

POLS 4155: Analyzing Political Behavior
Class Time: T/TH 12:45 – 2PM
Classroom: Baldwin 101D
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

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I. Course Description

Political behavior is a diverse field that employs a variety of methods for understanding the attitudes, opinions, feelings, thoughts, actions, and inactions of individuals. The goal of this course is to equip you with the methodological tools necessary to measure human behavior, design and implement public opinion surveys, experiments, as well as other observational techniques in political science and beyond. With the successful completion of this course you 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.
- (1.3) Attain proficiency in the conceptualization and measurement of human behavior.
- (1.4) Understand the diversity of research design opportunities available to you for studying human behavior in political science and beyond.
- (1.5) Develop competency with the collection, management, and analysis of quantitative data.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) There are no textbook purchase requirements for this class. All reading materials used in this course are available to you online through Google Scholar and our library resources.

That said, we will also be making extensive use of [The Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science](#), which has been made freely available to the world thanks to Jamie Druckman's unyielding commitment to science.

(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 six problem sets and a research design paper broken up into four parts.

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 2 nd
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	February 16 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	March 2 nd
<i>Final Paper</i>	(10%)	May 1 st
Problem Sets	60%	Bi-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 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Class Schedule

Week 1 – January 10th and 12th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus and Introductions

*****Drop/Add Period – January 9th – 13th*****

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – The Logic of Causal Inference

Holland, P.W., 1986. Statistics and causal inference. *Journal of the American statistical Association*, 81(396), pp.945-960.

*****MLK Day – No Classes – January 16th*****

Week 3 – January 24th and 26th – Concepts and Measures

Selection from Kellstedt and Whitten

Selection from Milgram’s Obedience to Authority

Feldman, S., 2003. Enforcing social conformity: A theory of authoritarianism. *Political psychology*, 24(1), pp.41-74.

Richey, S., 2008. Voting by mail: Turnout and institutional reform in Oregon. *Social Science Quarterly*, 89(4), pp.902-915.

Bankert, A., 2021. Negative and positive partisanship in the 2016 US presidential elections. *Political Behavior*, 43(4), pp.1467-1485.

Problem Set 1

Week 4 – January 31st and February 2nd – Sampling

Oxford Handbook, Chapter 4

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.

Week 5 – February 7th and 9th – Working with Canned Data

Class Handout

Problem Set 2

Week 6 – February 14th and 16th – Survey Research, Pt. I

Brady, H.E., 2000. Contributions of survey research to political science. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 33(1), pp.47-58.

Warnecke, R.B., Johnson, T.P., Chávez, N., Sudman, S., O'Rourke, D.P., Lacey, L. and Horm, J., 1997. Improving question wording in surveys of culturally diverse populations. *Annals of epidemiology*, 7(5), pp.334-342.

Presser, S., Couper, M.P., Lessler, J.T., Martin, E., Martin, J., Rothgeb, J.M. and Singer, E., 2004. Methods for testing and evaluating survey questions. *Methods for testing and evaluating survey questionnaires*, pp.1-22.

Week 7 – February 21st and 23rd – Survey Research, Pt. II

Johns, R., 2005. One size doesn't fit all: Selecting response scales for attitude items. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 15(2), pp.237-264.

Class Handout

Problem Set 3

Week 8 – February 28th and March 2nd – Laboratory Experiments, Pt. I

Oxford Handbook, Chapters 2 & 6

Tajfel, Henri. 1970. "Experiments in Intergroup Discrimination." *Scientific American* 223(5):96-102.

Glas, J.M. and Taylor, J.B., 2018. The silver screen and authoritarianism: How popular films activate latent personality dispositions and affect American political attitudes. *American Politics Research*, 46(2), pp.246-275.

*****Semester Midpoint – March 2nd*****

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

*****Spring Break – No Classes – March 6th – 10th*****

Week 10 – March 14th and 16th – Laboratory Experiments, Pt. II

Oxford Handbook, Chapters 6 & 14

Chong, D. and Druckman, J.N., 2007. Framing public opinion in competitive democracies. *American political science review*, 101(4), pp.637-655.

