

POLS 3600 Syllabus: Research in Political Science

Spring 2020

Basic Course Info

Class Meeting Place: Liberal Arts 401

Class Meeting Time: TR 3:00-4:00pm

Professor Information

Dr. Marcos Menchaca

mmenchaca@utep.edu

Office: Benedict Hall 308

Office Hours: TR 1:00-2:30pm and by appointment

TA Information

XXXX XXXXXXXX

xxxxxx@miners.utep.edu

Office: Benedict Hall 204

Office Hours: XXX-XXXX

Course Description

An introductory study of the history, nature and current development of political science, with special emphasis on the methods dealing with problems of political science and the techniques of research in politics. You will learn the scientific process and also the statistical techniques used in political science. Additionally, you will learn the basics of formal political theory. In essence, you will learn to think like a political scientist.

Textbooks

Pollock, Essentials of Political Analysis. 6th edition. (EPA)

Baglione, Writing a Research Paper in Political Science. 3rd edition. (WRP)

Pollock, An R Companion to Political Analysis. 2nd edition. (ARC)

Course Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, the student should be able to

- Demonstrate increasingly sophisticated skills in reading primary sources critically,
- Research and evaluate the models, methods, and analyses of others in the field of political science, and critically integrate others' work.
- Began an understanding for using software for statistical data analysis.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of research design, hypothesis formulation, measurement of variables, data collection, and analysis.

UTEP EDGE

Students will be able to:

- Communicate information clearly and effectively using a variety of tools, media and genres (oral, written, iconographic) in varied contexts for a variety of purposes.
- Demonstrate strategic and adaptable thinking patterns in learning and working conditions.
- Apply analysis, synthesis, and evaluative processes that enable productive problem solving and decision-making to strengthen performance in university and workforce setting.
- Reflect and assess their interests, abilities, responsibilities, cultural understanding, and ethics in order to more effectively pursue their academic, career and life goals.
- Use real world digital tools, research, and resources to access, evaluate, and apply information appropriate for authentic tasks.

Course Assignments/Requirements/Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is approximate. The only things are set in stone are the exam and assignment dates.

Date	Topics	Readings
01/21	Intro to the class	Syllabus posted online
01/23	Getting Acquainted with R	
01/27	Introduction to Political Science	1. EPA Intro
01/30	Defining and Measuring Concepts	1. EPA 1
02/04	Measuring and Describing Variables	1. EPA 2
02/06	Building Theory HOMEWORK 1 DUE	1. EPA 3
02/11	Framing Hypothesis	
02/13	Research Design	
02/18	Statistical Control	1. EPA 4 2. Harbridge and Malhotra, <i>Electoral Incentives from Survey Experiments</i>
02/20	Statistical Control	
02/25	Controlled Comparisons HOMEWORK 2 DUE	1. EPA 5
02/27	Review	
03/03	MIDTERM	

03/05	Foundations of Statistical Inference	1. EPA 6
03/10	Foundations of Statistical Inference	1. EPA 7
03/12	Linear Regression	1. EPA 8
03/24	Linear Regression HOMEWORK 3 DUE	
03/26	Linear Regression	
03/31	Logistic Regression	1. EPA 9
04/02	Logistic Regression	
04/07	Logistic Regression	
04/09	Writing a Research Paper HOMEWORK 4 DUE	1. Baglione 1
04/14	Research Questions	1. Baglione 2
04/16	Literature Review	1. Baglione 4 2. The APSA Style Manual
04/21	The Thesis and Paper Revising	1. Baglione 5-6
04/23	Formal Political Theory	1. Introduction to Political Theory 1
04/28	Formal Political Theory HOMEWORK 5 DUE	1. Introduction to Political Theory 5
04/30	Qualitative Analysis	1. Williamson, The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism
05/05	Careers in Political Science	
05/07	Review PROJECTS DUE	
05/14	FINAL EXAM 4:00-6:45pm	

Midterm Exam

The midterm exams will cover the material in the previous classes.

Homeworks

You will be given short homeworks to complete that will cover the statistical part of the class material. A hard copy should be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date.

Paper Project

You will be given a paper project due at the end of the semester. You will be given some datasets and instructions on what to do. You are expected to utilize all that you have learned about statistical programming.

Final Exam

The final is comprehensive, but most of the material will be from the chapters covered after the midterm. There will certainly be a multiple choice part and possibly be a short-answer part.

Grading

CRITERION	PORTION	GRADING SALE GRADE PERCENTAGE
1. Paper Project	15%	A 90-100
2. Homework	25%	B 80-89
3. Midterm Exam	25%	C 70-79
6. Final Exam	35%	D 50-69 F 0-49

Absences

You are expected to be at and take every exam and quiz. If you are not present at the exam, you must have a valid excuse (such as an official athletic activity or a hospitalization). If you are a student athlete and will be absent from an exam, please bring me the documentation as soon as possible. If you had a medical emergency, please bring me the documentation as soon as you are well and are able to communicate with me through email.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to abide by the strictest standards of academic integrity. If you are unsure of what this means, please read more about it at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

Note

I do not plan on making any changes to this syllabus. But if any changes to happen, I will notify you.