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|  | | | SYLLABUS |
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| POLS 4190 | | Special Topics in Political Theory/Methods | |
| Spring 2021 | | Political Analysis in R | |
| Baldwin 101D | | MWF 11:30-12:20PM | |
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| **Course Description and Prerequisites** | | | |
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| Selected writers, themes, or methodologies in political theory. **Prerequisites:** POLS 1101. | | | |
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| **Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives** | | | |
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| Students will be able to:  Understand the basics of computer programming using R as a learning platform  Manage large, messy datasets using the tools in R’s tidyverse package  Create striking, informative data visualizations using R’s ggplot2 package | | | |
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| **Instructor Information** | | | |
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| Garrett Vande Kamp |  | | |
| garrettvandekamp@uga.edu |  | | |
| Baldwin 409 |  | | |
| Tuesday 10:00am-Noon |  | | |
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| **Textbook and/or Resource Material** | | | |
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| Textbooks*:*  *Hands-On Programming with R*, Garrett Grolemund. <https://rstudio-education.github.io/hopr/index.html>  *R for Data Science,* Hadley Wickham and Garrett Grolemund. <https://r4ds.had.co.nz/index.html>  *Fundamentals of Data Visualization,* Claus Wilke. <https://clauswilke.com/dataviz/>  *R Graphics Cookbook,* 2nd edition. Winston Chang. <https://r-graphics.org/>  Software:  R. <https://cran.r-project.org/>  R Studio. <https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/>  The class is designed such that a free version of all required material is available in some form or fashion. The software can be downloaded for free, while textbooks can be viewed online for free. Hard copies of the textbooks are available for purchase though the web. | | | |
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| **Attendance Policy** | | | |
| The class will be taught in a Hyflex format. Attendance will be taken in class for the instructor’s records. Though attendance to any given class is generally discretionary, it may inform students’ participation grades. Attendance to quizzes and exams is mandatory.  Make-up opportunities will only be provided for students with unforeseen, unavoidable absences. All such absences will require documentation for verification. If the class is taught in a Hyflex or online format, concern over the spread of infectious diseases is not grounds for make-up opportunities. | | | |
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| **Grading Policies** | | | |
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| Weekly Projects 50%  Final Project 30%  Participation 20% | | | |
| Assignments will receive due dates. Unless otherwise specified in writing, all assignments that are due on scheduled class day will be due before class. These due dates are mandatory. Assignments turned in after class but on the due date will be subject to a 10% grade reduction. Late assignments after the due date will be accepted with a 25% grade reduction for each day it is late.  All assignments should include a copy of the code used to complete the assignment, in addition to any other materials required to complete the assignment. Submissions that do not include all necessary materials will be considered late and be subject to additional penalties.  **Weekly Projects**: Students will be assigned into project teams in order to complete weekly projects. These projects are designed to be worked on both during the in-class breakout sessions as well as after-class homework. Team members are expected to discuss the application of course content to the projects, clarify any uncertainty concerning a topic among team members, contribute to the code used to complete the weekly projects, and assist in debugging procedures. Teams will submit one assignment to represent the entire group’s work. Students should cooperate with members within their own team on weekly projects, but not with members of other teams.  **Final Project**: Students will be required to write a research paper on a topic of their choice. The paper will analyze an issue of political importance and engage in exploratory data analysis in order to learn about that issue. As part of their research paper, they will need to collect data relevant to their topic, clean data in to make it easy to analyze, and visualize basic relationships that are relevant to the project. Students will be required to submit their data and code alongside the final paper. Unlike the weekly project, each student is required to submit a unique, personal project of their own creation. Students are encouraged to seek help from their team members for brainstorming, proofreading, and debugging. Students should not plagiarize.  **Participation**: Students may occasionally be given assignments that are outside the scope of the above required assignments. These assignments will fall under a student’s participation grade.  At the end of the semester, students will be asked about the group dynamics of their project team and each individual’s overall contribution to it. Students who largely fail to contribute to weekly projects will be docked on their participation grade. Students who display persistent behavior issues within their assignment team will also be docked on their participation grade. | | | |
