**Introduction to Political Analysis**

PS 372—003 Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 PM –4:45 PM

**Mahmut Ulas Gozutok**

**Course Information: Instructor Information:**

Course Number PS 372—003 Instructor: Mahmut Ulas Gozutok

Barker Hall Room 303 Email: ulas.gozutok@uky.edu

Lecture: TR 3:30-4:45 PM Office: Patterson Office Tower 1602

Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30 PM

**Overview:**

The main purpose of this course is to introduce political science research methodology to students and familiarize them with the proper conduct of political science research. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify and locate academic sources on a variety of political and social science topics, to identify the particular research designs used in these studies, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of these studies, and to utilize these publications and research methods in future political science courses.

**Course Objectives:**

This course seeks to enable students to achieve the following goals:

* Understand the basic goals of social science research
* Comprehend the basic approaches used within empirical research in political science
* Be able to locate and summarize peer reviewed sources through library databases
* Learn how to formulate an appropriate research question, develop testable hypotheses, and operationalize concepts in order to test said hypotheses
* Acquire knowledge of basic descriptive statistics and be able to interpret different types of regression analyses

**Course Materials:**

Required Texts

Students will need to purchase the following book for the semester. The book can be purchased or rented through the UK bookstore or through certain online retailers (i.e. Amazon) at a reduced cost. Students are expected to read the assigned reading(s) *before* coming to class.

Johnson, Janet Buttolph, H. T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. 2016. *Political Science Research Methods*. Sage CQ Press, Eighth Edition. ISBN 9781506307824.

Additional required readings not listed here will be made available on Canvas.

Canvas

Canvas will be used to post course announcements, course materials, and grades. Students should access this course on Canvas as soon as possible, so that problems do not compromise performance in this course. Students who have problems accessing Canvas are encouraged to consult: elearning@uky.edu

**Course Requirements:**

Attendance & Participation 10%

Assignments 20%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam 30%

Article Review 10%

Presentation 10%

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

100%

**Description of Course Requirements:**

***Attendance & Participation*** (10%): Students are expected to come to class, to participate and to meaningfully contribute in classroom discussions. Attendance will be recorded daily in order to evaluate class participation. Attendance and Participation account for ten percent of the overall course grade.

***Assignments*** (20%): Students are expected to complete weekly assignments and upload them to canvas before coming to class. In this course, we will have a total of 10 assignments, which will be posted to canvas prior to class discussions. Apart from constituting an important portion of the overall course grade, these assignments will help students understand and get ready to discuss the material. Students, who successfully complete all posted assignments, will earn 20% of the overall course grade. Therefore, I always expect that readings be completed *before* class.

***Exams*** (50%): Students will take a midterm exam (20%) and a final exam (30%) during the semester. The midterm exam will cover material covered during the first part of the semester. The final exam will be cumulative with an emphasis on the material that will be covered after midterm. Date for exams are in the schedule section of the syllabus. The date for the final exam is also on the registrar’s final exam page, which can be found here: <http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/fall-final-exam-schedule>

***Article Review*** (10%) and ***Presentation*** (10%): One of the stated goals of this course is that by the end of the semester, students will be competent consumers of political science research, and this is best achieved by reading published works. After midterm, students will be presented to pick one article from a variety of choices. Then, students will write a 4 to 5-page article review (instructions will be distributed closer to the due date) and present their reviews with a focus on literature review, theoretical framework and methodology used in articles. I will also provide each student constructive feedback on their presentations. These presentations will give students an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned from this course. Article reviews will be due in the week before our final discussion. Each student will also present in the same week that article reviews will be uploaded. Both article review and presentation account for twenty percent of the overall course grade.

**Grading Scale:** Each assignment will receive a percentage grade and both the midterm and final grade formulas will result in a grade percentage. These percentages correspond to the following grading scale:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59 or below E

**Expectations**

Attendance – Attendance in this class is *not* mandatory, however students cannot expect to do well if they do not come to class. Students who fail to come to class can easily fall behind with the course material, and their grades for participation in class discussions will suffer. I will record the class rolls every day in order to evaluate class participation. That being said, attendance and *active participation* are required for full participation points. Weekly assignments will also help students to be more active in their participation.

Make-Up Opportunities for Missing an Exam – When there is an ***excused absence***, students will be given the opportunity to make up a missing exam. However, in cases of missing an exam for a University-approved reason (<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/policies.php>), students must provide written notice at least 1 week *in advance of the exam*.  If students miss an exam due to an unexpected emergency (e.g., a serious personal or family health issue), *they will be expected to notify me immediately of their situation and provide formal documentation.* If a student’s reason does not, in my view, meet the standards for an excused or emergency absence, no makeup exam will be offered.

Also, if students miss a class, regardless of it being excused or not, they should email me ahead of time, or immediately after class, with an explanation for the absence. See the “excused absences and verification” section below for more information.

