

POLS 4150: Research Methods in Political Science

Class Time: MWF 10:20 – 11:10

Classroom: Baldwin 101D

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:

Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic this class will be administered using an asynchronous hybrid pedagogical model. Of the approaches the university is permitting this Spring, the asynchronous hybrid approach is the most flexible for students (...but probably the most demanding for faculty).

You will be able to attend classes in person if you like, but I am not going to coerce any of you into risking your health by requiring attendance. We will make use of Zoom during the class periods to allow those of you who are not attending in person to tune in for the lectures. Lecture content will also be recorded and posted to eLC for asynchronous viewing. To be perfectly clear: you will be able to successfully complete this course without ever stepping foot in the classroom.

Please refer to pages 7 and 8 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*, 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 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 Paper	25%	-----
<i>Research Question Paper</i>	(5%)	February 12 th
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(5%)	February 26 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(5%)	March 26 th
<i>Final Paper and Poster</i>	(10%)	April 30 th
Exam 1	25%	March 1 st
Exam 2	25%	December 11 th
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). 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) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate excuses.

(3.4) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of ten points for each calendar day late (10 calendar days makes a 'missed assignment').

(3.5) 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.

(3.6) 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.

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Tuesday, March 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a "WF".

IV. Course Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1 – January 13th and 15th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

Virtual Introductions

Week 2 – January 20th and 22nd – 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

*****January 18th – MLK Day – No Classes*****

Week 3 – January 25th, 27th, and 29th – Research Design

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

John Stuart Mill’s “Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry”

Problem Set 2

Week 4 – February 1st, 3rd, and 5th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapters 5 & 6

Week 5 – February 8th, 10th, and 12th – Data Collection and Management

See eLC Content Folder

Problem Set 3

*****Research Question Paper Due – February 12th*****

Week 6 – February 15th and 19th – 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 – February 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Paper Workshop

Problem Set 4

*****Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due – February 26th*****

Week 8 – March 1st – Exam 1

Week 9 – March 8th and 10th – Hypothesis Testing

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

Readings TBD

Problem Set 5

*****March 12th – Instructional Break #2*****

Week 10 – March 15th, 17th, and 19th – Bivariate Hypothesis Testing

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 8

Readings TBD

Week 11 – March 22nd, 24th, and 26th –

*****Empirical Research Design Paper Due – March 26th*****

*****March 23rd – Withdrawal Deadline*****

Week 12 – March 29th, 31st, and April 2nd – Statistical Modeling and Hypothesis Testing

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 9

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

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.

Week 13 – April 5th, 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 6

*****April 8th – Instructional Break #3*****

Week 14 – April 12th, 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 7

Week 15 – April 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Presenting Research

Research Presentation Workshop

Problem Set 8

Week 16 – April 26th, 28th, and 30th – Paper Workshop

*****Final Paper and Poster Due – April 30th*****

Week 17 – May 3rd – Exam 2

*****May 4th – Star Wars Day/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, 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.