

Political Science 202

Introduction to Political Analysis

Fall 2014

Professor Jonathan Hanson
johanson@syr.edu
324 Eggers Hall, 443-4032
Office Hours: Fridays 10:00-12:00 pm

The purpose of this course is to help political science majors build skills for interpreting, conducting, and presenting political science research. These skills include: basic research and data collection practices, techniques for measuring political science concepts, hypothesis testing, interpretation of statistical evidence, and the presentation of findings in a clear and compelling manner.

Teaching Assistants

Sunghee Cho
scho10@syr.edu
100H Eggers Hall

Jeff Treistman
jptreist@syr.edu
100H Eggers Hall

Readings

The following book is required. It is available for purchase or rental at the Syracuse University Bookstore and is available on reserve at the Bird Library:

- Pollock, Philip H. 2012. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 4th ed. If not buying from the SU Bookstore, be sure that you get the correct edition!

Other readings are available on electronic reserve via Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

Students are expected to read all assignments. Readings should be completed concurrently with lectures and before the Friday discussion section each week. All homework assignments are expected to be handed in by the stated deadlines. Late homework will receive a grade deduction of three and one-third points per day. No credit is possible for an assignment once graded assignments have been returned to other students; instead, you should complete the make-up problem set in such cases. You are responsible for printing your own assignments. Homework

is not to be turned in by email unless otherwise stated.

Midterm exams will be administered in class on October 6 and November 19. In lieu of a final exam, students are assigned an 8-10 page paper that identifies a clear research question (hypothesis) and puts that question to the test using an original data analysis. In this paper, students are expected to apply the material from the rest of the course on how political research is conducted and presented in written form. Past experience shows that students who get started early on this paper by developing their topic and identifying a source of data are able to produce much better papers. The paper is due on December 12th at 4:00 pm. Since this deadline is stated well in advance, students should plan ahead to avoid conflicts with work in other courses. Late papers will be penalized.

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Section/Participation: 15%
- Midterm Exam #1: 20%
- Midterm Exam #2: 20%
- Assignments: 20%
- Research Paper: 25%

Overall, grades of "A" are given for work that is excellent, showing mastery of the material and the ability to use it creatively. Grades of "B" are for work that is good, with solid understanding of the material and the ability to apply it according to direction. Grades of "C" reflect work that is average/fair. Lower grades are given for work that is poor or substandard.

Attendance Policy

My assumption is that you are here at Syracuse University to make the most of your educational opportunities and to prepare yourselves for your future careers. Over your years in college, tens of thousands of dollars are spent for you to have this opportunity. That should be motivation enough for you to take responsibility for your education. Since participation in the discussion sections is an important part of the course, absence from section will be reflected in your participation grade. Additionally, I reserve the option of making lecture attendance part of the participation grade by taking attendance or by giving in-class assignments. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in an grade of zero. Please note that absences due to medical reasons will require documentation from the Health Center or other relevant medical authorities.

Religious Observances

SUs religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice → Student Services

→ Enrollment → My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

Technology in the Classroom

Use of laptops for note-taking purposes is permitted. Students are expected to show common courtesy to avoid distracting fellow students. Any distracting use of electronic devices may lead to your dismissal from the classroom.

Academic Integrity

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

Here are some kinds of academic integrity violations that have been observed in this course: submitting a paper written for another course, making false statements regarding why a deadline has been missed, making a false statement that work has been turned in, and failing to properly cite the work of others. When these violations are uncovered, appropriate action is taken, including a grade of zero for the assignment or exam in question.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located at 804 University Avenue, room 309, or call 315-443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities "Accommodation Authorization Letters," as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs, although I cannot arrange for disability-related accommodations.

August 25: Introduction and Course Mechanics

August 27: What is Political Science?

- Pollock, Introduction.
- Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. "It Isn't Rocket Science, but . . ." In *Analyzing Politics*, 2nd. ed., chap. 1. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. (Blackboard)
- Monroe, Alan C. 2000. "The Scientific Study of Research Questions." In *Essentials of Political Research*, chap. 1. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. (Blackboard)

September 3: Concepts and Measurement

- Pollock, Chapter 1.

September 8: Variables

- Pollock, Chapter 2.

September 10: Hypotheses

- Pollock, Chapter 3.
- Problem Set 1 due in section on Friday, September 12.

September 15: Literature Search and the Literature Review

- Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. "Doing a Literature Review." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 31(1): 127-132.
- Baglione, Lisa A. 2012. "Learning Proper Citation Forms, Finding the Scholarly Debate, and Summarizing and Classifying Arguments: The Annotated Bibliography." in *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*, chap. 3. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

September 17: Methods Toolbox → Experiments and Quasi-Experiments

- Pollock, Chapter 4, pp. 78-84.

September 22: Methods Toolbox → Quantitative vs. Qualitative

- Literature Search assignment due in lecture.
- Brians, Craig, Lars Willnat, Jarol B. Manheim, and Richard C. Rich. 2011. "Designing Your Research and Choosing Your Qualitative and Quantitative Methods." In *Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods*, chap. 4. Boston: Longman. (Blackboard)

September 24: Methods Toolbox → The Comparative Method

- He, Kai. 2013. "Case Study and the Comparative Method." In *Political Science Research in Practice*, chap. 3. New York: Routledge. (Blackboard)
- Gerring, John. 2001. "Methods." In *Social Science Methodology*, chap. 9. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Blackboard)

September 29: Methods Toolbox → Case Studies and Process-Tracing

- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. "What are case studies? How should they be performed?" In *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, chap. 2. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Blackboard)
- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett. 2005. "The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison." In *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, chap. 3. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Blackboard)
- Problem Set 2 due in lecture.

October 1: Review of Part I of Course

- Optional make-up of Problem Set 1 due in lecture.

October 6: Exam #1

October 8: Preparing for the Research Paper

October 13 & 15: Using Data for Comparisons and Cross-Tabulations

- Pollock, Chapter 4, pp. 84-97, and Chapter 5.
- Optional make-up of Problem Set 2 due in lecture October 15.

October 20 & 22: Sampling and Surveys

- Pollock, Chapter 6.
- Monroe, Alan C. 2000. "Survey Research." In *Essentials of Political Research*, chap. 5. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. (Blackboard)
- Problem Set 3 due in section on October 24.

October 27 & 29: Significance Testing

- Pollock, Chapter 7. Omit the section on "Measures of Association," pp. 169-176.

November 3: Correlation

- Problem Set 4 due in lecture.
- Pollock, Chapter 8, pp. 182-187.

November 5 & 10: Linear Regression

- Optional make-up of Problem set 3 due in lecture on November 10.
- Pollock, Chapter 8, pp. 187-206.

November 12: Data Analysis in Practice

- Problem Set 5 due in section on November 14.

November 17: Review of Part II of Course

- Optional make-up of Problem Set 4 due in lecture.

November 19: Exam #2

December 1: Making Effective Arguments → Political Science Writing

- Wilhoit, Stephen. 2009. "The Elements of Persuasive Academic Arguments." In *A Brief Guide to Writing Academic Arguments*, chap. 2. New York: Longman. (Blackboard)

December 3: Making Effective Arguments → Visual Presentation of Data

- Tufte, Edward R. 1983. "Data-Ink and Graphical Redesign." In *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, chap. 4. Cheshire, Connecticut: Graphics Press. (Blackboard)
- Optional make-up of Problem Set 5 due in lecture.

Friday, December 12: Final Paper Due at 4:00 pm