

POLS 4155 – Analyzing Political Behavior
Class Time: MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm
Classroom: Baldwin 301
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

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) **Think** in a more nuanced and scientific way about human behavior.
- (1.2) **Develop** proficiency in the conceptualization and measurement of human behavior.
- (1.3) **Recognize** the diversity of research design opportunities available to you for studying human behavior in political science and beyond.
- (1.4) **Demonstrate** proficiency in the collection and analysis of behavioral data.
- (1.5) **Design** and execute a behavior political science study.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Textbooks

None! This class is will make use of the tremendous, publicly available resources made available to us by the public good we call scientific knowledge. Most of our class readings will be journal articles published in reputable peer-reviewed academic journals as well as book/book chapters made available electronically to you as students at the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!).

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 research paper, which is broken up into three parts, and a series of five problem sets.

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>	(20%)	September 20 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(10%)	October 11 th
<i>Final Paper & Poster</i>	(20%)	December 3 rd
Problem Sets	50%	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

Abled-ness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom, your breakout sessions, 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 the teaching assistant assigned to your CRN as soon as possible.

(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Silence notifications on your devices or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be excellent to each other!

(3.8) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Monday, October 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule

Week 1 – August 14th & 16th – The Scientific Study of Behavior

Syllabus & Introductions

Class Handout – Study Sheet

Whitt, S. *et al.* 2024 'Explaining Partisan Gaps in Satisfaction with Democracy after Contentious Elections: Evidence from a US 2020 Election Panel Survey', *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 57(1), pp. 8–15.

Drop/Add Begins – Wednesday, August 14th

Week 2 – August 19th, 21st, & 23rd – Concepts and Measures, Part I

Selection from Kellstedt and Whitten

Drop/Add Ends – Tuesday, August 20th

Week 3 – August 26th, 28th, & 30th – Concepts and Measures, Part II

Selection from Milgram's Obedience to Authority

Cohen, D., Nisbett, R.E., Bowdle, B.F. and Schwarz, N., 1996. Insult, aggression, and the southern culture of honor: An experimental ethnography. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 70(5), p.945.

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.

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

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

Week 4 – September 4th & 6th – Sampling

Cambridge 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.

Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd – No Classes

Week 5 – September 9th, 11th, & 13th – Data Collection and Management

(eLC Content Folder)

Week 6 – September 16th, 18th, & 20th – Survey Research, Part 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.

Gierzynski, A. and Seger, J., 2011. Harry Potter and the millennials: the boy-who-lived and the politics of a muggle generation. In *APSA 2011 Annual Meeting Paper*.

Front End Paper Due – Friday, September 6th

Week 7 – September 23rd, 25th, & 27th – Survey Research, Part II

(eLC Content Folder)

Week 8 – September 30th, October 2nd, & 3rd – Laboratory Experiments, Pt. I

Cambridge 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.

Week 9 – October 7th, 9th, & 11th – Laboratory Experiments, Pt. II

Cambridge 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.

Semester Midpoint – Monday, October 7th

Week 10 – October 14th, 16th, & 18th - Field Experiments

Cambridge 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.

Empirical Research Design Paper Due – Friday, October 18th

Week 11 – October 21st, 22nd, & 25th – Working Around Self-Regulation

Cambridge 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.

Withdrawal Deadline – Monday, October 21st

Week 12 – October 28th & 30th – Games, Pt. I

Cambridge Handbook, Chapter 7

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

Fall Break – Friday, November 1st

Week 13 – November 4th, 6th, & 8th – Games, Pt. II

Cambridge 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.

Election Day – Tuesday, November 5th

GPSA Annual Conference – Friday, November 8th – No Class

Week 14 – November 11th & 13th – Workshop Week

No Class – Friday, November 15th

Week 15 – November 18th, 20th, & 22nd – 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

Week 16 – November 25th – Rainy Day Readings & Thanksgiving Break

Pacheco, J., & Fletcher, J. (2015). Incorporating health into studies of political behavior: Evidence for turnout and partisanship. *Political Research Quarterly*, 68(1), 104-116.

Ojeda, C. (2015). Depression and political participation. *Social Science Quarterly*, 96(5), 1226-1243.

Gomez, B. T., Hansford, T. G., & Krause, G. A. (2007). “The Republicans should pray for rain: Weather, turnout, and voting in US presidential elections.” *The Journal of Politics*, 69(3), 649-663.

Fraga, B. L., & Hersh, E. (2010). “Voting costs and voter turnout in competitive elections.” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

Thanksgiving Holiday – Wednesday, November 27th – Friday, November 29th – No Classes

Week 17 – December 2nd & 3rd– 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.

Final Paper Due – Tuesday, December 3rd

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, December 3rd – Friday Schedule in Effect

Reading Day – Wednesday, December 4th