Research Methods in Political Science
Political Science 4150
Class Time: TTh 9:30 – 10:45am
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:
Office Hours: Thursdays 1pm – 3pm or by appointment
Office Location: Baldwin 380a
Office Phone: 706.542.5964
Email. jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

I.   Course Description

It is often overlooked, and occasionally dismissed, that political science is a science. Indeed, this is a problem all social sciences face. Sure, politics can be studied non-scientifically…but the value of such work is inherently subjective. In contrast, though, by employing a scientific methodology to the study of politics and other social phenomena we can generate new knowledge in an objective fashion. This course is designed to introduce students to empirical research methodology in the social sciences and will cover topics such as the formulation of research questions, the development of theory and testing of hypotheses, conceptualization and measurement, data collection, and regression analysis. By the end of this course students should:

(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 quantitative data.

II.   Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) **Required Text**
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. Other assigned readings can be found on eLC.

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research,* 3rd Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

(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 ten 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 you final grade:

Item	Weight	Date
Research Design Paper	25%	------
Research Question Paper	*(5%)*	January 30th
Theory and Hypothesis Paper	*(5%)*	February 13th
Empirical Research Design Paper	*(5%)*	March 5th
Final Paper and Poster	*(10%)*	April 28th
Midterm Exam	25%	February 25th
Final Exam	25%	April 30th
Problem Sets	25%	Weekly

(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	$\leq$	59

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 and breakout sessions. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am reasonable).

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. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science, but require my permission.

(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.   Reading Schedule

Week 1 – January 7th and 9th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

Week 2 – January 14th and 16th – The Logic of Causal Inference

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapters 2 and 3

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, Chapter 1 and pp 75-91 (see eLC)

Problem Set 1

Week 3 – January 21st and 23rd – Research Design

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

John Stuart Mill's "Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry"

Problem Set 2

Week 4 – January 28th and 30th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapters 5 & 6

Research Question Paper Due – January 30th

Week 5 – February 4th and 6th – Probability and Statistical Inference

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 7

Problem Set 3

Week 6 – February 11th and 13th – Sampling and Statistical Inference

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 7

Selection from: Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts.* New York: Harper Collins.

Jones-Correa, Michael. 1998. "Different Paths: Gender, Immigration, and Political Participation." *The International Migration Review* 3(2): 326-349.

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.

Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due – February 13th

Week 7 – February 18th and 20th – Statistical Inference, cont'd

Paper Workshop

Problem Set 4

Week 8 – February 25th – Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam

Week 9 – March 3rd and 5th – Hypothesis Testing

Research Design and Hypothesis Testing: A Primer (see eLC)

Empirical Research Design Paper Due – March 5th

Week 10 – March 10th and 12th – Spring Break

Spring Break – No Classes – March 9th through March 13th

Week 11 – March 17th – Hypothesis Testing, Cont'd

Readings TBD

Problem Set 5

Week 12 – March 24th and 26th – Bivariate Hypothesis Testing

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 8

Hood, M.V. and G.W. Neeley. 2000. "Packin' in the hood?: Examining assumptions of concealed-handgun research." *Social Science Quarterly* 81 (2, June): 523-537.

Smith, Kevin B., Christopher W. Larimer, Levente Littvay, and John R. Hibbing. 2007. "Evolutionary Theory and Political Leadership: Why Certain People Do Not Trust Decision Makers." *Journal of Politics* 69 (2, May): 285-299.

Hokenmaier, Karl G. 1998. "Social Security vs. Educational Opportunity in Advanced Industrial Societies: Is There a Trade-Off?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 42:709-711.

Problem Set 6

Week 13 – March 31st and April 2nd – Statistical Modeling and Hypothesis Testing

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 9

Hurwitz, Jon and Mark Peffley. 1997. "Public Perceptions of Race and Crime: The Role of Racial Stereotypes." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (2, April): 375-401.

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

Problem Set 7

Week 14 – April 7th and 9th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 1

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 10

Richey, S., 2008. Voting by mail: Turnout and institutional reform in Oregon. *Social Science Quarterly*, *89*(4), pp.902-915.

Problem Set 8

Week 15 – April 14th and 16th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 2

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11

Harbridge, Laurel, Jon Krosnick, and Jeffrey Wooldridge. "Presidential Approval and Gas Prices: Sociotropic or Pocketbook Influence?"

Problem Set 9

Week 16 – April 21st and 23rd – Presenting Research

Research Presentation Workshop

Problem Set 10

Week 17 – April 28th, 29th, and 30th

Final Paper and Poster Due – April 28th

Reading Day – April 29th

Exam 3

Exam 3 will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 9:00am