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

As a “no-cost” class you are not required to purchase a textbook or any other reading material for this class. That said, we do have a robust reading list for the semester. Beginning on page four of this syllabus you will find a detailed reading and assignment schedule for the course.

(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 a series of seven problem sets, a research paper broken up into four parts, and two exams.
Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Design Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td>February 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td>March 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical Research Design Paper</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td>April 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Design Paper</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td>April 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>May 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Daily/Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(see dates below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement
Abled-ness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. For more information please check out the DRC’s website (www.uga.drc.edu). The DRC is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone at 706.542.8719.

(3.2) Student Athletes
Representing our university in athletics places some unusual scheduling obligations on you. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about your schedule so we can make sure you are able to achieve in the classroom as well as on the field or in the arena.

(3.3) Absences
John Lennon once said, “Life happens while you’re busy making other plans.” Attending class is critical for your success in this class. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and there is a significant amount of course content that we will cover in our class meetings. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am a reasonable human being).

Please **DO NOT** come to class if you ill. The UGA Health Center (www.uhs.uga.edu) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).
(3.4) **Makeup Exams**
If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). 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 excuses.

(3.5) **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.

(3.6) **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, please examine the university policy and/or ask the instructor.

(3.7) **Problems and Emergencies**
If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact me (Dr. Glas) as soon as possible.

(3.8) **Policy on Disruptive Behavior**
1) Turn communication devices to silent…or turn them off entirely.
2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.9) **Withdraw Policy**
Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Friday, March 20th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 – January 8th and 10th – Government and Politics

Week 2 – January 13th, 15th, and 17th – Doing Political Science Research

Research Questions

“From Topic to Research Question”

Class Handout

Week 3 – January 22nd and 24th – Political Science as a Discipline

***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 20th – No Classes***


Shively, Chapter 1

Week 4 – January 27th, 29th, and 31st – Theorizing Politics, part I

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 2 (see eLC)


Problem Set 1

Week 5 – February 3rd, 5th, and 7th – Theorizing Politics, part II

Shively, Chapters 2 and 3


***Literature Review Due – February 7th***

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1 The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
Week 6 – February 10th, 12th, and 14th – Concepts and Measures, part I
Shively, Chapter 4 & 5
Problem Set 2

Week 7 – February 17th, 19th, and 21st – Concepts and Measures, part II
Geortz, Chapters 1-3 (see eLC for link to library e-book)
Problem Set 3

Week 8 – February 24th and 28th – Midterm Exam and Parthemos Lecture
***Midterm Exam – February 24th***
***Parthemos Lecture – February 28th***

Week 9 – March 2nd, 4th, and 6th – Paper Work Shop
***Research Paper Workshop***
***Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due – March 6th***

Week 10 – March 9th through the 13th – Spring Break
***Spring Break – No Classes***

Week 11 – March 16th, 18th, and 20th – Research Design and Sampling
Shively, Chapters 6 & 7
Problem Set 4
***Withdraw Deadline – March 20th***
Week 12 – March 23rd, 25th, and 27th – Case Study Research


Problem Set 5

Week 13 – March 30th, April 1st, and 3rd – Comparative Method


Choose at least One of Two:


***Empirical Research Design Paper – April 3rd***

Week 14 – April 6th, 8th, and 10th – Participant Observation/Interviewing


Problem Set 6
Week 15 – April 13th, 15th, and 17th – Experimental Research

Shively, Chapter 8


Problem Set 7

Week 16 – April 20th, 22nd, and 24th – Quantitative Observational Research

Shively, Chapter 9


Week 17 – April 27th and 28th – Paper Workshop

***Research Paper Workshop***

***Final Research Design Paper Due – April 28th***

***Wednesday, April 29th – Reading Day***

May 11th

Exam 3 will be held on Wednesday, May 11th @ 12noon