

Political Science 202
Introduction to Political Analysis
Fall 2023: Problem Set #1

Due on Blackboard on Friday, September 22 at 6:00 PM. 3 points in total. Late submissions are penalized with 1 point per 24 hours.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU RECEIVE AN UPLOAD CONFIRMATION and SAVE THE CONFIRMATION (submission date and confirmation number). If you have trouble uploading to Blackboard, email as an attachment to your TA before the deadline. If you don't get a reply confirming that you handed it in, send it again.

You can discuss the problem set with others, but you need to submit your own answers. If you discussed the problem set with others, note their names on your submission

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, reformulate the question in a way that addresses them.
 - 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 the decision to dismantle highway I-81 in downtown Syracuse?
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.”