

**WHAT**

POLS 2000: Introduction to Political Science

**WHO**

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Office hours: by appointment, in my office or on Zoom

**WHEN AND WHERE**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.20PM to 3.35PM in Military Building 02 (which is on the corner of Baldwin St and Sanford Dr).

**HOW**

This class will be conducted 100% in person. There is no hybrid or online option available, even if you are ill or have to quarantine, for this course due to policies from the Board of Regents and the University of Georgia.

**WHY**

This course is to introduce you to political science, and show you how we go about social science research. We will spend a lot of time digging into the types of questions political scientists ask, why they are asked, how we try to answer them, and what we try to answer them with. This course should introduce you to research and research methods found commonly in the discipline, and hopefully equip you for the rest of your studies at UGA, and give you some skills to take out into the world when you graduate. Additionally, we will do some work with data (some of which we will create on our own), and learn some useful Excel commands. By the end of this course you will know a lot about the field of political science.

## **COVID INFORMATION**

### Vaccines:

We are all safest when as many people as possible are vaccinated, including me (I have been vaccinated). I highly recommend you get a vaccination against Covid, which is free and easy at the University Health Center. You can book an appointment with very little fuss via the UHC Patient Portal: ([https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login\\_dualauthentication.aspx](https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx)). If you wish to talk to someone about the vaccine you can call the Health Center at 706-542-1162. Please be aware that there is a multitude of misinformation about the Covid vaccines out on the internet, and you should trust reliable sources of information. Vaccination, according to UGA policy, is not a requirement for your presence on campus or in this class.

### Masks:

I encourage you all to wear masks. Although I specialize in American politics, I am South African and have an extremely guttural accent which is further deadened by a mask. I will try to teach wearing a mask while Covid rates are climbing, but if this interferes with any pedagogical element of the class I will take the mask off. Masks are not to protect you as much as they are to protect others. Wearing a mask is encouraged, but not mandated, by the university.

### Absences due to Covid/quarantine

We have been instructed by the university to treat any students with Covid or who have to quarantine as we would any student who gets sick. Since we are forbidden from any sort of online or hybrid option, this means you could miss up to two weeks of classes if you have to quarantine, or even more if you contract the virus. I have never been in this sort of situation before and so I am not 100% clear on what my policy will be. I can tell you that we have a series of weekly assignments this semester, and I will drop the lowest grade from your final grade. This should help mitigate any Covid-related absences up to a point. Because of the chance of many people needing to take time off, there is no attendance part of your grade. I do not want to incentivize anyone coming to class who may be sick.

### If you are not feeling well:

PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CLASS. Email me and we will make a plan if you have to miss more than one class.

## **Class Information**

What you need:

- Microsoft Excel: This can be downloaded through the university for free. You will need this in class. If you do not have a computer to bring to class please let me know and we can make arrangements. Please absolutely do not buy one for this class if you don't have one. We can figure something out. You can download Excel here: [https://eits.uga.edu/hardware\\_and\\_software/software/microsoft/](https://eits.uga.edu/hardware_and_software/software/microsoft/)
- Qualtrics: You will need a UGA Qualtrics account which you can get by contacting EITS. Please see here for further information: [https://eits.uga.edu/web\\_and\\_applications/qualtrics/](https://eits.uga.edu/web_and_applications/qualtrics/)

## Accommodations:

Every student at UGA has the same right to the education provided here. If you need any sort of accommodation please visit the website of the the Disability Resource Center at [drc.uga.edu](http://drc.uga.edu), call them on 706-542-8719, email them at [drc@uga.edu](mailto:drc@uga.edu), or you can go to their offices at 825 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602. If the DRC can not make an accommodation you seek, and you are comfortable sharing that accommodation with me, I will do whatever I can to ensure it happens. I am not an expert but I am full of effort. I will move heaven and earth to make sure you get the same opportunity and education as everyone else.

## In-class expectations:

You are required to be professional at all times. This isn't really difference from any other class you would take here. If you are polite and respectful to everyone else you are good. I will not entertain arguments or discussion against anyone's character, ideology, race, gender (identity), sex, sexual preference, partisanship and so on.

## Attendance:

There is no attendance policy for this class, although I strongly recommend you do not miss more than three classes over the course of the semester if you can help it. As the course instructor I reserve the right to withdraw any student whose number of absences becomes too high, within reasonable and official limits. Before withdrawing any student, however, we will try to work something out, and I will also contact the Office of Student Care and Outreach. Since there is no attendance requirement for your grade I want to make one thing very clear: PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL.