Submission of assignments: All assignments and article reviews are expected to be uploaded to Canvas. I do NOT accept any assignment submitted via e-mail. I expect all assignments to be turned in prior to each meeting. *Late assignments will not be accepted*.

Academic Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services for students. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

Excused Absences and Verification

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. S.R. 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class.

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per university policy.

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence.

Academic Integrity

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that students should review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Students should also note that any assignment they turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

See Students Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 6.3 <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html> for UK’s policy on academic integrity.

Classroom Behavior — Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner during lectures and subsequent discussions. In lecture, this means minimizing disruptions and distractions by silencing cell phones, refraining from texting, using laptops only to take notes, and limiting conversations. This will mean respecting the potentially diverse viewpoints of your classmates. I reserve the right to deduct participation points for any behavior I deem to be disrespectful or distracting.

***\*\*Disclaimer – I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time as I see fit to better accommodate the course. Modifications will be communicated via Canvas, email, or in class.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Schedule**  (Please note that the reading list and schedule of activities are subject to change)  *Abbreviations*: JRM=Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff | |
| **Week 1** | **Course Introduction** |
| Aug 25  Thursday | Course overview, introductions  Read: “Ten Things Political Scientists Know that You Don’t” (Canvas) |
| **Week 2** | **Introduction to Political Science Research** |
| Aug 30  Tuesday | Read: JRM chapter 1 (pgs 1-25) |
| Sep 1  Thursday | Read: JRM chapter 1 (pgs 25-45)  *Assignment#1* |
| **Week 3** | **The Empirical Approach to Political Science** |
| Sep 6  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 2 |
| Sep 8  Thursday | Read: “Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science” by Almond (Canvas)  *Assignment#2* |
| **Week 4** | **Literature Review, Hypotheses, & Concepts** |
| Sep 13  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 3 |
| Sep 15  Thursday | Read: “Doing a Literature Review” by Knopf (Canvas)  Using library databases to build a literature review  Read JRM Chapter 4  *Assignment#3* |
| **Week 5** | **Measurement** |
| Sep 20  Tuesday | Read: JRM Chapter 5 |
| Sep 22  Thursday | Read: “Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited” by Cheibub, Gandhi, and Vreeland (Canvas)  *Assignment#4* |
| **Week 6** | **Research Design: Causal Inferences** |
| Sep 27  Tuesday | Read: JRM Chapter 6 |
| Sep 29  Thursday | Read: “Experimentation in Political Science” by Morton and Williams (Canvas)  *Assignment#5* |
| **Week 7** | **Sampling** |
| Oct 4  Tuesday | Read JRM chapter 7  Read: “Evaluating Online Labor Markets for Experimental Research: Amazon.com’s Mechanical Turk” (Canvas)  *Assignment#6* |
| Oct 6  Thursday | Midterm exam review session |
| **Week 8** | **Exam Week** |
| Oct 11  Tuesday | No class – use today to study |
| Oct 13  Thursday | Midterm exam |
| **Week 9** | **Survey Research and Interviewing** |
| Oct 18  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 10 |
| Oct 20  Thursday | Read: “How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy, and How Can We Measure It” by Inglehart (Canvas)  *Asssignment#7* |
| **Week 10** | **Descriptive Statistics and Making Sense of Data** |
| Oct 25  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 11 (348-368) |
| Oct 27  Thursday | Read JRM Chapter 11 (369-386)  Read “Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science” (Canvas)  *Assignment#8 (Descriptive Statistics, Tables and Graphs)* |
| **Week 11** | **Statistical Inference** |
| Nov 1  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 12 |
| Nov 3  Thursday | *Assignment#9 (Hypothesis Testing and Confidence Intervals)* |
| **Week 12** | **Bivariate Relationships and Regression Analysis** |
| Nov 8  Tuesday | No Class – Presidential Election Day |
| Nov 10  Thursday | Read JRM Chapter 13 |
| **Week 13** | **Multivariate Analysis** |
| Nov 15  Tuesday | Read JRM Chapter 14 |
| Nov 17  Thursday | *Assignment#10 (Linear Models and Logistic Regression)* |
| **Week 14** | **THANKSGIVING** |
| Nov 22  Tuesday | No Class – Thanksgiving Holidays |
| April 24  Thursday | No Class – Thanksgiving Holidays |
| **Week 15** | **Article Presentations** |
| Nov 29  Tuesday | Presentations I |
| Dec 1  Thursday | Presentations II  Article reviews due by 5:00 PM (upload to Canvas) |
| **Week 15** | **Final Exam Review Week** |
| Dec 6  Tuesday | Presentation Feedback and Final Exam Review Session I |
| Dec 8  Thursday | Final Exam Review Session II; Last day of Class |
| ***Dec 13***  ***Tuesday*** | ***Final Exam: Tuesday April 13 at 3:30 PM*** |