



The University of Georgia

Department of Political Science

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

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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.

**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*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition (new) or 10<sup>th</sup> edition (used). Belmont, Calif.: Thomson/Wadsworth.

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



## **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.

#### **First 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, abstract or summary, and references. (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)

#### **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)

#### **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. This 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.*

(Classroom attendance and participation continued on next page)



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.*

### 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

### 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  | 96.5                      | 93 - 100                    |
| A- | 91.5                      | 90 - 92.99                  |
| B+ | 88.5                      | 87 - 89.99                  |
| B  | 85                        | 83 - 86.99                  |
| B- | 81.5                      | 80 - 82.99                  |
| C+ | 78.5                      | 77 - 79.99                  |
| C  | 75                        | 73 - 76.99                  |
| C- | 71.5                      | 70 - 72.99                  |
| D  | 65                        | 60 - 69.99                  |
| F  | 30                        | 0 - 59.99                   |



### **Policy on Late Assignments and Research Papers**

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.

### **Tentative Class Schedule**

Please note that that the class schedule below is a guideline. Actual material covered in class will deviate from the schedule according to the progress of the class. Unless otherwise indicated, the class follow the order of the topics as listed in the schedule. *It is important that students be aware of where we are in the progress of the course and where we deviate from this schedule.* This will be made clear in class by the instructor.



## 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

### 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



## 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., and  
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