Albertson, B. and Gadarian, S.K., 2016. Did that scare you? Tips on creating emotion in experimental subjects. *Political Analysis*, 24(4), pp.485-491.

Problem Set 4

Week 11 – March 21st and 23rd - Field Experiments

Oxford Handbook, Chapter 9

Gosnell, H.F., 1926. An experiment in the stimulation of voting. *American Political Science Review*, 20(4), pp.869-874.

Gerber, A.S. and Green, D.P., 2000. The effects of canvassing, telephone calls, and direct mail on voter turnout: A field experiment. *American political science review*, 94(3), pp.653-663.

*****Withdrawal Deadline – March 23rd*****

Week 12 – March 28th and 30th – Working Around Self-Regulation

Oxford Handbook, Chapter 11

Zaller, J. and Feldman, S., 1992. A simple theory of the survey response: Answering questions versus revealing preferences. *American journal of political science*, pp.579-616.

Ksiazkiewicz, A. and Hedrick, J., 2013. An introduction to implicit attitudes in political science research. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46(3), pp.525-531.

Pérez, Efrén O. 2013. “Implicit Attitudes: Meaning, Measurement, and Synergy with Political Science.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 1(2):275-297.

Intawan, Chanita and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. “My Trust in Government is Implicit: Automatic Trust in Government and System Support.” *Journal of Politics* 80(2):601-614.

Week 13 – April 4th and 6th – Games, Pt. I

Oxford Handbook, Chapter 7

Crawford, V.P., 2002. Introduction to experimental game theory. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 104(1), pp.1-15.

Week 14 – April 11th and 13th – Games, Pt. II

Oxford Handbook, Chapter 17

Fischbacher, U., Gächter, S. and Fehr, E., 2001. Are people conditionally cooperative? Evidence from a public goods experiment. *Economics letters*, 71(3), pp.397-404.

Glas, Jeffrey M. 2015 (np). Cognitive resources, prosociality, and the provision of public goods.

Problem Set 5

Week 15 – April 18th and 20th – Biology & Physiology in Political Science

Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. “Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?” *American Political Science Review* 99(2):153–167.

Coronel, Jason C., Melissa C. Duff, David E. Warren, Kara D. Federmeier, Brian D. Gonsalves, Daniel Tranel and Neal J. Cohen. 2012. “Remembering and Voting: Theory and Evidence from Amnesic Patients.” *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 837–848.

Bakker, B.N., Schumacher, G. and Rooduijn, M., 2021. Hot politics? Affective responses to political rhetoric. *American Political Science Review*, 115(1), pp.150-164.

Week 16 – April 25th and 27th – Network Analysis

Marin, A. and Wellman, B., 2011. Social network analysis: An introduction. *The SAGE handbook of social network analysis*, 11, p.25.

Ward, M.D., Stovel, K. and Sacks, A., 2011. Network analysis and political science. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 14, pp.245-264.

Himmelboim, I., Sweetser, K.D., Tinkham, S.F., Cameron, K., Danelo, M. and West, K., 2016. Valence-based homophily on Twitter: Network analysis of emotions and political talk in the 2012 presidential election. *New media & society*, 18(7), pp.1382-1400.

Min, S.J., 2021. Who Believes in Conspiracy Theories? Network Diversity, Political Discussion, and Conservative Conspiracy Theories on Social Media. *American Politics Research*, p.1532673X211013526.

Messing, Solomon, van Kessel, Patrick, and Hughes, Adam. 2017. Sharing the News in a Polarized Congress. *Pew Research Center*, December

Problem Set 6

Week 17 – May 1st – Final Papers Due

*****Last Day of Classes – May 1st*****

*****Reading Day – May 2nd*****

*****Star Wars Day – May 4th*****