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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Design Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>January 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Hypothesis Paper</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>February 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Design Paper</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
<td>April 29th</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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 Thursday, March 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule and Assignments

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)

Research Question Due

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


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.”


Gschwend and Schimmelfennig, Chapter 1

Theory & Hypothesis Paper Due

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


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


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

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


Problem Set 3

***Thursday, March 21st – Withdrawal Deadline***

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


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


Problem Set 4

***Friday, April 5th – MPSA – No Class***
Week 14 – April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Quasi-Experimental Research


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


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***