POLS 4156E – Online Political Research & Analysis
Class Day/Time: Online Monday - Friday
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:
Office Hours: By Appointment (via telephone or Zoom)
Instructor Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

I. Course Description:

Whether for better or worse, the Internet has had an undeniable influence on humanity. The Internet is, indeed, a pervasive element in modern society. For the vast majority of users, the Internet is a medium of commerce, information, and entertainment. But, for a few of us, the Internet is a research tool and has opened a variety of new avenues for studying social phenomena…even birthing entirely new fields of research.

This is a research methodology course, substantive content will be covered, too, but the primary focus of this course is how the Internet can be leveraged for research purposes. The course is broken up into four units: Unit 1 is a crash course in general research methodology. Unit 2 covers classic research methods as they have migrated online. In Unit 3 we will get into “native digital” methods that have emerged as the Internet has expanded across the globe. In our fourth and final course unit we will focus on how research can be applied to a more specialized online context: social media.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Textbooks
This class does not use textbooks. Instead, we will be using open-source material freely available on the Web. After all, this is an online class about how to use the Internet for research purposes.

(2.2) Assessment
As a short-session, time will feel more scarce than usual. We are cramming an entire semester into four (4) weeks. This class features four (4) major assessments and five (5) minor assessments. The four major assessments consist of two (2) exams and two (2) research projects. Major assessments are each worth 20% of your grade. The minor assessments are also research oriented, but primarily focus on specific tasks necessary to conducting professional level research. Minor assessments are each worth 4% of your grade.

(2.3) Grading
All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below. You must earn a C or higher to pass this class. Grades will not be curved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement
Abled-ness 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) Makeup Exams
If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (and 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.

(3.3) 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.

(3.4) 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.

(3.5) Problems and Emergencies
If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from completing coursework please contact me as soon as possible.

(3.6) Withdraw Policy
Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Friday, July 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule

Week 1: Fundamentals of Research Methodology: A Crash Course

Monday, July 12th – Course Introduction

Zoom meeting @ 1pm (see email and eLC Announcement for details)

Tuesday, July 13th – Designing Empirical Research

Franco et al, Chapter 6

***Last Day of Drop/Add***

Wednesday, July 14th – Concepts and Measures

Franco et al, Chapter 5


Thursday, July 15th – Data Collection and Management

See eLC Content Folder

Friday, July 16th – Major Assessment #1 – Exam 1

Week 2: Traditional Political Research…Online

Monday, July 19th – The Internet, Part I: Some Basics


Tuesday, July 20th – Researching Institutions, Online

Content Folder on eLC

Wednesday, July 21st – “Canned Data”

Content Folder on eLC

Thursday, July 22nd – Online Survey Research

---

1 This is a general course outline, some deviations may be necessary.


**Friday, July 23rd – Major Assessment #2 – Research Assignment 1**

***Withdrawal Deadline***

**Week 3: Down the Rabbit-Hole**

**Monday, July 26th – The Internet, Part II: Network and Website Construction**

Shuler, Russ. 2002. How Does the Internet Work? (link in eLC)

**Tuesday, July 27th – Big Data and Political Research**


**Wednesday, July 28th – Web Activity as Data, Part I: Concepts**


**Thursday, July 29th – Web Activity as Data, Part II: Applied**


**Friday, July 30**<sup>th</sup> – **Major Assessment #3 – Research Assignment 2**

**Week 4: Social Media…**

**Monday, August 2**<sup>nd</sup> – …and Experimentation


**Tuesday, August 3**<sup>rd</sup> – …Network Analysis


**Wednesday, August 4**<sup>th</sup> – …Behavior and Analysis, Part I


Thursday, August 5th – …Behavior and Analysis, Part II


***Last Day of Classes***

Friday, August 6th – Major Assessment #4 – Exam 4