

**Political Science 202**  
**Introduction to Political Analysis**  
**Fall 2021: Problem Set #1**

**Due in Turnitin (Blackboard) on Friday, September 17 at 10am. 5 points in total. Late submissions are penalized with 1 point per 24 hours. MAKE SURE THAT YOU RECEIVED THE TURNITIN UPLOAD CONFIRMATION and SAVE THE CONFIRMATION. If you have trouble uploading to Turnitin or don't receive a confirmation, email as an attachment to your TA before the deadline. CHECK FOR CONFIRMATION EMAIL. If you don't get a reply confirming that you handed it in, send it again.**

1. Below are three research questions. For each, evaluate whether it is a good research question. Use the criteria we discussed in class. Do the questions fulfill the criteria? Explain why or why not. If you judge the question to not fulfill certain criteria, how could the question be reformulated to make it better?
  - a. Are leaders in democracies better than in autocracies?
  - b. What are the consequences of war?
  - c. Are Democrats more or less supportive than Republicans of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh's decision to remove a statue of Christopher Columbus from a downtown plaza in Syracuse, NY?
2. The following is an abstract of an academic article. Identify the following: What is the research question? What is the dependent variable? What is the independent variable?

Jan H. Pierskalla, Adam Lauretig, Andrew S. Rosenberg, and Audrey Sacks:  
"Democratization and Representative Bureaucracy: An Analysis of Promotion Patterns in Indonesia's Civil Service, 1980–2015"

"Civil service organizations in the developing world often lack women and minorities in leadership positions. This has important consequences for the quality of public goods provision and the perceived trustworthiness of bureaucrats. We explore the effect of democratization on the discrimination of women and minorities in the civil service. We argue democratization leads to increased discrimination due to the politicization of identity cleavages. We test our argument using administrative data from Indonesia that cover the career histories of more than four million active civil servants. We exploit the exogenous timing of Indonesia's democratization and the staggered introduction of local direct elections for identification purposes. We find strong evidence that democratization *worsened* the career prospects of female and some religious minority bureaucrats. Penalties are higher for employees of departments led by conservative Muslim parties, in districts with larger Muslim party vote shares or larger Muslim populations, and in the religiously conservative province of Aceh."