

POLS 4150: Research Methods in Political Science

Class Time: MWF 9:10 – 10:00am

Classroom: Baldwin 101D

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

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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.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Textbooks

We will be using a textbook and text-companion in this class. They are 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. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 3rd Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2019. *A Stata Companion for the Third Edition of The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 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 a poster presentation.

Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for your final grade:

Item	Weight	Date
Research Paper	50%	-----
<i>Research Question Paper</i>	(10%)	September 10 th
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	September 24 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	October 15 th
<i>Final Paper</i>	(10%)	December 3 rd
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	(10%)	December 3 rd
Problem Sets	50%	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) 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) 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 Monday, October 25th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1 – August 18th and 20th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

Simon, C.A., 2002. Testing for bias in the impact of AmeriCorps service on volunteer participants: Evidence of success in achieving a neutrality program objective. *Public Administration Review*, 62(6), pp.670-678.

Week 2 – August 23rd, 25th, and 27th – 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

*****Drop/Add Ends – August 24th*****

Week 3 – August 30th, September 1st and 3rd – Research Design

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

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

Problem Set 2

Week 4 – September 8th and 10th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part I

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapters 5

Collier, D. and Levitsky, S., 1997. Democracy with adjectives: Conceptual innovation in comparative research. *World politics*, 49(3), pp.430-451.

*****Labor Day – September 6th – No Classes*****

*****Research Question Paper Due – September 10th*****

Week 5 – September 13th, 15th, and 17th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part II

Paper Workshop

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 6

Reading TBD

Problem Set 3

Week 6 – September 20th, 22nd, and 24th – Probability and Statistical Inference

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 7

*****Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due – September 24th*****

Week 7 – September 27th, 29th, and October 1st – Sampling and Statistical Inference, Part I

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.

Problem Set 4

Week 8 – October 4th, 6th, and 8th – Sampling and Statistical Inference, Part II

Paper Workshop

Berinsky, A.J., Powell, E.N., Schickler, E. and Yohai, I.B., 2011. Revisiting Public Opinion in the 1930s and 1940s. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 44(3), pp.515-520.

PEW Research Center – How Different Weighting Methods Work

Problem Set 5

Week 9 – October 11th, 13th, and 15th – Hypothesis Testing

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

Readings TBD

*****Semester Midpoint – October 11th*****

*****Empirical Research Design Paper Due – October 15th*****

Week 10 – October 18th, 20th, and 22nd – Bivariate Hypothesis Testing

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 8

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

Week 11 – October 25th and 27th – 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.

Problem Set 7

*****Withdrawal Deadline – October 25th*****

*****Fall Break – October 29th – No Classes*****

Week 12 November 1st, 3rd, and 5th – 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 8th, 10th, and 12th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 2

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11

Problem Set 9

Week 14 – November 15th, 17th, and 19th – Presenting Research

Research Presentation Workshop

Reading TBD

Week 15 – November 22nd – Thanksgiving Break

*****Thanksgiving Break – November 24th – 26th – No Classes*****

Week 16 – November 29th, December 1st and 3rd – Paper and Poster

*****Final Paper and Poster Due – December 3rd*****

Week 17 – December 6th and 7th

Problem Set 10

*****Last Day of Classes – December 7th*****

*****Reading Day – December 8th*****