



Department of Political Science
POLS 2000 Introduction to Political Science

Welcome to POLS 2000 Introduction to Political Science

5/15/2006

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- The Course
 - Paper Syllabi are Prohibited
 - Violators Will Be Shot
 - Go to the Class Website
 - <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~kmulliga/>
 - It has Syllabus, Slides, Assignment
 - For Future Reference, Class Website Address is on the Syllabus
 - Seating Chart

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Department of Political Science

POLS 2000 (82-096): Introduction to Political Science May Session 2006

Instructor: Kenneth Mulligan, Ph.D.
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Office: Baldwin 103-E
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and by appointment
Class Meets: Every weekday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in SLC room 350
Link to Website: <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~kmulliga/>

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of politics. It is designed to help students acquire the knowledge necessary to understand, critique, and conduct social-scientific research. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in POLS 2000 to be admitted to the political science major. In this course we will discuss the foundations of political science and the path to reading, research, and writing in social science. We will discuss the design, conduct, and analysis of political science research, from survey sampling and experiments to basic data analysis and research ethics.

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Required Reading

The course requires two books and selected readings. The books have been placed on order at the UGA bookstore and the Off Campus Bookstore. (Please note that I have required these books in each of the past five semesters so you may be able to get them used or from an acquaintance who took the course) Other required readings will be made available. Please note the link to the class website is listed above.

Babbie, Earl. 2007/2004. *The Practice of Social Research*, 11th edition (new) or 10th edition (used). Belmont, Calif.: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*, 2nd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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Course Requirements and Grading

Research Paper Project

You will write a research paper for this course on a topic of interest to you. Grading of the project will be assigned in two parts. Information on both will be provided.

Writing Assignment. 20% of overall grade

A paper copy of the first writing assignment is due at the beginning of class on Monday, May 22. **The first assignment will be based on your selection of a research topic, development of a working thesis, theoretic rationale, and bibliographic research.** (Please see below for the course policy on late or missed assignments)

Final Research Paper. 25% of overall grade

A paper copy of the research paper is due at the beginning of class on Monday, June 5. (Please see below for the course policy on late or missed assignments)

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Midterm Exam. 20% of overall grade

The midterm exam will be held during the first hour of class on Friday, May 26. It will cover all the material dealt with in class discussion and reading up to the day of the exam. The midterm will consist of multiple choice questions. (Please see below for the course policy on missed exams)

Final Exam. 25% of overall grade

The final exam will be held on Wednesday, June 7 at our regular meeting time and place. The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm. (Please see below for the course policy on missed exams)

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Classroom Attendance and Participation. 10% of overall grade

Classroom participation is encouraged! We will be spending a lot of time together over the next month. It gets boring quickly having me drone on at the front of the room hour after hour. Please do us all a favor and inject some intelligence and wisdom into the discussion by raising your hand and participating when the opportunity arises.

This class meets for two hours and forty-five minutes every weekday. That is a long time. A normal semester is sixteen weeks. This Maymester is just sixteen (class) days. *We will cover a week's worth of material in class every day.*

Each day, we will take a short break about half way through the class period. Usually we will do this at about 11 a.m. *Attendance will be taken daily, and usually twice—both before and after the break.* Students who do not return after the break will lose credit for showing up that day. Your participation grade will be awarded based on my perception of your attendance and thoughtful participation in class. The university bulletin states that "students are expected to attend classes regularly." In this class, missing a day is like missing a week. Do yourself a favor. Come to class. *Every class.*

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Overview of Course Requirements

- First Writing Assignment 20% of overall grade
- Midterm Exam 25% of overall grade
- Final Term Paper 20% of overall grade
- Final Exam 25% of overall grade
- Classroom Participation 10% of overall grade

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Grading

Your first writing assignment, final research paper, midterm and final exams, and overall grade in the course will be calculated according to the following scales. The first writing assignment, final research paper, and participation grades will be awarded as the midpoint of the letter-grade range as indicated in the first column of the table below. Thus an "A" on the research paper, worth 25 percent of the overall grade, would be awarded a numerical grade of "96.5," an "A-" would be scored as a "91.5," etc. The midterm and final exam grades, as well as the overall final grade, will be awarded according to the scale in the second column. (Please see below for the policy on late assignments and missed exams)

