

POLS 4150H – Research Methods in Political Science

Class Time – T/TR 11:10am – 12:25pm

Classroom – Baldwin Hall 302

Instructor – Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours – Mondays and Wednesdays 9am – 10am

Office Location – Baldwin Hall 380

Email – jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Prerequisites – (POLS 1101/POLS 1101E/POLS 1101H/POLS 1101S) and Honors

I. Course Description

Issues in research design and data analysis in political science. Focus will be on role of theory, hypothesis testing, measurement, and statistical applications used to address political research questions. Recommended for majors, especially those planning to attend graduate school in political science.

The Student Learning Outcomes are as follows:

- Students will be introduced to the political research process.
- Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and political inquiry.
- Students will examine issues in conceptualization and operationalization in political science by examining previous research.
- Students will formulate a research question, collect and analyze data to test that question, and write up results.
- Students will learn real world data analysis through the development of technical skills.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Textbooks

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

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%)	September 12 th
<i>Empirical Research Design Paper</i>	(20%)	October 10 th
<i>Final Paper & Poster</i>	(20%)	December 2 nd
Problem Sets	50%	Weekly-ish

(2.3) 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) UGA Student Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

A culture of honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

(3.2) Class AI Policy

This is a research methodology course. The use of artificial intelligence tools at any stage in your coursework is strictly prohibited.

(3.3) 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, your breakout sessions, and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For information about accommodations please contact the Accessibility & Testing (A&T) Office as soon as possible. For more information, please visit the A&T website (<https://accessibility.uga.edu/>). The A&T Office is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone (706.542.8719).

(3.4) 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.

(3.5) 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 (<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.6) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). If you are late for an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science but require my permission.

(3.7) 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. Extensions may be granted

(3.8) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

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

(3.9) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without automatically failing is Wednesday, November 12th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. UGA Well-being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community. Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

Well-being Resources: <https://well-being.uga.edu>

Student Care and Outreach: <https://sco.uga.edu>

University Health Center: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services: <https://caps.uga.edu>

or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273

Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: <https://healthpromotion.uga.edu>

Accessibility & Testing Office: <https://accessibility.uga.edu/>

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>

IV. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – August 14th – Course and Class Introductions

Course Introduction and Syllabus

Introducing Yourself Assignment

Week 2 – August 19th & 21st – Thinking Scientifically About Politics

Reading Assignments:

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.

End of Drop/Add – Tuesday, August 19th

Week 3 – August 26th & 28th – The Logic of Causal Inference

Reading Assignments:

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

Week 4 – September 2nd & 4th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part I

Reading Assignments:

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.

Adcock, R. and Collier, D., 2001. Measurement validity: A shared standard for qualitative and quantitative research. *American political science review*, 95(3), pp.529-546.

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

Week 5 – September 9th & 11th – Concepts, Variables, and Measurement, Part II

Reading Assignments:

Kellstedt and Whitten, Chapter 6

Högström, J., 2013. Does the choice of democracy measure matter? Comparisons between the two leading democracy indices, Freedom House and Polity IV. *Government and Opposition*, 48(2), pp.201-221.

Problem Set 2 – Measuring Social Phenomena

“Front End” Paper Due

Week 6 – September 16th & 18th – Sampling and Statistical Inference, Part I

Reading Assignments:

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 – September 23rd & 25th – Sampling and Statistical Inference, Part II

Reading Assignments:

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

Week 8 – September 30th & October 2nd – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

Week 9 – October 7th & 9th – Bivariate Hypothesis Testing

Reading Assignments:

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.

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 3 – Statistical Hypothesis Testing

Empirical Research Design Paper Due

Semester Midpoint – Monday, October 6th

Week 10 – October 14th & 16th – Statistical Modeling and Hypothesis Testing

Reading Assignments:

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.

Week 11 – October 21st & 23rd – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 1

Reading Assignments:

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.

Week 12 – October 28th & 30th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 2

Reading Assignments:

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.

Problem Set 4 – Regression Analysis

Week 13 – November 4th & 6th – Multivariate Regression Models, Part 3

Reading Assignments:

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 – Interactive Modeling

Week 14 – November 11th & 13th – Presenting Research

Reading Assignments:

Selection for Schwabish's Better Presentations

Withdrawal Deadline – Wednesday, November 12th

Week 15 – November 18th & 20th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

Week 16 – November 25th – Research Workshop

Research Workshop

Thanksgiving Break – Wednesday, November 26th - Friday, November 28th

Week 17 – December 2nd – Friday Schedule in Effect – No Class

Final Paper & Poster Due

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, December 2nd

Reading Day - Wednesday, December 3rd