

Introduction to Political Science
Political Science 2000
Spring 2019
Class Time: TTH 9:30 – 10: 45am
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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I. Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of politics. The primary focus of the course is methodological, but we will also cover several substantive areas of political science. As an introduction to political methodology we will focus most of our attention to theory building, conceptualizing politics, and research design. Students will also be introduced to the fundamentals of data collection, management, and analysis.

- (1.1) Learn to think in a more nuanced and scientific way about politics and government.
- (1.2) Become proficient in the analysis of political science research.
- (1.3) Demonstrate a proficiency in identifying, locating, and evaluating scholarly political science resources and literature as well as using them responsibly to formulate effective arguments.
- (1.4) Understand the different ways in which hypotheses can be tested in the social sciences.
- (1.5) Develop competency with the collection, management, and analysis of data.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Text

Most of the assigned readings for the class are freely available online, but we will be using one textbook over the course of this class. It is available in the University Bookstore, but feel free to obtain the text through alternative vendors.

Shively, Philip. The Craft of Political Research (10th Edition).

(2.2) Course Assignments

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with course material. Your grade in this class will be assessed through class participation, writing assignments, and three exams.

Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for you final grade:

Literature Review	10%	February 2 nd
Theory and Hypothesis Paper	10%	February 23 rd
Empirical Research Design Paper	10%	March 28 th
Final Research Design Paper	20%	April 27 th
Midterm	25%	March 5 th
Final	25%	May 7 th

(2.4) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A	=	94-100	C+	=	78
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	88	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Absences

Come to class! Attendance is critical for the successful completion of this course. If you are more than ten (10) minutes late for this class DO NOT ENTER the class unless we previously discussed your tardiness.

(3.2) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. If you are late to an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate and documented excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science on Fridays from 1pm – 4pm.

(3.3) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of five points for each calendar day late.

(3.4) Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Violations of the academic dishonesty rules are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course as well as possible expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, academic misconduct, or plagiarism, examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.5) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact Professor Glas as soon as possible.

(3.6) Disability Disclosure Statement

Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services before an instructor can modify instruction or expectations.

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is March 19th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week 1 - January 10th – Government and Politics

Ostrom, E., 2000. The danger of self-evident truths. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 33(1), pp.33-46.

Week 2 - January 15th – Political Science as a Discipline

Riker, William H. 1982. The Two-party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science. *American Political Science Review* 76: 753-766.

Dryzek, John S. 1986. The Progress of Political Science. *Journal of Politics* 48 (2): 301-320.

Week 3 - January 22nd & 24th – Doing Political Science Research

Shively, Chapter 1

Class Handout

Week 4 - January 29th & 31st – Theorizing Politics

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 2 (see eLC)

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. “Defining Causality,” pp. 75-91 in *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Research Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (see eLC)

Riker, W.H. and Ordeshook, P.C., 1968. A Theory of the Calculus of Voting. *American political science review*, 62(1), pp.25-42.

Week 5 - February 5th & 7th – Theorizing Politics

Shively, Chapters 2 and 3

¹ The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Fiorina, M.P., 1975. Formal models in political science. *American Journal of Political Science*, pp.133-159.
Selection from Campbell, A., Converse, P.E., Miller, W.E. and Stokes, D.E., 1980. *The american voter*.
University of Chicago Press. (see eLC)

Week 6 - February 12th & 14th – Concepts and Measures

Shively, Chapter 4 & 5

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49 (3): 430-451.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. New York: Princeton University Press, pp. 23-33.

Week 7 - February 19th & 21st – Concepts and Measures

Geortz, Chapters 1-3 (see eLC for link to library e-book)

Week 8 - February 26th & 28th – The Logic of Causal Inference

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, Chapter 1

Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research. *Political Analysis* 14(3): 227-249.

Week 9 - March 5th & 7th – Midterm Exam

Week 10 – Spring Break

No Class – Monday, March 11th – Friday, March 15th

Week 11 - March 20th & 22nd – Research Design and Sampling

Shively, Chapter 7

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. New York: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-11.

Mullinix, K.J., Leeper, T.J., Druckman, J.N. and Freese, J., 2015. The generalizability of survey experiments. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 2(2), pp.109-138.

Withdraw Deadline – Thursday, March 21st

Week 12 - March 19th & 21st – Case Study Research

John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354.

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006): 455-476.

Week 13 – March 26th & 28th – Comparative Method

Collier, David. 1993. "The Comparative Method" in Finifter, ed. Political Science: The State of the Discipline. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association. (see eLC)

Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis* 2, no. 1 (1990): 131-150.

Week 14 – April 2nd & 4th – Participant Observation/Interviewing

Hammer, Dean and Aaron Wildavsky. 1993. "The Open Ended, Semi-Structured Interview," in Wildavsky, ed. *Craftways: On the Organization of Scholarly Work*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, pp. 79-135.

Fenno, Richard. 1974. *Homestyle: House Members in their Districts* (Methodological Appendix)

Kristen Renwick Monroe, "Cracking the Code of Genocide: The Moral Psychology of Rescuers, Bystanders, and Nazis during the Holocaust," *Political Psychology* 29, no. 5 (2008): 699-736.

Week 15 - April 9th & 11th – Quantitative Methods – Statistical Analysis

Shively, Chapter 8 and 9

Problem Sets on eLC

Week 16 - April 16th & 18th – Quantitative Methods – Experimental Research

Cambridge Handbook, Chapters 1-3

Butler, D.M. and Broockman, D.E., 2011. Do politicians racially discriminate against constituents? A field experiment on state legislators. *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(3), pp.463-477.

Fehr, E. and Gächter, S., 2000. Cooperation and punishment in public goods experiments. *American Economic Review*, 90(4), pp.980-994.

Week 17 - April 23rd & 25th – Quantitative Methods – Observational Research

Johnon, Richard. 2008. "Survey Methodology." in *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (see eLC)

Rosenbuam, Paul. 2005. "Observational Study." in *Encyclopedia of Statistics in Behavioral Sciences* (see eLC)

Schaffner, B.F., Streb, M. and Wright, G., 2001. Tears without uniforms: The nonpartisan ballot in state and local elections. *Political research quarterly*, 54(1), pp.7-30.

Gierzynski, A. and Seger, J., 2011. Harry Potter and the millennials: the boy-who-lived and the politics of a muggle generation.

Week 18 – Final Exam Week

Tuesday, May 7th @ 9am

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, April 30th

Reading Day – Wednesday, May 1st