Introduction to Political Science
POLS 2000-22672
Spring 2017

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Instructor   **Dr. A.J. Barghothi**
Office: 320J Holmes-Hunter Academic building
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am -12:00 pm (or by appointment)
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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the research methods commonly used by political scientists and other social scientists. The primary goal of this course is to make you a competent consumer of the political science literature that you will be exposed to in other (more substantive) political science courses. A secondary goal is to expose you to research methods that you may use in future courses or later in your careers. To that end we will discuss the logic of the scientific method, research design, and statistical analysis of data.

Required Text:

Pollock, Philip H. 2016. *An IBM SPSS Companion to Political Analysis* 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA SAGE.

Recommended Text:

Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H.T. Reynolds. 2008. *Political Science Research Methods* 6th ed. Washington D.C. CQ Press.

Course Requirements & Policies:

- *Attendance*: Although I do not take attendance, students are expected to attend all classes as you are responsible for all of the material covered in class on the final exam. If you do miss a class, you should obtain a copy of class notes from a classmate because you are expected to know all course material for exams. I will not reply to student emails requesting my notes for missed classes.

- *Class Participation*: All students are expected to thoughtfully participate in class discussion. Your participation will enhance the class lectures by incorporating your own understanding of readings and any questions or statements you may have about the material. **Five percent** of your final grade will be determined by class participation. The participation portion of your final grade will be based on the following scale and criteria:

  · **A**: A student attends virtually all class sessions (fewer than two absences) for the full amount of time and participates in class discussions by answering questions and offering insightful comments or asking questions during most class sessions.

  · **B**: A student attends a significant portion of class sessions (fewer than four absences) and participates in class discussions by answering questions and offering insightful comments or asking questions during some class sessions.

- · **C**: A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than four absences) <u>and</u> is only marginally prepared for class and participates in class discussions infrequently—answering questions only when called upon and rarely offering meaningful comments or questions during class sessions.

- · **D**: A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than six absences) <u>and</u> is only marginally prepared for class and participates in class discussions infrequently—answering questions only when called upon and rarely offering meaningful comments or questions during class sessions.

- · **F**: A student misses a significant portion of class sessions (more than eight absences) <u>and</u> was unprepared for class, never participating in class discussions or answering questions.

- *In Class Assignments*: There will be a number of in class assignments throughout the semester, in order to ascertain students' comprehension of the course material. There will be <u>no</u> make-up opportunity for missed in class assignments except in the case of an excused university absence; if you miss a class when there is an in class assignment you will receive a zero for that assignment. **Thirty percent** of your final grade will be determined by your in class assignment average.

- *Writing Assignments*: Students are required to complete two writing assignments. For the first writing assignment students must identify and describe a political phenomenon of interest to them and 1) develop a specific research question related to their phenomenon; 2) identify the appropriate unit of analysis; 3) identify the dependent variable of interest and the relevant independent variables that you believe may affect your dependent variable; 4) develop at least three testable hypotheses relating to the impact of the independent variables on the dependent variable; and 5) describe the research design that would be the most appropriate for investigating the research question. The first writing assignment is due on <u>Tuesday, February 21</u> and constitutes **twenty-five percent** of your course grade. For the second writing assignment students are to conduct a five to seven page (single spaced) review of the existing literature, presumably regarding the research question developed in assignment 1. The review should concentrate on the specific research questions of previous scholars, the specific hypotheses tested, the research design used to test the hypotheses, and the final conclusions. This literature review should also describe the current conventional wisdom in the field *and* areas/approaches that are currently lacking with regard to studying this phenomenon. The second writing assignment is due on <u>Tuesday, April 11</u> and constitutes **twenty percent** of your course grade.

- *Final Exam*: One final exam will be given, constituting twenty percent of your final grade, on <u>Tuesday, May 2</u> from 8:00 am-11:00 am. The final exam will integrate materials from class lectures, discussions, and readings. **A make-up exam will be given only in extreme circumstances and on a case by case basis at the instructor's convenience.**

- *Disability Statement*: If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please make me aware of your situation as soon as possible. You must register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Resource Center in Clark Howell Hall.

- *Academic Honesty*: The University of Georgia is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and all other offenses listed under University's policy on academic honesty) will not be tolerated. Any violations of University policy will be handled through University procedures. For more

information on the University policy see *A Culture of Honesty at the University of Georgia* issued by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction at: https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty

Evaluation:

Participation	5%
In Class Assignments	30%
Writing Assignment 1	25%
Writing Assignment 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
	100%

Your final grade will be assigned in the following manner:

A	94-100	A-	90-93			
B+	89-87	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	79-77	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D	60-69	F	0-59			

Tentative Class Schedule

Thursday, January 5   Class introduction
- Johnson & Reynolds: Chapter 1

Tuesday, January 10   Studying Politics Scientifically
- Johnson & Reynolds: Chapter 2

Thursday, January 12   Studying Politics Scientifically (continued)

Tuesday, January 17   Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 60-81

Thursday, January 19   Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 81-87

Tuesday, January 24   Measurement
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 88-104

Thursday, January 26   Measurement (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 104-121

Tuesday, January 31   Research Design
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 122-147

Thursday, February 2   Research Design (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 147-181

Tuesday, February 7   Research Design (continued)

Thursday, February 9   Sampling
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 209-226

Tuesday, February 14   Sampling (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 227-242

Thursday, February 16   Sampling (continued)

Tuesday, February 21   Empirical Observations
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 243-258
- **Writing Assignment 1 due**

Thursday, February 23   Statistics
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 351-393

Tuesday, February 28   Statistics (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 393-425

Thursday, March 2   Statistics (continued)

Tuesday, March 7   **No class**—Spring Break

Thursday, March 9   **No class**—Spring Break

Tuesday, March 14   Statistics (continued)

Thursday, March 16   Literature Reviews
- Johnson & Reynolds: Chapter 6

Tuesday, March 21   Bivariate Analysis
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 426-471

Thursday, March 23   Bivariate Analysis (continued)

Tuesday, March 28   Bivariate Analysis (continued)
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 471-502

Thursday, March 30   Bivariate Analysis (continued)

Tuesday, April 4   Multivariate Analysis
- Johnson & Reynolds: pp 503-526

Thursday, April 6   Multivariate Analysis (continued)

Tuesday, April 11	Multivariate Analysis (continued)
	▪ Johnson & Reynolds: pp 526-549
	♦ **Writing Assignment 2 due**
Thursday, April 13	Multivariate Analysis (continued)
Tuesday, April 18	Document Analysis
	▪ Johnson & Reynolds: pp 266-293
Thursday, April 20	Interviews and Surveys
	▪ Johnson & Reynolds: pp 297-350
Tuesday, April 25	Catch-up
Thursday April 27	Final Review
Tuesday, May 2	**Final Exam**
(8:00 am-11:00 am)	