Introduction to Political Analysis
PS 372—001 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM
Gregory W. Saxton
Spring 2016

Course Information:
Course Number PS 372—001
Chemistry-Physics Bldg. 103
Lecture: MWF 11-11:50 AM

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Gregory W Saxton
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Office: Patterson Office Tower 1606
Office Hours: WF 9-10:30 AM

Overview:

This course is meant to familiarize students with political science research methodology, as well as provide the skills necessary to understand and conduct political science research. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify and locate academic sources on a variety of political and social science topics, to identify the particular research designs used in these studies, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of these studies, and to utilize these publications and research methods in future political science courses. All students graduating with a BA in political science should have a working knowledge of the discipline, meaning they should be aware of current scholarly debates and be able to acknowledge that there are many ways to "do political science." The analytical skills you will gain in this course will be useful to you as you finish your undergraduate careers, and the professional development skills you gain will have a variety of applications in future academic and non-academic settings.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to give students the skills they need to be effective consumers of political science research. Specifically, this course will enable students to achieve the following goals by the end of the semester:
1. Understand the basic goals of social science research
2. Identify and differentiate between a number diverse research methods currently employed by political scientists (emphasis on quantitative methods)
3. Be able to locate and summarize peer reviewed sources through library databases
4. Learn how to formulate an appropriate research question, develop testable hypotheses, and operationalize concepts in order to test said hypotheses
5. Have a working knowledge of basic descriptive statistics, as well as be able to interpret the types of regression analyses that appear in published articles
6. Gain enhanced collaboration and presentation skills.

Course Materials:

<u>Required Texts</u>
Students will need to purchase the following book for the semester. The book can be purchased or rented through the UK bookstore, and those same options are available through certain online retailers, sometimes at a reduced cost. Students are expected to read the assigned reading *before* coming to class.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph, H. T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. 2016. *Political Science Research Methods.* Sage CQ Press, Eighth Edition. ISBN 9781506307824.

Additional required readings not listed here will be made available on Canvas. Additional readings will be posted no later than the Friday of the week before you're required to read them.

<u>Canvas</u>
Canvas will be used to post course announcements, course materials, and grades. Students should access this course on Canvas as soon as possible, so that problems do not affect performance in the course. Students who have problems accessing Canvas are encouraged to consult: elearning@uky.edu

<u>Calculator</u>
Students should bring a basic calculator to class with them. Some of the work we will do and that you may be tested over involves the manual calculation of basic descriptive statistics. As long as the calculator as a square-root button, it should work. Calculators on computers or cell phones will not be permitted for tests.

Evaluation:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Group-based assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Article Review	15%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
	100%

Participation (10%): We will cover a lot of new information this semester in a very short period of time, and it could be easy to fall behind. That said, students are expected to come to class, to participate in discussion, and to meaningfully contribute to all group-based assignments. Attendance will be recorded daily in order to evaluate class participation and will result in a percentage grade at the end of the semester.

Group-based assignments (25%): In this course, we will have weekly in-class activities in which we will use a team-based learning approach to apply the material we've covered. For those activities requiring some sort of advance preparation, I will make sure to communicate this when necessary. Generally, the only thing you will need to do in order to prepare for class is to complete the assigned readings. Regardless of whether or not we are having an activity, I always expect that readings be

completed *before* class. To encourage attendance and to make sure everyone stays on top of the reading, the dates for in-class activities will not necessarily be announced in advance – in other words, you have to come to class to get credit for participating in an activity. We will do 11 activities this semester, and your grade will be calculated based on your best 10. That means if something unexpected happens and you miss *one* activity, you won't be penalized. *Additionally, in order to encourage an equal contribution from ALL group members, 5 percentage points of the 25 will come from your peers' evaluations at the end of the semester.*

Exams (35%): Students will take a midterm exam (15%) and a final exam (20%) during the semester. The midterm exam will cover material covered during the first part of the semester. The final exam will be comprehensive with a heavy emphasis on the material covered during the last part of the semester. Date for exams are in the schedule section of the syllabus. The date for the final exam is also on the registrar's final exam page, which can be found here http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/final-exam-schedule-spring

Article Review (15%): One of the stated goals of this course is that by the end of the semester, students will be competent consumers of political science research, and this is best achieved by reading published works. During the first full week of class, students will be assigned a recent political science journal article. Student will then read the article and answer a series of questions about its research design. At the end of the semester, students will return to this same article and write a 4 to 5-page article review (instructions will be distributed closer to the due date). This two-part assignment will give both you and me a better sense of what you already know, as well as what you need to learn more about. The initial assignment will be 5% of your course grade, and the final paper will be 10%.

