

POLI706: Advanced Methods of Political Analysis

Matthew Charles Wilson

Fall 2024 (Updated: 06/03/24)

E-mail: wilso929@mailbox.sc.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Office: #337 Gambrell

Web: matthewcharleswilson.com

Class Hours: TBA

Class Room: TBA

Course Description

Greetings and welcome to “POLI105: Introduction to Politics.” This course is intended to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the political world, both domestically and internationally. Through the course, students will gain insight into how individuals, groups, and institutions exercise power and influence, how laws and policies are formed, and the importance of authority and legitimacy in political structures through a comprehensive exploration of various subfields in political science.

Course Objectives

As a result of the class, students will be able to:

- understand the fundamental concepts and approaches of political science.
- gain the social science skills required to analyze competing theories and comprehend the dynamic evolution of the political science field.
- gain knowledge of political science subfields.
- improve critical thinking skills required to study political questions, identify cause and effect in political phenomena, and comprehend the research approaches developed to overcome these challenges.

Required Readings

Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson. 2023. *Introduction to Politics*. Fifth edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. (Hereafter **TEXTBOOK**)

The instructor will post additional reading materials on Blackboard.

Course Policy

Failure to follow class rules will affect the student's participation grade.

1. The use of cell phones is *not* permitted.
2. Computers are allowed to take notes *only*.
3. Please do *not* read outside materials.
4. Sleeping in class is *not* allowed.
5. Grades will *not* be changed if an issue is reported after two weeks have passed.

Grading Policy

Graded Items

Additional information about assignments will be provided in class. Below is a breakdown of how assignments contribute to the final grade:

Assignment	Percent	Note
Research Design	10%	Draft. Prompt posted on Blackboard. Due 11:59 PM, 10 March
	10%	Final. Prompt posted on Blackboard. Due 11:59 PM, 12 April
Midterm	25%	Midterm will be in-class exam; more information will be provided closer to the date, 28 February
Final	25%	Final will be given on Blackboard; more information will be provided. Due 11:59 PM, 24 April
Group Presentation	15%	Each group selects one article from the reading list that instructor provides. Detailed instructions will be provided.
Quizzes	15%	Ten quizzes will be provided during the semester. It generally consists of several short or multiple choice questions. Quizzes will be administered via Blackboard. The lowest three quiz grades will be dropped. There are no deadline extensions or make-up quizzes.
Total	100%	

- *Research Design*

Students are required to draft a guided research design paper which must be submitted through Blackboard by the due date. You will have an opportunity to get feedback on your research design draft after you submit it on March 10th. A separate prompt for the assignment is posted.

- *Exams*

Students must complete two exams. The midterm exam will be conducted in a traditional classroom setting, while the final exam will be administered online. The both exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions.

- *Group Presentations*

In groups of 4-5, students will give a 10-15 minute presentation on a academic journal paper from the reading list that the instructor provide from February 2nd to April 19th. Two presentations will take place on Fridays for ten to fifteen minutes each. Students will sign up for a day of their choice until the January 19th, and I will upload a copy of this sign-up sheet to Blackboard. Before their presentations begin, groups must submit a 1-2 pages summary of the papers they will present in the format provided by the instructor.

Grading of Short Answers in Open-Ended Questions (Quiz)

The Age of Artificial Intelligence in higher education has begun, not just with the release of ChatGPT late in 2022. This course leverages such AI tools to improve the quality of grading and feedback to students' writing. As this is new, the instructor may abandon the approach at any point in time. Here is the procedure for grading each question with an open-ended response from students:

- Instructor writes principles for what constitutes a good answer.
- Draw about 8-10 of submitted answers completely at random.
- Those 8-10 answer will be graded with the utmost care.

- The question text, the principles, and the 8-10 answers with the grades and feedback will be given to an AI tool (GPT-4 most likely) as a prompt to grade and provide feedback (iteratively) to the remaining answers.
- Students will not learn whether their grade and feedback were in the initially graded or not.
- If a student wishes a human (re)grade, the answer will be (re)graded, and there will be revised feedback – no questions asked. The grade may change in any way, however. A request for (re)grading has to be submitted via email within 24 hours after grades and feedback become visible to students.

Using this procedures, students in a large class like the current will get extensive and detailed feedback on all their written assignments that is comparable to the quality of feedback one would receive in a small class.

The final grade is simply the weighted average of all grades. Everything in this class will be graded on a 0–100 scale and carries a weight as indicated above. Please completely ignore the “Weighted Total” and “Total” columns in the Grade Center.

