

Spring 2023

University of Texas at Austin

**Gov 370N (38300): 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:

Derek A. Epp
depp@austin.utexas.edu
Batts 3.126
OH: MW 2:30 - 4pm

Sean M. Theriault
seant@mail.utexas.edu
Batts 3.130 (232-7279)
OH:

Teaching Assistant:

Miranda Sullivan
mirandasullivan@utexas.edu
Zoom
OH: MW 1-2:30

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.

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 9): Welcome Back! Reviewing the Semester Plan

- **Note: *URF Applications are due on January 23rd***
 - 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 16): MLK Day, no class

- *Due January 15: Draft of URF Application (due by 10:00 pm, to Canvas)*

Week 3 (January 23): Data updates & management

- *Due January 23: Submit [URF Applications](#)*

- *Due January 22:* 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).

Week 4 (January 30): Presenting Figures

Week 5 (February 6): Hypothesis Testing and Statistical Analysis in Stata*

Week 6 (February 13): Presenting Statistics

- *Due February 12:* 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 20): One-on-One Meetings

- *Due February 19:* 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 (February 27): DC Preparations

Note: DC trip is tentatively planned for March 1 - 5

Week 9 (March 6): Constructing Effective Posters*

- *Due February 26:* 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 13)

- ***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 usable form.***

Week 10 (March 20): Poster Workshop Session

- *Due March 19:* 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 11 (March 27): One-on-one Meetings

- *Due March 26:* Turn in a revised draft of your poster to Canvas (by 10:00 pm).

Week 12 (April 3): Presentation of Posters to Class

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

Week 13 (April 10): Poster presentations and research week

- *Note: alternative class time for poster presentations!*

Week 14 (April 17): Summary of Year Long Research Assignments

Week 15 (April 24): General Session – Class Retrospective.

- *Due April 24th:* 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.