

**Spring 2022**

**University of Texas at Austin**

**Gov 370N (38095): Research on the US Congress II  
(Continuation of Gov 370M, Research on the U.S. Congress)**

MEZES 1.202; MW, 4:00-5:30pm

**Instructors:**

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**Teaching Assistant:**

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Zoom  
OH: 1:30-4:30

**Course Description**

This research course is the second half of a year-long research program, the J.J. "Jake" Pickle Undergraduate Mentorship Program, under the direction of Professors Epp (DE) and Theriault (ST). This term will be devoted to pursuing your individual research projects and continuing with your work as research assistants.

**Covid-19 Requirements**

Our course is scheduled as an "in-person" course. Covid-19 is continuing to affect our community, so please keep in mind the following items:

- The university recommends members of our community follow the CDC guidance and wear masks inside classrooms and indoor public settings regardless of their vaccination status.
- Common courtesy (always important) is extra important this semester. That means that under no circumstances should you come to class if you're feeling "under the weather" or anyone you have been near is feeling "under the weather."
- Communication with us is also extra important this semester. If you are experiencing adverse circumstances, then we can potentially be flexible in terms of due dates and assignments. But the sooner we know about it, the smoother everything will go.
- Office hours will be exclusively virtual, meaning no in-person meetings. During our office hours, we will be available to meet over Zoom. Email us to schedule a meeting within those times.

**Special Needs**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, please contact the Dean of Students at 471-6259; 471-4641 TTY. If they certify your needs, I will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

## **Course Format**

The class will meet regularly to discuss progress on your projects and research assignments. We will also cover certain essential elements in design, analysis, and presentation of results. It is the student's responsibility to come to class with all of the assigned work – both research and reading – completed. Rarely will the class stray from a seminar format.

## **Grades**

We will grade using + and -. Grades will be determined according to the following formula:

- 10% Class Participation. We will take attendance every class meeting.  
Because of the nature of the course, unexcused student absences will not be tolerated.
- 20% Homework. Each of your homework assignments will be graded.
- 20% Research Assignments. These assignments will be the bulk of your work for us this semester. You will be graded on your timeliness and thoroughness of completion.
- 30% Research Poster
- 20% Research Paper

We frown on issues of academic dishonesty and will severely punish any student caught plagiarizing, cheating, fabricating data, or engaged in unethical classroom practices. Furthermore, because of the number of deadlines and the building of your posters and papers, it is important that deadlines are adhered to; if not, even assignments that are 1-minute late could lose up to half credit. All grade disputes must be type written and turned in within 1 week of receiving the grade.

### Course Materials:

Specific readings, all uploaded to Canvas as assigned in the weekly guide.

## **Course Outline\***

Week 1 (January 19): Welcome Back! Reviewing the Semester Plan

- **Note: URF Applications are due on February 1**
  - *Note:* The School of Undergraduate Studies is hosting URF info sessions on January 20 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm and January 24 from 1:00-2:00 over zoom. We encourage attending! You must register for the review sessions using this link: <https://ugs.utexas.edu/our/scholarships/urf>

Week 2 (January 24): Hearing from Past Pickles

- *Due January 23:* Draft of URF Application (due by 10:00 pm, to Canvas)

Week 3 (January 31): Presenting Figures

- *Due January 31:* Submit [URF Applications](#)
- *Due January 30:* Using the data for your project (if you are collecting original data and your dataset is not complete, use the data you have collected so far), produce a figure in Excel or Stata to present to the class. This can be a bar chart, line chart, pie

chart, stream graph, or other. Come to class prepared to present and discuss your figure. Submit this assignment to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

- **Note: URA Applications are due by February ??**
- **Note: Deadline for submitting an abstract for the Longhorn Research Bazaar is February ??.**

Week 4 (February 7): One-on-One Meetings

Week 5 (February 14): Hypothesis Testing and Statistical Analysis in Stata

Week 6 (February 21): Presenting Statistics

- *Due February 20:* Using your project's data (if you are collecting original data and your dataset is not complete, use the data you have collected so far), prepare an interesting statistic (compiled via Excel or Stata) to present to the class. Submit this assignment to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Week 7 (February 28): One-on-One Meetings

- *Due February 27:* Submit updated introduction, literature review and theory sections of research proposal from Fall semester based on the feedback provided by the instructor. Submit this assignment to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Week 8 (March 7): Constructing Effective Posters

- *Due March 6:* A draft of the methods/analysis section of your project. Minimum of one page (header *not* included), double spaced, and 12 pt. font. Describe the method that you will use to test your hypothesis. Provide some descriptive (summary) statistics (figures are helpful here!). Introduce your hypothesis test and execute it (provide results and analyze them). Submit this assignment to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Spring Break (March 14)

- ***Note: We highly recommend that by the end of this week, you complete the data collection for your project. If you are not collecting original data, by the end of this week, have the data that you will use downloaded and in useable form.***

Week 9 (March 21 **and** 23): Poster Workshop Session

- *Due March 20:* Turn in a rough draft of your poster to Canvas (by 10:00 pm). Refer to the template used in last week's class session as a guide. Come to class prepared to discuss.

Week 10 (March 28): One-on-One Meetings

- *Due March 27:* Turn in a revised draft of your poster to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Week 11 (April 4): Presentation of Posters to Class

- *Due April 3:* Submit the final poster in advance to Canvas (by 10:00 pm). Come to class prepared to present your poster (2 minutes).

Week 12 (April 11): Check-in on Research Assignments

Week 13 (April 18): Undergraduate Research Week

Week 14 (April 25): Summary of Year Long Research Assignments

Week 15 (May 2): General Session – Class Retrospective.

- *Due May 1:* Final paper – 8 to 10 pages, 12 pt. font, double-spaced with at least two figures (complete with bibliography - not included in page count) – due to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

\*Note: Unless directed otherwise, we won't meet as a class on Wednesdays. Instead, use this time to meet with your individual research groups.