Rubric

The following grading scale maps the final grade-points to letter grades. A: 90-100; B+: 87-89; B: 80-86; C+: 77-79; C: 70-76; D+: 67-69; D: 60-66; F: 0-59. Standard rounding rules apply. Late work will lose ten points for every six hours that it is turned in late. Further, tests may be curved, but this is at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Grading Matters

Most likely, there will be very few opportunities for extra credit. An extra point may be awarded for each of the two student evaluations if more than half of the class completes them: one evaluation is conducted at the midpoint, and the other at the end of the semester. Also, if you consent to let researchers use your data anonymously and complete baseline surveys on Blackboard, you may receive one extra point. In addition, you will get one extra credit point for participating in the survey experiment conducted by the Laboratory for Sociological Research at the University of South Carolina. You may receive one extra point for participating in their experiments at the end of the semester. Finally, you have an additional discussion post. There is a new post under “Discussions” that you can complete by 11:59 p.m. on April 19 2024. If you complete it, I will give you an extra credit. You will receive two extra credits for participating in ‘discussion’ through posts (replying to others and adding comments). If you don’t, you won’t receive any extra credit. Thus, the maximum extra credits available for POLI105 in Spring 2024 is six. However, there will be no opportunities for extra credit based on individual student requests. All extra credit opportunities will be available to every student equally, so please do not ask for personal exceptions.

Technology Requirements

You will access most of your course material and submit assignments through Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with Blackboard during the first week of classes. You will need access to a working computer with internet access for the course. If your computer fails, please use one in the campus computer labs or borrow a laptop from the library.

I do not accept assignments submitted through email. They must be submitted as described on the assignment and through Blackboard. Blackboard requires documents to be submitted in WORD or PDF format. Otherwise, I cannot read your submission.

Please be sure your browser is updated and compatible with Blackboard. Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard. The university provides students with Microsoft Office 365 free of charge. This allows you to install Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, and Access on up to 5

PCs or Macs and Office apps on other mobile devices including tablets. Office 365 also includes unlimited cloud storage on OneDrive. For more information about university software, please visit the Software section of my.sc.edu.

If you have problems or questions about computer technology or Blackboard, please contact the Division of Information Technology's (DoIT's) Service Desk at (803) 777-1800 or submit an online request through the Self-Service Portal or visit Carolina Tech Zone. The Service Desk is open Monday–Friday from 8:00 AM–6:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time). If you contact DoIT with a technology problem, make sure you save your documents with the case number.

Grade Appeals

I maintain a 24-hour cooling-off period that students must observe after receiving graded exam or assignments (Research Design). If you think there was an error in your grade, please wait to write to the instructor until after 24 hours. Take the time to review your answer and the course material. Once the waiting period passes, you may e-mail the instructor with a written description of the inaccuracies and evidence to support your argument.

The instructor will only consider grade disputes submitted in writing and contain sufficient evidence of an error in grading. If the case is reviewed, the outcome may result in a higher OR lower exam score than initially received.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to be in class on time and be there every time as attending class is an integral part in learning the material. That said, no attendance will be taken so that there is no formal, direct disadvantage. The instructor firmly believes that missing classes will adversely affect your learning and thereby your grade in indirect ways.

Reading the assigned material and attending class are crucial and not substitutable for each other. Some material in the readings are starting points for the content of the lectures; others will be dissected meticulously in lectures. There will also be lectures without any previous grounding in readings. Your learning and thereby your grade will require close attention to lectures and readings.

Politics is inherently a social phenomenon, and thereby discussions about it are as well. The instructor encourages every student to voice objections, questions, comments, critique, and dissatisfaction with the presented material as well as to instructor's and other students' views on the material. There are only three prerequisites: the comments have to be thought out before voiced, be respectful, and must not aim to disrupt the course for disruption's sake.

Accommodations

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Student Disability Resource Center. All disability accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services. For more information, see [Student Disability Resource Center](#). Special accommodations are also available for veterans on duty and for parents.

Medical Matters

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability Services: 777-6142, TDD 777-6744, email sasds@mailbox.sc.edu, or stop by Close Hipp Room 112A.

Important Notes

You are responsible for all material covered in class and for all other tasks assigned for completion outside of class. Absence from class does not excuse ignorance of the material covered or failure to complete assignments made that day. Nor does it excuse failure to turn in assignments due that day. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed when you are absent and to keep up with the course. *Attend class.*

Late Work/Make-up Policy

All readings, quizzes, and exams are due by the deadline, as posted on the course schedule. Please plan accordingly and complete these assignments in advance of their deadlines to ensure any unanticipated circumstances do not result in a missed assignment.

