

**POLS 4150: Research Methods in Political Science**  
**Class Time: MWF 9:10 – 10:00am**  
**Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD**

**Contact Information:**

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only  
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**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 literature and use them to responsibly formulate new theories and hypotheses.
- (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.

**Important Note:**

To comply with the University approved guidelines this class will be administered using a HyFlex pedagogical model. We are able to accommodate a very limited number of students to attend class in person for each class meeting. The details about who may attend class on which day is posted to the class eLC page and instructions for attending via Zoom will be posted each week.

Please keep in mind that attending class in person is entirely optional. Covid 19 is a very real, highly contagious virus for which no cure or vaccination is yet available. You will not be coerced by into risking your health and well-being by attending face-to-face classes. You will be able to successfully complete this course without ever stepping foot in my classroom.

Finally, from Thanksgiving Break through the end of the semester the University is migrating all classroom activity, including tests/exams, online. Please refer to page 7 of this syllabus for more information about coronavirus and your responsibilities as part of our University community.

## II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

### (2.1) Required Text

We will be using one textbook in 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 in Content Folders on eLC.

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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%	-----
<i>Research Question Paper</i>	(5%)	September 18 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(5%)	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(5%)	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<i>Final Paper and Poster</i>	(10%)	December 4 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm Exam	25%	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	25%	December 11 <sup>th</sup>
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	≤	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](http://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 are ill. The UGA Health Center ([www.uhs.uga.edu](http://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 Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

#### **IV. Course Reading and Assignment Schedule**

##### **Week 1 – August 21<sup>st</sup> – Thinking Scientifically About Politics**

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

Virtual Introductions

##### **Week 2 – August 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> – 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 – August 31<sup>st</sup>, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Research Design**

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

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

Problem Set 2

##### **Week 4 – September 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement**

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapters 5 & 6

\*\*\*Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day\*\*\*

##### **Week 5 – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> – Probability and Statistical Inference**

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 7

Problem Set 3

\*\*\*Research Question Paper Due – September 18<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

##### **Week 6 – September 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> – 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.

**Week 7 – September 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Statistical Inference, cont'd**

Paper Workshop

Problem Set 4

\*\*\*Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due – October 2<sup>nd</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 8 – October 7<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Exam**

\*\*\*Midterm Exam\*\*\*

**Week 9 – October 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> – Hypothesis Testing**

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

Readings TBD

Problem Set 5

**Week 10 – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> – 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

\*\*\*Empirical Research Design Paper Due – October 23<sup>rd</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 11 – October 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – 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

\*\*\*Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Withdraw Deadline\*\*\*

\*\*\*Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break\*\*\*

**Week 12 – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 13 – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> – 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 14 – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> – Presenting Research**

Research Presentation Workshop

Problem Set 10

**Week 15 – November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving Break**

No Class

\*\*\*Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break\*\*\*

**Week 16 – November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Paper and Poster**

\*\*\*Final Paper and Poster Due – December 4<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 17 – December 11<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam**

\*\*\*Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Reading Day\*\*\*

## **Coronavirus Information for Students**

### **Face Coverings:**

Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

### **DawgCheck:**

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

### **What do I do if I have symptoms?**

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

### **What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?**

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at [sco@uga.edu](mailto:sco@uga.edu), to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

### **How do I get a test?**

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

### **What do I do if I test positive?**

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is **required** to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is

completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources:**

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.