POLS 2000 – Introduction to Political Science
Class Time: T/TR 12:45pm – 2:00pm
Classroom: Baldwin 302
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:
Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only
Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

I. Course Description
This course is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of politics. The primary focus of the course is methodological, but we will also cover several substantive areas of political science. As an introduction to political methodology, we will focus most of our attention to theory building, conceptualizing politics, and research design. Students will also be introduced to the fundamentals of data collection, management, and analysis.

(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 resources and literature as well as using them responsibly to formulate effective arguments.
(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 data.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Text
As a “no-cost” class you are not required to purchase a textbook or any other reading material for this class. That said, we do have a robust reading list for the semester. Beginning on page four of this syllabus you will find a detailed reading and assignment schedule for the course.

(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 five problem sets and a research paper broken up into three parts.
Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Design Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question Paper</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>September 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Design Paper</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
<td>December 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>(see dates below)</td>
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(2.4) **Grading**
All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A = 94-100
A- = 90
B+ = 88
B = 84
B- = 80
C+ = 78
C = 74
C- = 70
D = 60-69
F = 59

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) **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 Monday, October 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 – August 17th – Course Review and Introductions
Syllabus and Introduction

Week 2 – August 22nd & 24th – What is Political Science?
Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1 (see eLC)

***Tuesday, August 22nd – End of Drop/Add***

Week 3 – August 29th & 31st – Doing Political Science
Research Questions and “From Topic to Research Question”
Class Handout

Week 4 – September 5th & 7th – Positive Theory
Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 2 (see eLC)
Problem Set 1

Week 5 – September 12th & 14th – Social Science Concepts
Reading TBD

***September 15th – Research Question Paper Due***

Week 6 – September 19th & 21st – Thinking in Terms of Variables and Values
See eLC Content Folder
Problem Set 2

Week 7 – September 26th & 28th – Research Design
Gschwend and Schimmelfennig, Chapter 1

1 The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
**Week 8 – October 3rd & 5th – Observational Design**

Selection from John Stuart Mill's *A System of Logic*, “Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry.”


***October 6th – Theory & Hypothesis Paper Due***

**Week 9 – October 10th & 12th – Case Studies**


Problem Set 3

***Monday, October 9th – Semester Midpoint***

**Week 10 – October 17th & 19th – Participant Observation**


Fenno, Richard. 1974. *Homestyle: House Members in their Districts* (see eLC)


**Week 11 – October 24th & 26th – Interviewing**


***Monday, October 23rd – Withdrawal Deadline***

**Week 12 – October 31st & November 2nd – Quantitative Observational Research**


**Week 13 – November 7th & 9th – Survey Research**


Problem Set 4

**Week 14 – November 14th & 16th – Quasi-Experimental Research**


Problem Set 5

**Week 15 – November 21st –**

***November 22nd – 24th – Thanksgiving Break – No Classes***

**Week 16 – November 28th & 30th – Experimental Research**


**Week 17 – December 5th – No Class**

***December 5th – Research Design Paper Due***

***Tuesday, December 5th – Friday Schedule***

***Wednesday, December 6th – Reading Day***