Late Arrival of the Instructor Policy

I will inform students via e-mail in advance of class if class is cancelled for the day. I will also contact our department secretary if something happened on the way to work. Failing that, assume the worst happened to me.

Office Hours Policy

I have office hours and you can make an appointment through calendly.com/sanghoon/15min. It shows my available time slots and you can select 15 mins time slot to make an appointment with me.

E-mail Policy

I am usually quick to respond to student e-mails. However, there are several reasons that I may not reply:

1. The students could answer their own inquiry by reading the syllabus.
2. The students are requesting an extension on an assignment for which the syllabus already established the deadline. The answer is always “no” without legitimate reason.
3. The students are asking to round up a grade. The answer is always “no” without legitimate reason.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects of this course. For the detailed policy of the University of South Carolina regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, see the University Honor Code: [Academic Responsibility - The Honor Code](#). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any activity that may be interpreted as academic dishonesty, please see me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Personal Integrity

I am committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. I will not tolerate discrimination and harassment on the basis of identity or status, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, or veteran status. For more information on the University Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy, see [Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy](#). If you want to speak to someone about an incident involving harassment, sexual assault, or interpersonal violence, you can call 803-777-8248 to talk to a trained interpersonal violence advocate.

Additional Information

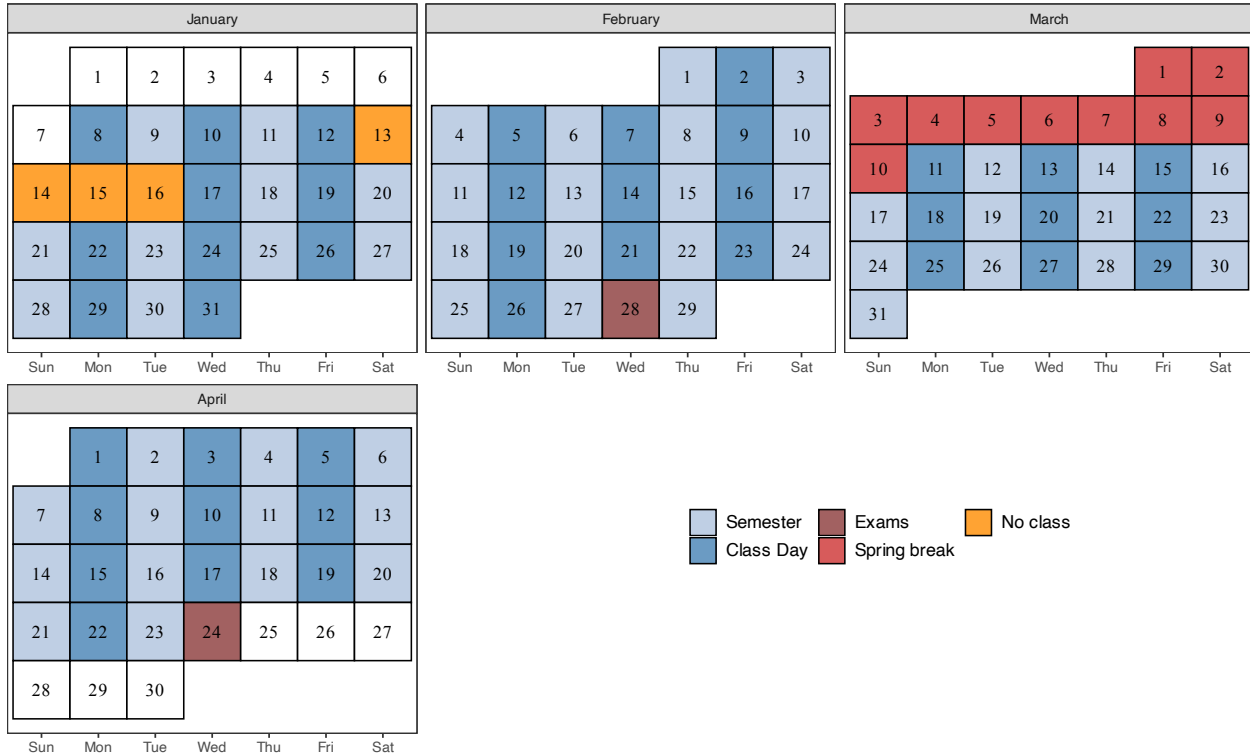
Students are responsible for knowing both university and course schedules.