## Mandatory Reporting

I am a mandatory reporter. If you disclose to me any experiences of sexual abuse or violence I am required to inform the appropriate people at the university, which will include the EOO.

## Experience of sexual assault or violence

If you experience sexual assault or violence you have some options. The University Health Center has a free and confidential program called Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention which has a 24 hour hotline: 706-542-SAFE (706-542-7233). The website is <https://healthpromotion.uga.edu/rsvp/>.

### Parents and Pregnancy

There are no lactation facilities in Benson Hall. For a list of lactation facilities at UGA please check out this link: [https://eoo.uga.edu/policies-resources/pregnancy\\_and\\_parenting\\_rights\\_and\\_resources/](https://eoo.uga.edu/policies-resources/pregnancy_and_parenting_rights_and_resources/)

If you are a parent and unable to find childcare on any particular day, please do not hesitate to bring your child/children to class. We will figure something out. Please also feel free to contact me if childcare and parenting obligations get in the way of any class requirements, and we can try to work something out.

If you are pregnant the university has policies for any reasonable accommodations, such as being able to take an Incomplete, improving your physical environment, relaxing deadlines, ensuring the safety of both the parent and the passenger, and so on. You can read more about the policies here: [https://eoo.uga.edu/policies-resources/pregnancy\\_and\\_parenting\\_rights\\_and\\_resources/](https://eoo.uga.edu/policies-resources/pregnancy_and_parenting_rights_and_resources/)

If you are comfortable doing so, please do not hesitate to contact me about any accommodations. A pregnant student has the exact same right to the same education as everyone else.

## Grades and Assignments

### Grades:

Grades will be assigned on the traditional grade scale. I round everything up. So if you get 89.1 as your final grade, I will round that up to 90, before assigning letter grades.

>94: A  
>90: A-  
>87: B+  
>84: B  
>80: B-  
>77: C+  
>74: C  
>70: C-  
>64: D  
<64: F

Your grade will comprise the following:

- Two analyses (20 points each)
- One survey design (20 points)
- Fix a survey design (20 points)
- Present your survey research to the class (20 points)

There will be NO extra credit opportunities.

There are NO midterm or final exams for this class.

### Academic Honesty

All students are required to abide by the academic honesty policy as set out by the University, which can be found here: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Student-Honor-Code/>. If you cheat or plagiarize I will proceed through the appropriate channels. You should not need to do any of that for this class. It is not a difficult or particularly time-consuming class, but will require you to do some thinking and a bit of research. This would be a very silly class in which to get caught violating academic honesty rules.

### Required texts:

There are NO required texts for this class. I will provide you will all readings if required.

## **Course schedule:**

Week 1: Th 8/19

Introduction to political science

Week 2: T 8/24 to Th 8/26

PS Sections

The Scientific Method

Data, measurement, Excel

DROP ADD ENDS 8/24

Week 3: T 8/31 to Th 9/2

Data, measurement, Excel

Institutions: Congress

Week 4: T 9/7 to Th 9/9

Institutions: Congress, Presidency, state governments

Week 5: T 9/14 to Th 9/16

Institutions: Courts

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT ON 9/16 (worth 20 points of your overall grade)

Week 6: T 9/21 to Th 9/23

Public opinion, political behavior, political knowledge

Week 7: T 9/28 to Th 9/30

Partisanship

Week 8: T 10/5 to Th 10/7

Political psychology

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT ON 10/7 (worth 20 points of your overall grade)

Week 9: T 10/12 to Th 10/14

Data and research questions, making our own data

HAVE A QUALTRICS ACCOUNT SET UP BY THIS DATE

Week 10: T 10/19 to 10/21

Research questions and survey research

10/21 is the last class before the WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

Week 11: T 10/26 to Th 10/28

Survey research, experiments, survey design

END OF CLASS THURSDAY 10/28: ALL SURVEYS TO BE HANDED IN

Week 12: T 11/2 to Th 11/4  
Data, theory and measurement  
Descriptive stats  
Analysis

Week 13: T 11/9 to 11/11  
Fieldwork  
ALL SURVEYS SHOULD BE IN THE FIELD BY THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK

Week 14: T 11/16 to Th 11/18  
PRESENTATIONS

Week 15: T 11/23 to Th 11/25  
NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

Week 16: T 11/30 to 12/2  
PRESENTATIONS (if we still have some to do)  
Wrapping up (last class is Thu 12/2)

Week 17: there is NO class this week due to Tuesday being a Friday schedule