Annotated Bibliography (15%): Another stated goal of this class is that you will be able to locate and summarize scholarly articles using library databases. To familiarize you with this process, as well as expose you to research you're actually interested in, I am having each student complete a short annotated bibliography in lieu of writing a larger research paper. The research you for this assignment will be useful to you in upper level classes that require research papers. Detailed information about this assignment will be distributed later in the semester.

Grading Scale: Each assignment will receive a percentage grade and both the midterm and final grade formulas will result in a grade percentage. These percentages correspond to the following grading scale:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 or below	E

Expectations

<u>Attendance</u> – Attendance in this class is *not* mandatory, however students cannot expect to do well if they do not come to class. Students who fail to come to class can easily fall behind with the course material, and their grades for participation in discussion and group activities will suffer. I will record the roll every day in order to evaluate class participation. That said, attendance and *active participation* is required for full participation points.

<u>Make-Up Opportunities</u>: *Missing an Exam*
I permit makeup exams only in very rare and extreme situations. If you will be missing an exam for a University-approved reason (http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/policies.php), you must provide written notice at least 1 week *in advance of the exam.* If you miss an exam due to an unexpected emergency (e.g., a serious personal or family health issue), *you will be expected to notify me immediately of your situation and provide formal documentation.* If your reason does not, in my view, meet the standards for an excused or emergency absence, no makeup exam will be offered. Additionally, I will offer only one alternative time for the makeup exam, which it is your responsibility to attend (no exceptions). Additionally:
- A student must submit any written documentation supporting an excused absence within no more than **one week** after the absence, except when the absence is for the observation of a major religious holiday.
- An absence for a major religious holiday requires **advance written** notification. (The amount of time required is left to each instructor's discretion and should be stated in the syllabus.) Also, "[f]aculty shall use their judgment as to whether the [religious] observance in question is important enough to warrant" an excused absence. SR 5.2.4.2.D. That same section also provides that "the presumption should be in favor of a student's request." Id.

<u>Submission of assignments</u>: All major assignments are expected to be uploaded to Canvas using Turnitin. Turnitin will check these assignments for instances of plagiarism. I expect all assignments to be turned in by the date/time listed on the syllabus. *I will deduct 10% for each day an assignment is late. Late assignments will NOT be accepted more than 5 days after the due date, which will result in a 0 for the grade.*

<u>Academic Accommodations</u>: If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Suite 407, Multidisciplinary Science Building, 725 Rose Street, 859-257-2754, *dtbeac1@uky.edu)* for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities. We can then collaborate for the best solution.

<u>Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism</u>

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students who are caught engaging in plagiarism or cheating will receive an automatic E on the assignment. See the webpage at the Office of Academic Ombud Services for a definition of plagiarism, how to avoid it, and UK's academic offense policy(http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf).

See Students Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 6.3
http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html for UK's policy on academic integrity.

<u>Classroom Behavior</u>: Please be respectful to others in this class and engage in civil discourse when we discuss topics with a diversity of perspectives. Laptops are permitted for note taking only, and cellphones should be silenced and put away. Please minimize distractions by not reading newspapers/magazines or carrying on conversations. I reserve the right to deduct participation points for any behavior I deem to be disrespectful or distracting.

Course Schedule	
(Please note that the reading list and schedule of activities is subject to change) *Abbreviations*: JRM=Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff	
Week 1	**Course Introduction**
Jan 13 Wednesday	Course overview, introductions
Jan 15 Friday	Read: "Ten Things Political Scientists Know that You Don't" (Canvas)
Week 2	**Introduction to Political Science Research** **Group Activity #1**
Jan 18 Monday	No class: MLK Day (University Holiday)
Jan 20 Wednesday	Read: JRM chapter 1 "Introduction"
Jan 22 Friday	Group assignment, getting to know your team Article Review Part 1 due when class starts – upload and bring hard copy to class
Week 3	**The Empirical Approach to Political Science** **Group Activity #2**
Jan 25 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 2 "The Empirical Approach to Political Science"
Jan 27 Wednesday	Read: "Political Science Methodology" by Box-Steffensmeier, Brady, and Collier (Canvas)
Jan 29 Friday	Read: "Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science" by Almond (Canvas)
Week 4	**Literature Review, Hypotheses, & Concepts** **Group Activity #3**
Feb 1 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 3 "Beginning the Research Process" Read: "Doing a Literature Review" by Knopf (Canvas)
Feb 3 Wednesday	Read JRM Chapter 4 "The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables" Read: Buren et al. "Election Laws, Mobilization, and Turnout" (Canvas) Last day to drop classes without a "W" on your transcript
Feb 5 Friday	Read: Parkinson "Organizing Rebellion" (Canvas) Using library databases to build a literature review

