

POLS 4150: Research Methods in Political Science

Class Time: MWF 9:10 – 10:00am

Classroom: Baldwin 101D

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

Email. jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

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. It is 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 five problem sets, a research paper broken up into three 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>"Front End" Paper</i>	(10%)	February 2 nd
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(20%)	March 1 st
<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

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 Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1 – January 8th and 10th – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Syllabus and Introductions

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 1

Harsell, D.M., Flynn, D.T. and Jendrysik, M.S., 2023. Park Free or Die: Rural Consciousness, Preemption, and the Perennial North Dakota Parking-Meter Debate. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56(1), pp.3-9.

Friday, January 12th – SPSA – No Class

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

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – 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 – Theorizing

Monday, January 15th – MLK Day – No Classes

Week 3 – January 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Research Design

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 4

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

Simon, C.A. and Wang, C., 2002. The impact of AmeriCorps service on volunteer participants: Results from a 2-year study in four western states. *Administration & Society*, 34(5), pp.522-540.

Week 4 – January 29th and 31st – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part I

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 5

Collier, D. and Levitsky, S., 1997. Democracy with adjectives: Conceptual innovation in comparative research. *World politics*, 49(3), pp.430-451.

“Front End” Paper Due

Friday, February 2nd – No Class

Week 5 – February 5th, 7th, and 9th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part II

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 6

Problem Set 2

Week 6 – February 12th, 14th, and 16th – 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.

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

Research Workshop

Week 8 – February 26th, 28th, and March 1st – Sampling and Statistical Inference, Part II

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

Empirical Research Design Paper Due

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

Week 9 – Spring Break

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

Week 10 – March 11th, 13th, and 15th – 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 3

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

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

Week 12 – March 25th, 27th, and 29th – 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 4

Week 13 – April 1st and 3rd – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 2

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 11

Harbridge, L., Krosnick, J.A. and Wooldridge, J.M., 2016. Presidential Approval and Gas Prices: Sociotropic or Pocketbook Influence?. In *Political Psychology* (pp. 260-289). Psychology Press.

Friday, January 12th – MPSA – No Class

Week 14 – April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 3

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 12

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.

Problem Set 5

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

Selection for Schwabish's Better Presentations

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

Research Workshop

Week 17 – April 29th – Final Paper & Poster Due

Tuesday, April 30th – Reading Day