This course is designed to introduce you to the world of social science and political science in particular. As a student in this course you will gain an understanding of what it means to be “science literate”, learn how to formulate a research question and figure out how to answer it using the proper research methodology. You will also be required to understand how to look at quantitative data and understand what it means. This can sound scary to political science majors—trust me….I know…. I used to be one. My job is to convince you that research is awesome (it really is) and teach you how to go about the research process in the most efficient way possible.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain current academic research projects in politics
- Enhance critical and social scientific thinking skills in order to distinguish between scholarly and non-scholarly approaches
- Develop research questions that are answerable with a variety of methods
- Demonstrate some of the methods used by scholars of politics – this includes how data is/can be collected & analyzed and the strengths and weaknesses of different methods.
- Develop skills in designing a research project

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation counts towards 10% of your grade. Attendance will be taken during the first month or so of class to make sure that students are showing up, per the school’s attendance verification policy. It is critical that you attend class. Much of this course builds on itself so accumulated absences will take a toll on your understanding of the material.

If you are dealing with personal issues outside of class that are going to affect your work, you need to tell me in the beginning of the semester or right when the issue arises so we can discuss a path forward to make sure you are successful in the course. I am more than happy to do this and have done it for many students in the past. If you wait until the last week of class or when grades come out to tell me a dramatic story about something at home, I cannot help you. I will not make special exceptions students who wait until the last minute to tell me that there is an ongoing, personal issue and beg for an extension, an incomplete or make-up work. Knowing this now is for your own benefit.

Readings: Some days have readings and some do not. Please pay close attention to when readings are due. You should always come to class having done the readings. Instead of forcing you to purchase an expensive research textbook, I tried hard to organize this course “a-la carte” and find readings from many sources (including a couple textbooks for the more technical units) that compliment the lectures. Some of them are even….dare I say…..really interesting!

Homework Assignments:
**Small Assignments:** You will have a number of homework assignments that focus on a specific piece of the research puzzle. Instructions will be given out later in the course. You will also have one assignment where you summarize, respond to and critique a real research study.

**Big Assignments:** Your big project for the course is a research design paper. This paper will be done in two parts. The first draft (a literature review) is worth significantly less than the second draft (a lit review with a research design proposal) so that you can improve the literature review section and use my feedback for the final iteration. Extensive instructions will be given during the semester for the first and final draft of this assignment.

**Grading Breakdown (100 points total):**
- 10 points - Participation & Attendance
- 10 points - Controlling assignment
- 10 points - Measurement assignment
- 15 points - Regression assignment
- 5 points - Research paper response & critique
- 20 points - Paper Part I: Lit Review (first draft)
- 30 points - Paper Part II: Revised Lit Review and Design

**Grading Scale for Final Semester Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-74</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Late Assignments, Incompletes, Extensions and Make-Up Exams:** Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late including weekends. The first 5% kicks in immediately when class ends on the day it is due. I will not grant incompletes in the course except in cases of emergency or where university policy applies. Doctor’s notes are expected for medical excuses if an assignment is due. You do not need to give me an excuse if you miss a class where an assignment is not due.

**Office Hours:** Having trouble? Have questions? Come on by. I promise it will be helpful. Email me to schedule a time to meet.

**Syllabus Policy:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary.

**Course Evaluation Statement:** You will have the opportunity to evaluate the course towards the end of the semester through an online evaluation system. I will remind you to bring laptops that day so they can be done during the final class.

**Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending events put on by the Political Science department. Details to come.
**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism, or presenting another’s works or ideas as one’s own, is a form of stealing. The instructor reserves the right to examine any source used by the student before giving a grade on an assignment, and to give and “incomplete” in the course if necessary, to allow time to obtain sources. Students should be prepared to show source material to the instructor for the purpose of verifying information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and students will receive an F on any assignment or exam the instructor determines is in violation of the academic honesty policy.

Academic dishonesty includes the following offenses:

1) Claiming as your own work a paper written by another student.

2) Turning in a paper that contains paraphrases of someone else’s ideas but does not give proper credit to that person for those ideas.

3) Turning in a paper that is largely a restatement in your own words of a paper written by someone else, even if you give credit to that person for those ideas. The thesis and organizing principles of a paper must be your own.

4) Turning in a paper that uses the exact words of another author without using quotation marks, even if proper credit is given in a citation, or that changes the words only slightly and claims them to be paraphrases.

5) Turning in the same paper, even in a different version, for two different courses without the permission of both professors involved.

6) Using any external source (notes, books, other students, etc.) for assistance during an in-class exam, unless given permission to do so by the professor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php).

**Disability Statement:**

If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services, please feel free to come and discuss this with me during my office hours. If you are in need of accommodations for this course due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability Services at SNAP@cofc.edu or (843) 953-1431.
ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE: READINGS ARE ALL ON OAKS

Part I: Understanding Political Science (and Social Science)

Wed Aug 22 Introduction/What Do Political Scientists Study
  • No reading

Friday Aug 24 Understanding Political Science: An Empirical Approach
  • JRM pages 46-54
  • The Weekly Standard Makes a Fact-Free Argument about Political Science: Here are Some of Those Facts

Monday Aug 27 Understanding Political Science: Rational Thinking vs. Motivated Reasoning
  • How Politics Makes Us Stupid (article from Vox.com)

Wed Aug 29 Identifying a Question: Where to Start
  • Reading and Understanding Political Science (you can ignore the content in the boxes that talks about activities)

