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|  | | SYLLABUS |
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| POLS 2000 - 36166 | Introduction to Political Science | |
| Fall 2021 | TTR 9:35-10:50 | |
| Baldwin 104 |  | |
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| **Course Description and Prerequisites** | | |
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| Designed to introduce beginning students to political science. Focus will be on the study of politics, including theoretical perspectives, substantive areas, and issues in designing political research.  Students will be able to:   * Read and summarize academic political science research * Understand the scientific method and the challenges of applying it to human behavior * Critically evaluate causal claims about political phenomena   **Prerequisites:** POLS 1101. | | |
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| **Instructor Information**  Garrett N. Vande Kamp  garrettvandekamp@uga.edu  Baldwin 409  Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-Noon | | |
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| **Textbook and/or Resource Material** | | |
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| Textbook*: The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 3rd Edition. Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten.  Journal Articles:  Dunning, Thad. 2008. “Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments.” *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2): 282-293.  Hill, Kim Q. 2004. “Myths about the Physical Sciences and Their Implications for Teaching Political Science.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 37(3): 467-471.  Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. “A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research.” *Political Analysis* 14(3): 227-249.  Rehfeld, Andrew. 2010. "Offensive political theory." *Perspectives on Politics* 8(2): 465-486.  Reiter, Dan. 2015. "Should we leave behind the subfield of international relations?." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 481-499.  All other necessary materials will be provided by the professor or through access to the university’s resources available freely to students. | | |
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| **Attendance Policy** | | |
| The class will be taught in an in-person format, with exceptions occasionally made if the professor is travelling. Attendance will be taken in class for the instructor’s records. Though attendance to any given class is generally discretionary, attendance to exams is mandatory.  Make-up opportunities will only be provided for students with unforeseen, unavoidable absences. Foreseen and avoidable absences can schedule earlier testing, if necessary. Unforeseen and unavoidable absences will require documentation for verification. COVID-19 does not merit any special exceptions to this policy. | | |
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| **Final Grade Components** | | |
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| Midterm Exam 25%  Final Exam 30%  Literature Review 25%  Participation 15% | | |
| |  | | --- | | **Grading Scale** | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | A | 93-100 |  | C+ | 77-80 | | A- | 90-92 |  | C | 73-77 | | B+ | 87-90 |  | C- | 70-73 | | B | 83-87 |  | D | 60-70 | | B- | 80-83 |  | F | <60 | | | | |
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| 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. Written assignments turned in after class but on the due date will be subject to a 10% grade reduction. Late written assignments after the due date will be accepted with a 25% grade reduction for each day it is late.  Assignments that are found to be academically dishonest will receive a 0%. This includes plagiarism, lying, tampering, and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance. For more information, see <https://honesty.uga.edu/>  UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi)  **Literature Review**: Students will be complete a literature review for a research question in political science. This literature review should have at least 10 academic sources and should be written in a professional manner. Over the course of the semester, students will complete incremental assignments that build towards this end product. Students will also be broken up into groups to do peer reviews of assignments prior to submission to the professor.  **Participation**: Students will be assigned homework as necessary. They will be graded for participation only. In addition, students may occasionally be given assignments that are outside the scope of the above required assignments. These assignments will also fall under a student’s participation grade.  Students who display persistent behavior issues associated with class will be docked on their participation grade. | | |
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| **Major Class Dates** | | |
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| Wednesday-Tuesday, August 18-24: Add/Drop Period  Monday, September 6: Labor Day (No classes)  Monday, October 25: Withdrawal Deadline  Friday, October 29: Fall Break (No classes)  Wednesday-Friday, November 24-26: Thanksgiving (No classes)  Tuesday, December 14 (8:00am): Final Exam | | |
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| **COVID-19 Information** | | |
| **Face coverings**:  Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.  **How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?**  University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal (https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login\_dualauthentication.aspx). Learn more here https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine.  The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go  to: https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine.  In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15  campuses statewide and you can locate one here: <https://www.usg.edu/vaccination>  **What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?**  Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with  the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.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 test positive for COVID-19?**  If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, you are required to report it through the DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey. We encourage you to stay at home if you become ill or until you have excluded COVID-19 as the cause of your symptoms. UGA adheres to current Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) quarantine and isolation guidance and requires that it be followed. Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.  **Guidelines for COVID-19 Quarantine Period**  Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine upon exposure unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves. All others should follow the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations:  Students who are not fully vaccinated and have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 10 days. Those quarantining for 10 days must have been symptom-free throughout the monitoring period and continue self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms for a total of 14 days. You should report the need to quarantine on DawgCheck (https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance. Students, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.  **Monitoring conditions:**  Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor’s Office or. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu | | |
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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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| **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 the faculty members who have helped me along the way: Paul Kellstedt, Guy Whitten, Kim Hill, Carlisle Rainey, Rotem Divir, Valerie Hudson, Ren Mu, Jessica Gottlieb, Joanna Lahey, Geoff Sheagley, and Brittany Bramlett.  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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| **Week 1: Syllabus**  Readings: This Syllabus  **Basics of Social Science**  **Week 2: What is politics?**  Readings: Posted on eLC; Reiter 2015    **Week 3: What is science?**  Readings: K&W Chap 1; Hill 2004  **Week 4: Research Questions and Literature Reviews**  Readings: Posted on eLC  **Week 5: Theory and Hypotheses**  Readings: K&W Chap 2  **Basics of Research Design**  **Week 6: Causality**  Readings: K&W Chap 3  Annotated Bibliography 1 Due  **Week 7: Research Design I**  Readings: K&W Chap 4  **Weeks 8: Research Design II**  Readings: Dunning 2008  **Week 9: Research Design III and Midterm**  Readings: Mahoney and Goertz 2006  **Basics of Data Analysis**  **Week 10: Concepts and Measurement**  Readings: K&W Chap 5  **Week 11: Exploratory Data Analysis**  Readings: K&W Chap 6  Annotated Bibliography 2 Due  **Week 12: Descriptive Inference**  Readings: K&W Chap 7  **Week 13: Bivariate Hypothesis Testing**  Readings: K&W Chap 8  **Other Topics**  **Week 14: Communicating Research**  Readings: Posted on eLC  **Week 15+: What is political theory?**  Readings: Rehfeld 2010  Literature Review Due |