	Discuss Annotated Bibliography Assignment, APSA Citations, & Plagiarism	
Week 5	**Measurement and Causal Inference** **Group Activity #4**	
Feb 8 Monday	Read: JRM Chapter 5 "The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Measurement"	
Feb 10 Wednesday	Read: "Concepts, Theories, and Numbers: A Checklist for Constructing, Evaluating, and Using Concepts or Quantitative Measures" by Goertz (Canvas)	
Feb 12 Friday	Read: "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited" by Cheibub, Gandhi, and Vreeland (Canvas) Additional Readings (Canvas) that use measurements of regime type. Each group is responsible for one of the following: Jamal and Nooruddin (2010) "The Democratic Utility of Trust" Keith, Poe, and Tate (2009) "Is the Law a Mere Parchment Barrier to Human Rights Abuses?"	
Week 6	**Research Design: Experiments** **Group Activity #5**	
Feb 15 Monday	Read: JRM Chapter 6 "Research Design: Making Causal Inference"	
Feb 17 Wednesday	Read: "Experimentation in Political Science" by Morton and Williams (Canvas)	
Feb 19 Friday	Reading – Selection of readings that employ experimental methods. Each group will be responsible for reading one of the following articles (Canvas): Pepinsky et al. (2012) "Testing Islam's Political Advantage" Lassen (2005) "The Effect of Information on Voter Turnout"	
Week 7	**Sampling** **Group Activity #6**	
Feb 22 Monday	Read JRM chapter 7 "Sampling"	
Feb 24 Wednesday	Read: "Evaluating Online Labor Markets for Experimental Research: Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk" (Canvas)	
Feb 26 Friday	Discuss probability sampling Individual sampling assignment due by Sunday evening Annotated bibliography due by 5:00 PM	
Week 8	**Exam Week**	
Feb 29 Monday	Finish up sampling discussion	
March 2 Wednesday	Midterm review session in class	
March 4 Friday	Midterm exam	
Week 9	**Survey Research and Using Archived Survey Data** **Group Activity #7**	
March 7 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 10 "Survey Research and Interviewing." Introduction to online survey platforms	
March 9 Wednesday	Read: "How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy, and How Can We Measure It" by Inglehart (Canvas)	
March 11	Reading – selection of articles that use survey data. Each group will be responsible for	

Friday	reading one article and one codebook (Canvas): Arab Barometer codebook and Hoffman and Jamal (2014) LAPOP codebook and Escobar-Lemmon and Ross (2014)
March 14, 16, &18 – SPRING BREAK	
Week 10	**Descriptive Statistics and Making Sense of Data** **Group Activity #8**
March 21 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 11 "Making Sense of Data: Part 1" (348-368)
March 23 Wednesday	Read JRM Chapter 11 "Making Sense of Data: Part II" (369-386) Read "Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science" (Canvas)
March 25 Friday	Descriptive Statistics Activity
Week 11	**Statistical Inference** **Group Activity #9**
March 28 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 12 "Statistical Inference"
March 30 Wednesday	Constructing confidence intervals
April 1 Friday	Reading that uses difference-of-means hypothesis testing – Everyone read: Lupu (2013) "Party Brands and Partisanship" (Canvas)
Week 12	**Bivariate Relationships and Basic Regression**
April 4 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 13 "Investigating the Relationship between Two Variables" (Correlations: 412-431)
April 6 Wednesday	The Intuition behind Regression Analysis Read JRM Chapter 13 "Investigating the Relationship Between Two Variables" (Regression Analysis 478-515)
April 8 Friday	Statistical Inference Assignment due on Canvas by 11:59 PM
Week 13	**Regression Analysis** **Group Activity #10**
April 11 Monday	Read *Applied Regression* by Lewis-Beck Chapter 1 (Fitting a line) (Canvas)
April 13 Wednesday	Read *Applied Regression* by Lewis-Beck Chapter 2 (Assumptions and Inferences) (Canvas)
April 15 Friday	Activity Calculating Regression Lines Peer reviews due on Canvas by 11:59 PM
Week 14	**Multivariate Linear Regression** **Group Activity #11**
April 18 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 14 "Multivariate Analysis: Part I" (516-558)
April 20 Wednesday	Read *Applied Regression* by Lewis-Beck Chapter 3 (Multiple Regression) (Canvas)
April 22 Friday	In class activity – Interpreting multivariate regression results Final article review due by 5:00 PM (upload to Canvas)
Week 15	**Logistic Regression**

April 25 Monday	Read JRM Chapter 14 "Multivariate Regression: Part II" (559-582)
April 27 Wednesday	In class activity – Interpreting logistic regression results
April 29	Final Exam Review
Final Exam: Monday May 2 at 10:30 AM	