### Syllabus Day (i.e. Welcome)

POSC 3410 – Quantitative Methods in Political Science

Steven V. Miller

Department of Political Science





Familiarize students with the topic of the course and the instructor's expectations.

### Course Objectives

- 1. Understand concepts and how we operationalize abstract concepts for the sake of testing.
- 2. Delineate variables among various types, like nominal, ordinal and interval.
- 3. Put together a formal research design to address questions of interest in the study of politics.
- 4. Express why the logic of control is vital to any good research design.
- 5. Understand important elements of data, like central tendency and spread.
- 6. Become familiar with advanced topics like non-normal responses, Bayesian thinking, and post-estimation simulation.
- 7. Learn the R programming language, which should be a major addition to a résumé.

#### **Books**

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten (2013). *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 2nd. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
Pollock III, Philip H. (2016). *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 5th. Washington DC: CQ Press.

## **Grading Policy**

(Due) Date	Percent of Grade
Periodically	30%
before Oct 1. 10:45 a.m.	20%
before Nov. 28, 10:00 a.m.	20%
<i>before</i> Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.	30%
	Periodically before Oct 1. 10:45 a.m. before Nov. 28, 10:00 a.m.

Check syllabus for more information about the homework and paper requirements.

### Attendance/Participation Policy

I'd otherwise go on a big spiel here about the importance of attending class, but... lol...

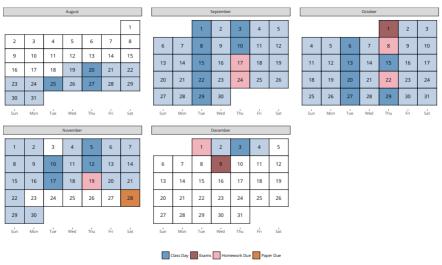
#### For this semester:

- Attendance is assumed not required.
- Please make it a point to attend (online) lectures.



# pleased to unveil my 2020 teaching strategy: "don't worry about grades, just learn something and please don't die"

5:32 PM · Aug 18, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Notable dates: Fall Break (Nov. 3... please vote), Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 23-27)

### **Email Policy**

I'm usually quick to respond to student e-mails. However, I may not if:

- 1. You could answer your question by reading the syllabus.
- 2. You missed a class for which there was no exam.
- 3. You want to know what you missed for the class you skipped.
- 4. You're protesting a grade without specific objections.
  - Read the syllabus about protesting a grade.
- 5. You want to know how many classes you missed.
- 6. You're requesting an extension on an assignment.
- 7. You're protesting that a late assignment is not actually "late".
- 8. You're grade-grubbing.
- 9. You want an extra credit opportunity.

### **Disabilities Policy**

I'm more than happy to accommodate, but:

- The student has to take the intiative. I can't.
- Do let me know privately after class if I should expect to hear from SAS soon.

### My Contact Information

- *Name*: Steve Miller (as in the band)
- E-mail: svmille@clemson.edu
- Office Hours: ¯\\_(`ソ)\_/¯
- Office: ¯\\_(`ソ)\_/¯
- Website: posc3410.svmiller.com

#### Additional Course Materials

I do like making lectures publicly available, though.

- Check course website at posc3410.svmiller.com
- Check my Github repository (just in case): github.com/svmiller/posc3410

I encourage the student to take initiative to keep track of their grade through the semester.

#### My Expectations

I come off as a bit cruel in my expectations.

- I expect a lot, and I expect a commitment from you.
- Otherwise, why bother? Your job is to become "pro-ready."

I also expect it to be a bit difficult for you.

- My philosophy: if you 100% understand something the first time you read it, you didn't learn anything.
- Read and re-read if necessary.
- Lectures should help, but they're not sufficient. You need to read.

I take seriously the "science" of political science.

• This may not be intuitive, but I'm also eager to help in-class or office hours.

#### You Have Homework!

#### Basically, read these on my website (see course materials):

- A Beginner's Guide to Using R
- Reading a Regression Table: A Guide for Students
- The American Statistical Association's Statement on p-values: Context,
   Process, and Purpose
- Taking Good Notes
- Dos and Dont's of Writing for Students
- Assorted Tips for Students on Writing Research Papers
- Exam Grading Policy
- Writing a Prospectus
- Prospectus Example
- Research Design Paper Instructions
- Fun with Attendance and Grades (i.e. Students Should Attend Class)
- The Educational Power of Discomfort
- Everybody Writes: A Web Content Approach for Students

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