

POLS 2000 – Introduction to Political Science

Class Time: MWF 12:40pm – 1:30pm

Classroom: Baldwin 102

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

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. Successful completion of these assignments will require your presence and active participation in class.

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

Item	Weight	Date
Research Design Paper	50%	-----
<i>Research Question</i>	(10%)	January 26 th
<i>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</i>	(10%)	February 23 rd
<i>Research Design Paper</i>	(30%)	April 29 th
Problem Sets	50%	(see dates below)

(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 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week 1 – January 8th and 10th – What is Political Science?

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1 (see eLC)

Friday, January 12th – SPSA – No Class

Friday, January 12th – Last Day of Drop/Add

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – Doing Political Science

[Research Questions](#) and [“From Topic to Research Question”](#)

Class Handout

Monday, January 15th – MLK Day – No Classes

Week 3 – January 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Positive Theory

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 2 (see eLC)

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. “Defining Causality,” pp. 75-91 in *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Research Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (see eLC)

Research Question Due

Week 4 – January 29th and 31st – Social Science Concepts

Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. “Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research.” *World Politics* 49 (3): 430-451.

Reading TBD

Friday, February 2nd – No Class

Week 5 – February 5th, 7th, and 9th – Thinking in Terms of Variables and Values

See eLC Content Folder

Problem Set 1 Due

¹ The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Week 6 – February 12th, 14th, and 16th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

Week 7 – February 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Research Design

Selection from John Stuart Mill's A System of Logic. "Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry."

Collier, D., 1991. "The comparative method: Two decades of change." *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, HarperCollins Publishers.

Gschwend and Schimmelfennig, Chapter 1

Theory & Hypothesis Paper Due

Week 8 – February 26th, 28th, and March 1st – Case Study Research

John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 2 (2004): 341-354.

George and Bennett. 2005. "The Method of Focus, Structured Comparison." in Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences. The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. (see eLC)

Yonk, R.M., Mosley, J.C. and Husby, P.O., 2018. "Human influences on the Northern Yellowstone Range." *Rangelands*, 40(6), pp.177-188.

Problem Set 2 Due

Week 9 – Spring Break

Monday, March 4th – Friday, March 8th – Spring Break – No Classes

Week 10 – March 11th, 13th, and 15th – Participant Observation

Atkinson, P. and Hammersley, M., 1998. "Ethnography and participant observation." *Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp.248-261.

Gillespie, A. and Michelson, M.R., 2011. "Participant observation and the political scientist: Possibilities, priorities, and practicalities." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 44(2), pp.261-265.

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

Fenno, R.F., 1977. "US House members in their constituencies: An exploration." *American Political Science Review*, 71(3), pp.883-917.

Week 11 – March 18th, 20th, and 22nd – Interviewing

Hammer, Dean and Aaron Wildavsky. 1993. "The Open Ended, Semi-Structured Interview," in Wildavsky, ed. *Craftways: On the Organization of Scholarly Work*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, pp. 79-135.

Tansey, O., 2007. "Process tracing and elite interviewing: a case for non-probability sampling." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 40(4), pp.765-772.

Richards, D., 1996. "Elite interviewing: Approaches and pitfalls." *Politics*, 16(3), pp.199-204.

Kristen Renwick Monroe, "Cracking the Code of Genocide: The Moral Psychology of Rescuers, Bystanders, and Nazis during the Holocaust," *Political Psychology* 29, no. 5 (2008): 699-736.

Mahoney, C. and Baumgartner, F.R., 2015. "Partners in advocacy: Lobbyists and government officials in Washington." *The Journal of Politics*, 77(1), pp.202-215.

Problem Set 3

Thursday, March 21st – Withdrawal Deadline

Week 12 – March 25th, 27th, and 29th – Quantitative Observational Research

Howard, R.M., Lazarus, J. and Glas, J.M., 2015. "The unintended consequences of congressional action: Judicial conviction rates after congressional sentencing reform." *Justice System Journal*, 36(4), pp.304-322.

Canes-Wrone, B., Howell, W.G. and Lewis, D.E., 2008. "Toward a broader understanding of presidential power: A reevaluation of the two presidencies thesis." *The Journal of Politics*, 70(1), pp.1-16.

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

Week 13 – April 1st and 3rd – Survey Research

Gierzynski, A. and Seger, J., 2011. "Harry Potter and the millennials: the boy-who-lived and the politics of a muggle generation."

Ellis, C. and Stimson, J.A., 2009. "Symbolic ideology in the American electorate." *Electoral Studies*, 28(3), pp.388-402.

Rathbun, B.C., Kertzer, J.D., Reifler, J., Goren, P. and Scotto, T.J., 2016. "Taking foreign policy personally: Personal values and foreign policy attitudes." *International Studies Quarterly*, 60(1), pp.124-137.

Problem Set 4

Friday, April 5th – MPSA – No Class

Week 14 – April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Quasi-Experimental Research

Sloan, J.H., Rivara, F.P., Reay, D.T., Ferris, J.A. and Kellermann, A.L., 1990. Firearm regulations and rates of suicide: a comparison of two metropolitan areas. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 322(6), pp.369-373.

Butler, D.M., 2009. A regression discontinuity design analysis of the incumbency advantage and tenure in the US House. *Electoral Studies*, 28(1), pp.123-128.

Glas, J.M. (np). “Polling Precinct Priming Effects: How Where You Can Influence How You Vote.” (see eLC)

Week 15 – April 15th, 17th, and 19th – Experimental Research

McGraw, K.M., Timpone, R. and Bruck, G., 1993. “Justifying controversial political decisions: Home style in the laboratory.” *Political Behavior*, 15(3), pp.289-308.

Gerber, A. S., & 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), 653-663.

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.

Problem Set 5

Week 16 – April 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

Week 17 – April 29th – Final Paper Due

Tuesday, April 30th – Reading Day