

Introduction to Political Science
Political Science 2000
Class Time: MWF 12:20 – 1:10pm
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Thursdays 1pm – 3pm or by appointment

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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

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:

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

(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) Disability Disclosure Statement

Able-bodiedness 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 are 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 Assignments¹

Week 1 – January 8th and 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 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

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.

Shively, Chapter 1

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

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)

Selection from Campbell, A., Converse, P.E., Miller, W.E. and Stokes, D.E., 1980. *The american voter*. University of Chicago Press. (see eLC)

Problem Set 1

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

Shively, Chapters 2 and 3

Fiorina, M.P., 1975. Formal models in political science. *American Journal of Political Science*, pp.133-159.

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

Literature Review Due – February 7th

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

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.

Problem Set 2

Week 7 – February 17th, 19th, and 21st – Concepts and Measures, part II

Geertz, 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

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.

Problem Set 4

Withdraw Deadline – March 20th

Week 12 – March 23rd, 25th, and 27th – 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.

Problem Set 5

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

Choose at least One of Two:

Reasons, C.E., 2008. A Tale of Two Cities: Homicide in Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia. *Crim. LQ*, 54, p.104.

Dube, A., Lester, T.W. and Reich, M., 2010. Minimum wage effects across state borders: Estimates using contiguous counties. *The review of economics and statistics*, 92(4), pp.945-964.

Empirical Research Design Paper – April 3rd

Week 14 – April 6th, 8th, and 10th – 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.

Problem Set 6

Week 15 – April 13th, 15th, and 17th – Experimental Research

Shively, Chapter 8

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.

Glas, J.M. and Taylor, J.B., 2018. The silver screen and authoritarianism: How popular films activate latent personality dispositions and affect American political attitudes. *American Politics Research*, 46(2), pp.246-275.

Problem Set 7

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

Shively, Chapter 9

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)

Howard, R.M., Lazarus, J. and Glas, J.M., 2015. The unintended consequences of congressional action: Judicial conviction rates after congressional sentencing reform. *Justice System Journal*, 36(4), pp.304-322.

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

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