The academic calendar is available at: [University Registrar](#).

For undergraduate academic regulations, see: [Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#).

Class Schedule

Students must read the required readings before Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's class sessions. *Important:* class readings are subject to change. Students are encouraged to attend lectures and check Blackboard for updates. The course schedule is listed below:



Notable dates: Spring Break (3-10 March), Final Exam (24 April)

Figure 1: Course schedule (POLI105 Introduction to Politics, Spring 2024)

Weekly Schedule

Students must complete all assigned readings and provide a brief response to the weekly discussion question. 📖: book, 📄: journal article or manuscript, 🔗: hyperlink, 📺: video, ❓: Discussion question, and 🧐: quiz.

Week 01, 01/08, Monday: Syllabus Day!

- *No readings.* I will review the syllabus.
- Introduction to course, syllabus, research design, group presentation, and quiz

Week 01, 01/10, Wednesday: Set the Stage

- 🔗 How to access journal articles and other resources via Thomas Cooper Library? ([link](#))
- 📺 How To Use Zotero (A Complete Beginner's Guide) ([link](#))

Week 01, 01/12, Friday - Week 02, 01/15, Monday: No Class

Week 02, 01/17, Wednesday: Politics and Subfields

📖 TEXTBOOK, CH.1. Introduction.

📖 Smith, Rogers M. 2002. "Should I Make Political Science More of a Science or More About Politics?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 35: 199-201.

- Additional external resources covering different subfields within the discipline of Political Science will be provided in the class.

Week 02, 01/19, Friday: Politics as Science

📖 Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-693.

📖 Thurman, Walter N., and Mark E. Fisher. 1988. "Chickens, Eggs, and Causality, or Which Came First?" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 70(2): 237-238.

Week 03, 01/22, Monday - Week 03, 01/24, Wednesday: Politics and the State

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch. 2.: Politics and the State.

❓ Discussion question

- Does it still make sense to talk of state sovereignty?
- What processes represent a threat to the autonomy of the nation-state?

Week 03, 01/26, Friday: Political Power and Authority

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch. 3.: Political Power and Authority.

❓ Discussion question

- What is the relationship between power and force?
- Can power be exercised without intention?

Week 04, 01/29, Monday - Week 04, 01/31, Wednesday: Political Ideology

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.6. Traditional Ideologies.

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.7. Challenges to the Dominant.

❓ Discussion question

- Assess the main differences between new liberalism and classical liberalism.
- Is postmodernism anything more than an academic fad?

Week 04, 02/02, Friday: 👥 Group 1 and 2 Presentations

💡 Quiz 1 on Week 2 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 05, 02/05, Monday: The Fundamentals of Group Political Activity

▶ Logic of Collective Action in Four Minutes ([link](#))

▶ Collective Action 101 | What Are Large-Scale Collective Action Problems?

❓ *Discussion question*

- Are you a member of any groups on campus? Off campus? Do these groups have any issues with free riding? If so, how do you overcome them?

Week 05, 02/07, Wednesday: Democracy, Obligations, Rules, and Challenges

📖 *TEXTBOOK*, Ch.4. Democracy and Political Obligation.

❓ *Discussion question*

- What is democracy?
- Should democracy be defined in minimalist or maximalist terms? What are the advantages/drawbacks of these approaches?

Week 05, 02/09, Friday: 👥 Group 3 and 4 Presentations

💡 Quiz 2 on Week 5 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 06, 02/12, Monday: Civil Society and Interests Groups

📖 *TEXTBOOK*, Ch.14. Civil Society and Interests Groups.

❓ *Discussion question*

- Is participation in an interest group more rational than voting, as a means of facilitating political change?
- What makes political blogs interesting? Are they different from the output of commentators in newspapers or on TV? Do they have more credibility?

Week 06, 02/14, Wednesday: Political Parties

📖 *TEXTBOOK*, Ch.12. Political Parties.

❓ *Discussion question*

- What would be a good way to address the decline in party membership in liberal democracies?
- Do you take an active part in the life of a political party?

Week 06, 02/16, Friday: 👥 Group 5 and 6 Presentations

💡 Quiz 3 on Week 6 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 07, 02/19, Monday - Week 07, 02/21, Wednesday: Elections and Legislatures

📖 *TEXTBOOK*, Ch.11. Votes, Elections, Legislatures, and Legislators.