Writing Assignment Scores	Exam and Final Grade Ranges
A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	83 - 86.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	73 - 76.99
C-	70 - 72.99
D	60 - 69.99
F	0 - 59.99

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Policy on Late Assignments and Research Papers

I regret that research papers and assignments submitted via email will **NOT** be accepted unless explicit prior permission is granted by the instructor. Late papers and assignments (those not ready to be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due) are penalized one full letter grade (e.g., from an "A" to a "B") for each day that they are late. This means that an "A" assignment turned in five days late automatically receives a failing grade. Writing assignments not turned in as paper copies at the beginning of the class in which they are due are considered late and will be penalized a full letter grade at the discretion of the instructor. *Students who find themselves turning in their writing assignment late would benefit from communicating with the instructor before turning in their late assignment.*

Policy on Missed Examinations

Missed Exams will receive a grade of zero except in cases of demonstrated, appropriate, and verifiable emergencies or tragedies or where the student has prior approval from the instructor. In cases of missed exams excused by the instructor, a makeup exam will be rescheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Policy on Academic Honesty

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own, done exclusively for this course. Instances of suspected cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's ideas or words without proper attribution) will be dealt with in accordance with the university's policy on academic honesty. Please note that penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an excuse for cheating or plagiarism. If you have any questions about what is or is not cheating or plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services office will be accommodated according to university policy. For more information please contact Disabilities Services at 542-8719.

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Overview of Topics We Will Cover

Foundations: Reading, Writing, and Research in Political Science

Week 1

- Tues., 5/16 Politics as Social Science
Reading: Babbie ch. 1 and 2 (esp. p. 43-60)
- Wed., 5/17 Academic Sources, Citation, and Quotation
Reading: Babbie ch. 17, Booth et al. ch. 5 and Appendix
- Thurs., 5/18 Research Topic, Question, Hypothesis, and Rationale
Reading: Booth et al. ch. 1-4
- Fri., 5/19 Writing the Research Paper
Reading: Booth et al. ch. 7-14

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Research Design

Week 2

- Mon., 5/22 Theory Building and Hypotheses
Reading: (Review) Babbie ch. 1
ASSIGNMENT # 1 DUE
- Tues., 5/23 Introduction to Research Design
Reading: (Review) Babbie ch. 2
- Wed., 5/24 Measurement
Reading: Babbie ch. 5
- Thurs., 5/25 Statistical Sampling and Why it Matters
Reading: Babbie ch. 7
- Fri., 5/26 Hour #1: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
Hour #2: Statistical Sampling, Cont.

Week 3

- Mon., 5/29 MEMORIAL DAY: NO CLASS
- Tues., 5/30 Experiments in Political Science
Reading: Babbie ch. 8
- Wed., 5/31 Research Ethics
Reading: Babbie ch. 3

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Data Analysis

Week 3 Cont.

Thurs., 6/1 Coding the Data and Introduction to Univariate Statistics
Reading: Babbie ch. 14

Fri., 6/2 Univariate Statistics, Cont.
Testing Hypotheses: Assessing Relationships Between Variables
Reading: Babbie ch. 16

Week 4

Mon., 6/5 **FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS**
Testing Hypotheses, Cont.

Tues., 6/6 Statistical Significance

Wed., 6/7 FINAL EXAM



- Tips ...
 - Courtesy
 - Show Up on Time
 - Be Discreet Coming & Going
 - Discussion
 - ADL's in Class (Eating, Sleeping, etc.)



- Tips, Cont.
 - Look for Information on the Syllabus
 - We May Get Behind the Syllabus
 - Know Where We Are in Course
 - We Will Follow Sequence Unless Noted



- Tips, Cont.
 - Welcome to Political Science!
 - This Ain't High School
 - Take Good Notes in Class
 - If We Discuss It, It May Be on Exam
 - Do Assigned Reading (Before Class)
 - Start Assignment Immediately and Work on it Daily
 - **You** are Responsible for Your Grade in this Course

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