration and Its Effect on Turnout." <i>Political Analysis</i> 14: 83-100. ▪ Burden, Barry C. and Jacob R. Neiheisel. 2011. "Election Administration and the Pure Effect of Voter Registration." <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 66(1): 77-90.
9/5	Labor Day Holiday	
9/12	The Effect of Motor Voter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highton, Benjamin and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 1998. "Estimating the Effects of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993." <i>Political Behavior</i> 20:79-104. ▪ Wolfinger, Raymond E. and Jonathan Hoffman. "Registering and Voting with Motor Voter." <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i> 34:85-92. ▪ Knack, Stephen. 1999. "Drivers Wanted: Motor Voter and the Election of 1996." <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i> 32:237-243. ▪ Knack, Stephen. 1995. "Does Motor Voter Work? Evidence from State-Level Data." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 57:796-811.

- 9/19 The Effect of Registration Deadlines
- Highton, Benjamin. 1997. "Easy Registration and Voter Turnout." *The Journal of Politics* 59:565-575.
 - Knack, Stephen and James White. 2000. "Election-Day Registration and Turnout Inequality." *Political Behavior* 22:29-44.
 - Laroca, Roger and John S. Klemanski. 2011. "U.S. State Election Reform and Turnout in Presidential Elections." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 11(1): 76-101.
 - Brians, Craig Leonard and Bernard Grofman. 2001. "Election Day Registration's Effect on U.S. Voter Turnout." *Social Science Quarterly* 82(1): 170-183.
- 9/26 Early In-Person Voting
- Gronke, Paul, Eva Galanes-Rosenbaum and Peter Miller. 2007. "Early Voting and Turnout." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40 (October).
 - Herron, Michael C. and Daniel A. Smith. 2014. "Race, Party, and the Consequences of Restricting Early Voting in Florida in the 2012 General Election." *Political Research Quarterly* 67(3): 646-665.
 - Burden, Barry C., David T. Canon, Kenneth R. Mayer, and Donald P. Moynihan. 2014. "Election Laws, Mobilization, and Turnout: The Unanticipated Consequences of Election Reform." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(1):95-109.
 - Ashok, Vivekinan, Daniel Feder, Mary McGrath, and Eitan Hersh. 2016. "The Dynamic Election: Patterns of Early Voting Across Time, State, Party, and Age." *Election Law Journal* 15(2): 115-128.
- 10/3 Voting Absentee by Mail
- Berinsky, Adam J., Nancy Burns, and Michael W. Traugott. 2001. "Who Votes by Mail? A Dynamic Model of the Individual-Level Consequences of Voting-by-Mail Systems." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 65:178-197.
 - Southwell, Patricia L. 2004. "Five Years Later: A Re-Assessment of Oregon's Vote by Mail Electoral Process." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 37:89-93.
 - Richey, Sean. 2008. "Voting by Mail: Turnout and Institutional Reform in Oregon." *Social Science Quarterly* 89:902-915.
 - Gronke, Paul and Peter Miller. 2012. "Voting by Mail and Turnout in Oregon: Revisiting Southwell and Burchett." *American Politics Research* 40(6): 976-997.