❓ *Discussion question*

- ‘The only virtue of first-past-the-post is that it is easy to understand’. Discuss.
- Can a legislature be truly representative?
- What factors are essential to the conduct of free and fair elections?

Week 07, 02/23, Friday: 👥 Group 7 and 8 Presentations

💡 Quiz 4 on Week 7 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 08, 02/26, Monday: Wrap-up Day for the Midterm

Week 08, 02/28, Wednesday: Midterm Exam

- Midterm will be in-class exam.

Week 08, 03/01, Friday - Week 09, 03/08, Friday: No Class: *Spring Break*

- Research Design Draft (due 11:59 PM, 10 March)

Week 10, 03/11, Monday - Week 10, 03/13, Wednesday: Executives, Cabinets, and Bureaucracies

📖 *TEXTBOOK*, Ch. 13. Executives, Bureaucracies, Policy Studies, and Governance.

❓ *Discussion question*

- ‘The only virtue of first-past-the-post is that it is easy to understand’. Discuss.
 - What is the difference between ‘government’ and ‘governance’?
 - Consider a system in your country that needs to be reformed. Why and how is this so?
- Midterm reviews

Week 10, 03/15, Friday: 👥 Group 9 and 10 Presentations

💡 Quiz 5 on Week 10 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 11, 03/18, Monday: How to Write a Research Paper in Political Science?

📖 Lisa, Baglione A. 2011. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods* Second Edition. CQ Press College.

Week 11, 03/20, Wednesday: Courts and Law

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.10. Law, Constitutions, and Federalism.

❓ Discussion question

- Can 'the rule of law' really apply in societies with significant inequalities of wealth?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the federalist system?

Week 11, 03/22, Friday: 👥 Group 11 and 12 Presentations

🕒 Quiz 6 on Week 11 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 12, 03/25, Monday: Governing Regimes

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.15. Democracies, Democratization, and Authoritarian Regimes.

❓ Discussion question

- How might we differentiate between democracies and authoritarian regimes?

Week 12, 03/27, Wednesday: Political Regimes and Economic Growth

📖 Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development". *American Political Science Review*. 87(3): 567-576.

❓ Discussion question

- Do democracies produce better outcomes than their autocratic counterparts? If so, why? If not, why?

Week 12, 03/29, Friday: 👥 Group 13 and 14 Presentations

🕒 Quiz 7 on Week 12 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 13, 04/01, Monday: Research Design Draft Feedback and Q & A

Week 13, 04/03, Wednesday: Introduction to International Relations

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.16. Introducing Global Politics.

📖 Stephen M. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-46.

❓ Discussion question

- What are your thoughts on this week's papers? Whose idea is the most similar to yours? Are democracies declining or not?

Week 13, 04/05, Friday: 👥 Group 15 and 16 Presentations

🕒 Quiz 8 on Week 13 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 14, 04/08, Monday: Critical Approaches

📖 TEXTBOOK, Ch.17. Critical Approaches to Global Politics.

❓ Discussion question

- Is realism really realistic?
- Do neoliberalism and neorealism provide a more persuasive account of IR than either liberalism or realism?
- Do you favor any critical approaches to the existing dominant IR explanations?

Week 14, 04/10, Wednesday: International Conflict

📖 Levy, Jack S. 1998. "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace." *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 139-165.

📖 Ramsay, Kristopher W. 2017. "Information, Uncertainty, and War." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20: 505-527.

❓ Discussion question

- What distinguishes grand theories of conflict from this week's readings?

Week 14, 04/12, Friday: 👥 Group 17 and 18 Presentations

💡 Quiz 9 on Week 14 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

- Research Design Final (due 11:59 PM, 12 April)

Week 15, 04/15, Monday: International Trade

📖 Milner, Helen V. 1999. "The Political Economy of International Trade." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 91-114.

📖 Kim, In Song, and Iain Osgood. 2019. "Firms in Trade and Trade Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 22: 399-417.

❓ Discussion question

- How have studies on trade approaches evolved?

Week 15, 04/17, Wednesday: Research Proposal Feedback

Week 15, 04/19, Friday: 👥 Group 19 and 20 Presentations

💡 Quiz 10 on Week 15 (due 11:59 PM) via Blackboard

Week 16, 04/22, Monday: The Final Exam (Take-Home) Available on Blackboard (at 10:30 AM, 22 April)

Week 16, 04/24, Wednesday: The Final Exam (Take-Home) (due 11:59 PM, 24 April)