

POLS 4150: Research Methods in Political Science
Class Time: T/TR 11:10am – 12:25pm
Classroom: Baldwin 102
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.

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.

(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 eight problem sets, a research paper broken up into four parts, and a research poster.

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%)	February 4 th
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	February 18 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	March 4 th
<i>Final Paper & Poster</i>	(20%)	April 29 th
Problem Sets	50%	Weekly-ish

(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) Missed/Late Assignments

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

(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 Thursday, March 24th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1 – January 11th and 13th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

An article to show students what we will be doing...

Week 2 – January 18th and 20th – 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 17th – MLK Day – No Classes*****

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

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

Readings TBD

Week 4 – February 1st and 3rd – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part I

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 5

Reading TBD

*****February 4th – Research Question Paper Due*****

Week 5 – February 8th and 10th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part II

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 6

Problem Set 2

Week 6 – February 15th and 17th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

***** February 18th – Theory and Hypothesis Paper Due*****

Week 7 – February 22nd and 24th – 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 3

Week 8 – March 1st and 3rd – 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

*****March 3rd – Semester Midpoint*****

*****March 4th – Empirical Research Design Paper Due*****

Week 9 – March 7th – 11th – Spring Break

*****No Classes*****

Week 10 – March 15th and 17th – 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 4

Week 11 – March 22nd and 24th – 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 5

*****March 24th – Withdrawal Deadline*****

Week 12 – March 29th and 31st – 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

Week 13 – April 5th and 7th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 2

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11

Reading TBD

Problem Set 7

Week 14 – April 12th and 14th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 3

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 12

Reading TBD

Problem Set 8

Week 15 – April 19th and 21st – Presenting Research

Readings TBD

Week 16 – April 26th and 28th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

*****April 29th – Final Paper and Poster Due*****

Week 17 – May 3rd – Last Day of Classes

*****May 4th – Star Wars Day/Reading Day*****

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

UGA adheres to guidance from the University System of Georgia and the recommendations from Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) related to quarantine and isolation. Since this may be updated periodically, we encourage you to review the latest guidance [here](#). The following information is based on guidance last updated on December 29, 2021.

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 COVID-19 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 get tested. You can 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? (Isolation guidance)

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, either through a PCR test, an Antigen test, or a home test kit, you are **required to report it** through the [DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey](#). Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

As of December 29, 2021, when an individual receives a positive COVID-19 test: Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, should:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house and return to class.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

What do I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19? (Quarantine guidance)

If you have been exposed (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period – unmasked**) to someone with COVID-19 or to someone with a positive COVID-19 test and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine)
 - You do not need to quarantine at home and may come to class.
 - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
 - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that you may return to class but continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

** “Masked-to-masked” encounters are not currently considered an exposure; this type of interaction would not warrant quarantine.

You should report the need to quarantine on [DawgCheck](https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/) (<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.

Well-being, mental health, and student support

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & 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 to support your well-being and mental health: <https://well-being.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>

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. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu.