POLS Y205: Analyzing Politics
Tu/Th 9:30–10:45 AM
Woodburn Hall (WH) 121

Instructor: Timothy Model
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Office: Woodburn Hall (WH) 409
Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:00–1:30 PM or by appointment

Course Description:
What is political science and, more broadly, social science? This hands-on course will introduce students to social science research methods and the skills necessary to study social phenomena. Students will learn to frame research questions, develop theories, propose testable hypotheses, test hypotheses with evidence, and present results. We will use the scientific method to study politically relevant debates, such as terrorism, voting behavior, and government spending. These examples, among others of interest to students, will be used throughout the course to demonstrate the research process. Students will come away from the class with the ability to develop a research project from start to finish.

Text(s):
Required: Shively, Phillips W. 2009. *The Craft of Political Research, 9th edition.* Routledge.

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

For Reference: Baglione, Lisa A. 2015. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods, 3rd edition.* CQ Press.

Grading:
Grades are based on a participation, assignments, a midterm exam, and a final project:

Class Participation	25%
Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Project	25%

Letter Grade Distribution:

A+	98+	B+	88+	C+	78+	D+	68+	F	59 and below
A	94-97	B	84-87	C	74-77	D	64-67		
A-	90-93	B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

Course Policies:

- **General**

  - Lectures and PowerPoints will be posted, but these slides should be considered an outline of lectures. It is the student's responsibility to take notes.
  - There will be a few opportunities to earn extra credit. These will be announced periodically via email throughout the semester.
  - Course communications will be sent via Canvas. It is your responsibility to check your Canvas messages to check for announcements, assignments, grades and feedback, and to communicate with the instructor.
  - Please let the instructor know if you require special accommodations prior to the first assignment's deadline.
  - Any concerns with grades should be discussed with the instructor in person during office hours.
  - Academic integrity is an important component to political science research, and therefore, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the Indiana University *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.*
  - Please mute all electronic devices and avoid using cell phones during class.

- **Attendance and Absences**

  - Attendance is expected and will be taken each class, which comprises a portion of the class participation grade.
  - Two unexcused absences will be allowed per student without penalty, after which 4 percent of the participation grade will be deducted for each missed class.
  - Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.
  - Unexcused late work will receive a deduction of a letter grade for every 24 hours after the deadline.
  - Please email the instructor with proof of excused absence, such as illness and etc. Students are encouraged to talk to the Student Advocates Office for any questions regarding absences.

Summary of key dates:

Below is a summary of key dates, such as exam dates and assignment due dates. However, this is not an exhaustive list of all due dates. Please review the full course schedule included below. All assignments are due on Canvas by the start of class on the due date.

Research Question and Justification	Sept. 13
Writing Hypotheses	Oct. 6
Midterm	Oct. 11
Dissecting a Literature Review	Oct. 18
Interviews and Surveys	Nov. 10
Data Analysis	Dec. 1
Final Project	TBD

Tentative Course Outline:

Below is a tentative schedule of what will be covered in the lectures each week. You must keep up with reading assignments. The schedule may be modified throughout the course to match the class' progress. A new syllabus will be made available on Canvas if such changes occur.

Details and instructions for assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Week	Content
Week 1	• Tu: Introduction to Political Science • Th: Science and Politics
Week 2	• Tu: Research Questions • Th: Research Questions
Week 3	• Tu: What Science is and is Not • Th: What are Concepts?
Week 4	• Tu: From Concepts to Measures • Th: From Concepts to Measures
Week 5	• Tu: Hypotheses • Th: Hypotheses
Week 6	• Tu: The Anatomy of a Research Paper • Th: The Anatomy of a Research Paper/Midterm Review
Week 7	• Tu: Designing Experiments • Th: Experimental vs. Observational Logic
Week 8	• Tu: Midterm • Th: Qualitative Data Collection
Week 9	• Tu: Case Studies • Th: Controlled Comparisons
Week 10	• Tu: Types of Quantitative Data • Th: Surveys
Week 11	• Tu: Surveys • Th: Surveys
Week 12	• Tu: Central Tendencies • Th: Standard Deviation
Week 13	• Tu: t-test • Th: t-test
Week 14	• Tu: No Class (Thanksgiving) • Th: No Class (Thanksgiving)
Week 15	• Tu: Chi-Squared Test • Th: Chi-Squared Test
Week 16	• Tu: IRB and Research Ethics • Th: Final Project Review

Research Fundamentals

<u>Week 1:</u>
Tuesday, August 23   Introduction to Political Science

Thursday, August 25   Science and Politics
  - Read: Shively, pages 1-11

<u>Week 2:</u>

Tuesday, August 30   Research Questions
  - Read: Shively, pages 14-24

Thursday, September 1   Research Questions
  - For class: 2-3 research topics
  - Read: Shively, pages 28-32

<u>Week 3:</u>

Tuesday, September 6   What Science is and is Not
  - Read: Rovelli, Carl (2014). "Science Is Not About Certainty."
    `http://newrepublic.com/article/118655/theoretical-phyisicist-explains-why-science-not-about-certainty`
  - In Class: "Knowledge or Certainty" in Jacob Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man.*

Thursday, September 8   What are Concepts?
  - Read: Shively, Chapter 3

<u>Week 4:</u>

Tuesday, September 13   From Concepts to Measures
  - Assignment Due: Research Question and Justification
  - Read: Shively, Chapter 4

Thursday, September 15   From Concepts to Measures
  - Read: Gerring, John (1999). What Makes a Concept Good? A Critical Framework for Understanding Concept Formation in the Social Sciences. (Canvas)

<u>Week 5:</u>

Tuesday, September 20   Hypotheses
- Read: King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Ch 3. (Canvas)

Thursday, September 22   Hypotheses
- For class: 4-5 hypotheses related to your research question

The Anatomy of a Research Paper

<u>Week 6:</u>

Tuesday, September 27   The Anatomy of a Research Paper
- Read: Johnson, et al. (2008). "Conducting a Literature Review." *Political Science Research Methods.* (Canvas)

Thursday, September 29   The Anatomy of a Research Paper and Midterm Review
- Read: see assignment instructions on Canvas for list of possible readings

Experiments

<u>Week 7:</u>

Tuesday, October 4   Designing Experiments
- Read: Shively, pages 73-88

Thursday, October 6   Experimental vs. Observational Logic
- Assignment Due: Writing Hypotheses
- Read: Shively, Chapter 7

Qualitative Research

<u>Week 8:</u>

Tuesday, October 11   Midterm Exam

Thursday, October 13   Qualitative Data
- Read: de Volo, Lorraine Bayard and Edward Schatz (2004). "From the Inside out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research." *PS: Political Science & Politics.* (Canvas)

<u>Week 9:</u>

Tuesday, October 18   Case Studies
  • Assignment Due: Dissecting an Article's Literature Review
  • Read: Huntington, Samuel (1993). "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*. (Canvas)

Thursday, October 20   Controlled Comparisons
  • Read: Lijphart, Arend (1971). "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review*. (Canvas)

Quantitative Research

<u>Week 10:</u>

Tuesday, October 25   Types of Quantitative Data
  • Read: Shively, pages 58-71

Thursday, October 27   Surveys
  • Read: Brady, Henry (2000). "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. pp. 47-57. (Canvas)

<u>Week 11:</u>

Tuesday, November 1   Surveys
  • Read: Shively, Chapter 7

Thursday, November 3   Surveys
  • Read: Pew Research. "Sampling."
    http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/sampling/

<u>Week 12:</u>

Tuesday, November 8   Central Tendencies
  • Read: Pollock, Philip (2003). *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. Ch. 2. (Canvas)

Thursday, November 10   Standard Deviation
  • Assignment Due: Interviews and Surveys
  • Read: Pollock, Philip (2003). *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. Ch. 6, p. 122-139. (Canvas)

<u>Week 13:</u>

Tuesday, November 15   t-test
- Read: Pollock, Philip (2003). *The Essentials of Political Analysis.* Ch. 6, p. 140-154. (Canvas)

Thursday, November 17   t-test
- For class: complete practice problems distributed on Nov. 15

<u>Week 14:</u>

No Class (Thanksgiving)

<u>Week 15:</u>

Tuesday, November 29   Chi-Squared Test
- Read: Pollock, Philip (2003). *The Essentials of Political Analysis.* Ch. 7, p. 155-169. (Canvas)

Thursday, December 1   Chi-Squared Test
- Assignment Due: Data Analysis
- Read: Shively, pages 154-156
- Watch at home: Brandon Foltz's "Introduction to the Chi-square Test"
  `http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvKv375sacA`

Conclusions

<u>Week 16:</u>

Tuesday, December 6   IRB and Research Ethics
- Read: Stanford Prison Experiment. *Scientific American.* (Canvas)
- Read: Aschwanden, Christie and Maggie Koerth-Baker. "How Two Grad Students Uncovered An Apparent Fraud And A Way To Change Opinions On Transgender Rights." *FiveThirtyEight.* (Canvas)

Thursday, December 8   Final Project Review
- For Class: come to class with questions about the final assignment

<u>Finals Week:</u>

TBD   **Turn in Research Paper Outline**