- 10/10 The Accuracy of Voting Systems
- Ansolabehere, Stephen and Charles Stewart III. 2005. "Residual Votes Attributable to Technology." *Journal of Politics* 67:365-389.
 - Knack, Stephen and Martha Kropf. 2003. "Voided Ballots in the 1996 Presidential Election: A County-Level Analysis." *Journal of Politics* 65:881-897.
 - Warf, Barney. 2006. "Voting Technologies and Residual Ballots in the 2000 and 2004 Presidential Elections." *Political Geography* 25:530-556.
 - Kimball, David C. and Martha Kropf. 2008. "Voting Technology, Ballot Measures, and Residual Votes." *American Politics Research* 36:479-509.
- 10/17 Polling Place Geography
- Haspel, Moshe and H. Gibbs Knotts. 2005. "Location, Location, Location: Precinct Placement and the Costs of Voting." *Journal of Politics* 67:560-573.
 - Stein, Robert M. and Greg Vonnahme. 2008. "Engaging the Unengaged Voter: Vote Centers and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 70:487-497.
 - Gimpel, James G., Joshua Dyck, and Daron R. Shaw. 2006. "Location, Knowledge and Time Pressure in the Spatial Structure of Convenience Voting." *Electoral Studies* 25:35-58.
 - Fullmer, Elliot B. "Early Voting: Do More Sites Lead to Higher Turnout?" *Election Law Journal* 14(2): 81-96.
- 10/24 Voter Trust and Confidence
- Alvarez, R. Michael, Thad E. Hall, and Morgan H. Llewellyn. 2008. "Are Americans Confident Their Ballots Are Counted?" *Journal of Politics* 70:754-766.
 - Bullock, III, Charles S., M.V. Hood III, and Richard Clark. 2005. "Punch Cards, Jim Crow, and Al Gore: Explaining Voter Trust in the Electoral System in Georgia, 2000." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5:283-294.
 - Atkeson, Lonna Rae and Kyle L. Saunders. 2007. "The Effect of Election Administration on Voter Confidence: A Local Matter?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40:655-660.
 - Atkeson, Lonna Rae, R. Michael Alvarez, and Thad E. Hall. 2015. "Voter Confidence: How to Measure It and How It Differs from Government Support." *Election Law Journal* 14(3): 207-219.

- 10/31 Testing for Vote Dilution
- *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986) [Optional]
 - “Racial Vote Dilution under the Voting Rights Act.” In *The Law of Democracy, Legal Structure of the Political Process*, 3rd edition.
 - Hood III, M.V. and Peter Morrison. Forthcoming 2016. “From Legal Theory to Practical Application: A How-To for Performing Vote Dilution Analyses.” *Social Science Quarterly*.
- 11/7 Voter ID
- Hood III, M.V. and Charles S. Bullock, III. 2012. “Much Ado About Nothing? An Empirical Assessment of the Georgia Voter Identification Statute.” *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 12(4): 394–414.
 - Rocha, Rene R. and Tetsuya Matsubayashi. 2014. “The Politics of Race and Voter ID Laws in the States The Return of Jim Crow?” *Political Research Quarterly* 67(3): 666-679.
 - Hajnal, Zoltan, Nazita Lajevardi, and Lindsay Nielson. Forthcoming 2017. “Voter Identification Laws and the Suppression of Minority Votes.” *Journal of Politics*.
- 11/14 Voter Fraud
- Richman, Jesse T., Gulshan A. Chattha, and David C. Earnest. 2014. “Do Non-Citizens Vote in U.S. Elections?” *Electoral Studies* 36: 149-157.
 - Ahlquist, John S., Kenneth R. Mayer, and Simon Jackman. 2014. “Alien Abduction and Voter Impersonation in the 2012 U.S. General Election: Evidence from a Survey List Experiment.” *Election Law Journal* 13(4): 460-475.
 - Alvarez, R. Michael and Frederick J. Boehmke. 2008. “Correlates of Fraud: Studying State Election Fraud Allegations.” In *Election Fraud*, ed. R. Michael Alvarez, Thad E. Hall, and Susan D. Hyde. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
 - Gillespie, William and M.V. Hood III. 2012. “They Just Don’t Vote Like They Used To: An Examination of Voter Fraud in the State of Georgia, 2006.” *Social Science Quarterly* 93(1): 76–94.
- 11/21 Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28	Redistricting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Petrocik, John R. and Scott W. Desposato. 1998. "The Partisan Consequences of Majority-Minority Redistricting in the South, 1992 and 1994." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 60:613-633. ▪ Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, Jr., and Charles Stewart, III. 2000. "Old Voters, New Voters, and the Personal Vote: Using Redistricting to Measure the Incumbency Advantage." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 44:17-34. ▪ Hayes, Danny and Seth C. McKee. 2012. "The Intersection of Redistricting, Race, and Participation." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 56(1): 115-130. ▪ Fraga, Bernard L. 2016. "Redistricting and the Causal Impact of Race on Voter Turnout." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 78 (1): 19-34.
12/5	Voting and the Institutional Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leighley and Nagler, Chs. 4-7.
12/7	Group Research Project Presentation	Written report due.