| **Grading Scale** | | | |
| A = 90-100  B = 80-89  C = 70-79  D = 60-69  F = <60 | | | |
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| **Major Class Dates** | | | |
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| Wednesday-Wednesday, January 13-20: Add/Drop Period  Monday, January 18: MLK Jr. Day  Wednesday, February 17: No classes  Friday, March 12: No classes  Tuesday, March 23: Withdrawal Deadline  Tuesday, May 7 (10:30 am): Final Exam | | | |
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| **Mental Health and Wellness Resources** | | | |
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| * *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*](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*](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga)*) or crisis support (*[*https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies*](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*](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.* | | | |
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| **Coronavirus Information for Students** | | | |
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| Face Coverings, Social Distancing, and Sanitation:  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/>.  In all public spaces in Baldwin Hall (including stairwells, halls, offices, bathrooms, classrooms, and labs), please maintain six feet between you and others. The seating capacity in your classroom has been modified to allow for social distancing. Please sit in designated, marked seats. In all public spaces, including classrooms, you should not remove signage or re-arrange furniture, even if it appears that furniture is not being used. To help maintain distance, please keep right, where possible. If you enter/exit through the front doors of Baldwin, please follow the signs (and traffic) directing you through a specific set of doors.  If you want to spend some time chatting with someone, please take it outside or online. We are also requesting that you enter and exit Baldwin without delay, staying outside of the building as long as practicable before your class begins and then leaving once your class if finished.  Cleaning and disinfecting of public spaces are important to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Classrooms are only being cleaned once-per-day. There are sanitation wipes/buckets and stands in proximity to your classroom. Prior to heading in to class, you should take a wipe from the station and wipe down all high-touch surfaces associated with your seat. You should help further slow the spread of the virus by frequently washing your hands. Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently during the day. On occasions that bathrooms are closed for cleaning, you may need to use those on other floors or in other buildings. Please be conscious of the density of traffic in bathrooms and practice social distancing.  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, 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. | | | |
| **Syllabus as a Contract** | | | |
| This syllabus is a contract between the professor and the individual student. Every student in this class receives an identical syllabus; therefore, every student in this class will be taught and evaluated in the same manner. This syllabus is unique to this class; therefore, the students in this class may not be taught and evaluated as students in other sections of this class, past or present, even if taught by the same professor. | | | |
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| **A Word of Thanks** | | | |
| Teaching is a difficult task, and even the creation of a course syllabus is difficult. I appreciate the help of all of my colleagues who have helped me along the way. I am also grateful to the students of previous courses whose feedback has helped me improve this syllabus.  That being said, this syllabus and the course materials referenced in it is the intellectual property of the instructor and subject to copyright law. Do not reproduce any course materials without explicit written permission. This includes lecture material; all recordings are prohibited. | | | |
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| **Expected Course Calendar**  The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be required. |
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| **Unit 1: Computer Programming**  **Week 1: Introduction to R**  **Week 2: Introduction to R Programming**  HOPR Part 1    **Week 3: Datasets in R**  HOPR Part 2  **Week 4: Fundamentals of R Programming**  HOPR Part 3  **Unit 2: Data Management**  **Week 5: Exploratory Data Analysis**  R4DS Part 1, as assigned  **Week 6: Managing Datasets**  R4DS Part 2, as assigned  **Week 7: Advanced Data Types**  R4DS Part 2, as assigned  **Unit 3: Data Visualization**  **Weeks 8: Types of Data Visualizations**  FDV Part 1  Graphics Cookbook, as assigned  **Weeks 9 and 10: Principles of Data Visualization**  FDV Part 2  Graphics Cookbook, as assigned  **Unit 4: Beyond the Fundamentals**  **Weeks 11 Forward: Flex Weeks** |