

Spring 2021

University of Texas at Austin

**Gov 362L (38770): Research on the US Congress II
(Continuation of Gov 370M, Research on the U.S. Congress)**

BUR 220; TTh, 5:00-6:30pm

Instructors:

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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, which means we all must follow a few rules:

- Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth is required of everyone at all times while in the classroom. No exceptions.
- We also have to space ourselves out physically within the classroom. Don’t sit next to anyone.
- 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.

35% Research Assignments

35% 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 as assigned in the weekly guide.

Course Outline*

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

- *Due January 28:* Draft of URF Application (due by 10:00 pm, to Canvas)
- **Note: URF Applications are due on February 1**
 - Note: The School of Undergraduate Studies is hosting URF info sessions on January 22 from 10:00 – 11:00 am and January 28 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 26): One-on-One Meetings

- *Due February 1:* [URF Applications](#)

Week 3 (February 2): Presenting Figures

- *Due February 1:* 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 25***
- ***Note: Deadline for submitting an abstract for the Longhorn Research Bazaar is February 28.***

Week 4 (February 9): Hypothesis Testing and Statistical Analysis in Stata

Week 5 (February 16): Presenting Statistics

- *Due February 15:* 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 6 (February 23): Writing a Research Paper

- ***February 25: URA Applications due***
- ***Due ???: Submit your abstract for the Longhorn Research Bazaar* (yes, we're doing this early).**

Week 7 (March 2): Writing a Research Paper

- *Due March 2:* Read an article that will be posted on Canvas by the start of class. Be prepared to discuss the content of the article.

Week 8 (March 9): Constructing Effective Posters

- *Due March 8:* 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).

Spring Break (March 16)

- ***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 23 **and 25**): Poster Workshop Session

- *Due March 22:* 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 30): One-on-One Meetings

- *Due March 29:* Turn in a revised draft of your poster to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Week 11 (April 6): Presentation of Posters to Class

- *Due April 5:* 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 13): Undergraduate Research Week

Week 13 (April 20): Summary of Year Long Research Assignments

- *Due April 19:* 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).

Week 14 (April 27): Review Data Analysis

Week 15 (May 4): General Session – Class Retrospective.

- *Due May 3:* 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 Thursdays. Instead, use this time to meet with your individual research groups.