Friday Sept 31 Identifying a Question/Formulating Hypotheses
  • Blais: What Affects Voter Turnout? (This is a review article)
    o Take notes on this article and bring them to class

Monday Sept 3 Formulating Hypotheses cont.
  • GENERAL TOPIC FOR PAPER IS DUE TODAY BY EMAIL

Wed Sept 5 Writing a Literature Review I
  • Knopf: Doing a Literature Review

Friday Sept 7- NO CLASS. PROFESSOR OUT OF TOWN

Monday Sept 10 Writing a Literature Review II
  • Public Attitudes Towards Immigration THIS IS A TYPE 1 LITERATURE REVIEW
    o Take general notes on these findings so we can discuss in class

Wed Sept 12 Writing a Literature Review III
  • Public Opinion Toward Immigration Reform: The Role of Economic Motivations
    o THIS IS A TYPE 2 LITERATURE REVIEW
    o Read until it says Data, Measures and Plan of Analysis on page 862
  • Agenda Setting Public Opinion and the Issue of Immigration Reform
    o THIS IS A TYPE 2 LITERATURE REVIEW
    o Read until it says Research Design and Data Analysis in the middle of page 365
Part II: Research Design

Friday Sept 14 Measurement I: Explanation Day
• No reading

Monday Sept 17 Measurement II
• JRM Chapter 5 (until page 143)

Wed Sept 19 Measurement III: Controversial Examples
• JRM Chapter 5 (page 143-151)
• Go online and take the RACE IAT test (link on OAKS)

Friday Sept 21 Observational Studies I
• No reading

Monday Sept 24 Observational Studies II
• Implicit Racial Attitudes Predicted Vote in 2008 Election
  • 1 page write up option

Wed Sept 26 Observational Studies III
• Bartels and Achen: Blind Retrospection Electoral Responses to Drought, Flu and Shark Attacks  **Only read to page 19 where it says DROUGHTS AND FLOODS**
  • Response option

Friday Sept 28 Observational Studies IV
• No reading

Monday Oct 1 Experimental Studies I
• CONTROLLING HOMEWORK DUE

Wed Oct 3 Experimental Studies II
• Playing the Race Card in the Post Willie Horton Era
  • Response option

Friday Oct 5 Experimental Studies III
• Irrelevant Events Affect Voters Evaluations of Government Performance:
  http://www.pnas.org/content/107/29/12804.full
  • Response option

Monday Oct 8 Experimental Studies IV: Field Experiments
• LITERATURE REVIEW FIRST DRAFT DUE TODAY
Wed Oct 10 **Experimental Studies V: Games**
  - Watch the TED Talk called *Does Money Make You Mean?*
    - Response option

Friday Oct 12 **Content Analysis I**
  - No reading

Monday Oct 15 **Content Analysis II**
  - *Virginia’s Invisible Candidate: News Coverage of the Virginia 2013 Gubernatorial Campaign*
    - Response option

Wed Oct 17 **Content Analysis III**
  - *Hate Online: A Content Analysis*
    - Response option

Friday Oct 19 **Sampling I**
  - No reading

Monday Oct 22 **Sampling II**
  - *JRM Chapter 9*

Wed Oct 24 **Sampling III: Bad Science Examples!**
  - *Pollsters for Sun’s Jihadi Story Called List of Muslim Names*
  - *Is a Poll Scientific if it Excludes Half the Population?*

**Part III: Analyzing Data**

Friday Oct 26 **Making Sense of Data**
  - No Reading

Monday Oct 29 **Making Sense of Data**
  - *JRM Chapter 11 (pages 361-384)*

Wed Oct 31 **Statistical Inference and Hypothesis Testing**
  - *Introduction to Hypothesis Testing* (read until section 8.6)

Friday Nov 2 **Statistical Inference and Hypothesis Testing**
  - *Introduction to Hypothesis Testing* (read sections 8.6 until 8.9)

Monday Nov 5 **FALL BREAK- NO CLASS**

Wed Nov 7 **Difference in Means Tests**
  - No reading
Friday Nov 9  **Difference in Means Tests and Correlations**
-  **Masculine vs. Feminine Strategies in Political Ads**
  - Response option

Monday Nov 12  **Bivariate Linear Regression**
-  **Bivariate Regression Chapter**

Wed Nov 14  **Multivariate Linear Regression**
- No reading

Friday Nov 16  **Multivariate Linear Regression**
-  **Microfinance Paper**
  - Response option

Monday Nov 19  **Multivariate Linear Regression**
-  **History Made: The Rise of Republican Tim Scott**
  - Response option

Wed Nov 21  **THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS**

Friday Nov 23  **THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS**

Monday Nov 26  **FILLER DAY**
- I am purposefully leaving a filler day in the schedule in case we need to spend more time on any of the previous topics.

Wed Nov 28  **Multivariate Linear Regression**
- No reading

Friday Nov 30  **Multivariate Linear Regression**
-  **MULTIVARIATE REGRESSION HOMEWORK DUE**

Monday Dec 3  **Logistic Regression**
- No reading

Wed Dec 5  **Logistic Regression**
-  **#NeverTrump: Why Republican Members of Congress Refused to Support Their Party’s Nominee in the 2016 Presidential Election**
  - Response option

Friday Dec 7  **Final Day Wrap Up**
- Papers are due today IN CLASS and ON OAKS.