

# POLS 9010: Research Design & Analysis

University of Missouri

Summer 2022

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## Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to the tools and techniques that are required for a successful graduate school experience in political science. I have divided the lectures into three topics: those dealing with how to be a successful graduate student (*Professionalization*), those teaching writing techniques for academic political science (*Writing*), and those addressing how to conduct high-quality research (*Empirical Analysis*). We will also learn two computer programs which are necessary for conducting quantitative research (Stata) and producing publication-quality manuscripts (L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X).

## Hours and Credit

All students currently have a grade of NR (Not Recorded). At the conclusion of the boot camp, I will change the grade based on the following:

**Grades:** The final course grade will be based on:

- Homeworks/Exercises (80%)
- Participation (20%)

Final class grades will be assigned with the following grading scale:

**A+ = 97.0 - 100**  
**A = 90.0 - 96.99**  
**B+ = 87.0 - 89.99**  
**B = 80.0 - 86.99**  
**C+ = 77.0 - 79.99**  
**C = 70.0 - 76.99**  
**D+ = 67.0 - 69.99**  
**D = 60.0 - 66.99**  
**F = 0 - 59.99**

Please note that there will be no “rounding up” of grades. There are no exceptions to this policy, so don’t try to get me to round up when you get your grade. Rounding quickly becomes an arbitrary and unfair process. There will also be no extra credit opportunities, except those offered in class to everyone.

## Academic Integrity

I automatically run each paper through the plagiarism software called TurnItIn. This compares the assignment to published articles, paper mills, online sources, and previous papers. It provides a comprehensive

report detailing instances where there are concerns, including too much verbatim quotations, excessive paraphrasing, incorrect citations, etc. It is critically important that you understand that passing off someone else's ideas as your own is a specific form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty in general. **Any student plagiarizing will receive a 0 for that assignment. I reserve the right to report this to the Office of Academic Integrity and this information can potentially be used in other decisions in the Truman School (including, but not limited to, funding, travel/research/methods requests, awards/fellowships, good standing, etc).**

## Class Schedule and Topics

We will spend as much time as necessary on each topic for this course. We are unable to predict in advance how long each topic will take. *It is expected that you will have read the assigned readings **before** the topic for which they are assigned is covered. Additional required readings will be announced during class meetings.*

### Thursday, August 4

**9:00-9:15** Graduate Student Welcome: Lael Keiser (Chair)

**9:15-9:45** Locust Street Building Tour: Jacob Owen

**9:45-11:15** *Professionalization*: Overview

**11:30-12:00** *Empirical Analysis*: Dead Grandmother Problem

- *Reading*: Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

**1:00-3:00** *Professionalization*: How to Read

### Friday, August 5

**9:00-10:30** *Professionalization*: CV Exercise

**10:45-11:30** *Empirical Analysis*: Stata

**1:00-2:30** *Empirical Analysis*: Overview of Empirical Political Science

**2:30-3:30** Course Registration

### Monday, August 8

**Morning** *Writing*: Identifying Puzzles

- *Reading*: King, Gary. Forthcoming. "So You're a Grad Student Now? Maybe You Should Do This."

**Morning** *Writing*: Structure of Writing

- *Reading*: Hoover Green, Amelia. 2013. "How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps."
- *Example*: Wlezien, Christopher. 1995. "The Public as Thermostat: Dynamics of Preferences for Spending." *American Journal of Political Science*. 39.4: 981-1000. **Only read the introduction!**

**Afternoon:** International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) Language Assessment for International Students (No Class)

## Tuesday, August 9

**9:00-10:00** *Writing:* Introduction

- *Reading:* Duch, Raymond M. and Randolph T. Stevenson. 2010. "Context and Economic Expectations: When Do Voters Get It Right?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 41: 1-31. **Only read the introduction!**
- *Reading:* Hetherington, Marc J. 1996. "The Media's Role in Forming Voters' National Economic Evaluations in 1992." *American Journal of Political Science*. 40.2: 372-395. **Only read the introduction!**

**10:00-11:00** *Professionalization:* Tips for Success from Faculty

**11:00-12:00** *Professionalization:* Academic Conferences Discussion

**1:00-3:00** *Empirical Analysis:* Introduction to Stata

## Wednesday, August 10

**9:00-11:00** *Writing:* Literature Review

- *Reading:* Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Randolph M. Siverson. 1995. "War and the Survival of Political Leaders: A Comparative Study of Regime Types and Political Accountability." *The American Political Science Review*. 89.4: 841-855.
- *Reading:* Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *The American Political Science Review*. 90.4: 715-735. **Download only!**
- *Reading:* Lupia, Arthur and Kaare Strom. 1995. "Coalition Termination and the Strategic Timing of Parliamentary Elections." *The American Political Science Review*. 89.3: 648-665. **Download only!**
- *Reading:* Williams, Laron K. and Guy D. Whitten. 2015. "Don't Stand So Close to Me: Spatial Contagion Effects and Party Competition." *American Journal of Political Science*. 59.2: 309-325. **Download only!**

**11:00-12:00** *Professionalization:* Publishing in Political Science

- *Reading:* American Journal of Political Science Editor's Report to the Executive Council, 2019.

**1:00-3:00** *Empirical Analysis:* Stata Basics

## Thursday, August 11

**9:00-10:30** Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**10:45-11:30** *Empirical Analysis:* Data Management

**12:00-12:30** *Teaching Pedagogy Conference:* Welcome (Stotler III, Memorial Union) **Lunch is provided**

**12:30-2:00** *Teaching Pedagogy Conference:* Teaching American Government (Stotler III, Memorial Union)

## Friday, August 12

**9:00-10:30** Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(Continued)

**10:45-12:00** *Writing*: Theory & Conclusion

- *Reading*: Fearon, James D. 1994. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes.” *The American Political Science Review*. 88.3: 577-592. **Download only!**
- *Reading*: MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson and James A. Stimson. 1992. “Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the US Economy.” *The American Political Science Review*. 86.3: 597-611. **Download only!**

**2:00-3:00** *Professionalization*: Discussion on expectations for TA/RA assignments

## Monday, August 15

**8:30-10:00** New Graduate Student Orientation (Jesse Auditorium)

**10:30-12:00** *Writing*: Seven Basic Principles of Quantitative Writing

- *Reading*: Miller, Jane E. 2013. *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Multivariate Analysis*, 2nd Edition. Chapter 2.

**1:00-2:30** *Professionalization*: Discussion on Racial and Gender Equity

- *Reading*: APSA. 2018. *Report on Diversity and Inclusion*
- *Reading*: Chenoweth et al. 2016. “How to Get Tenure in Political Science (If You’re a Woman)” *Foreign Policy*
- *Reading*: Beaulieu, Emily, et al. “Women Also Know Stuff: Meta-Level Mentoring to Battle Gender Bias in Political Science”

**2:45-4:00** *Writing*: Writing with Clarity

- *Reading*: McCloskey, Deirdre. 1999. *Economical Writing*. Any Edition. Waveland Press. (Read the entire book!)
- *Reading*: Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. 4th Edition. Pearson. (For future reference!)

## Tuesday, August 16

**Clean Up/Finish**

## Wednesday, August 17

**8:00-9:00** Welcome Breakfast (location TBD)

**9:30-11:00** Safe Space Training (Locust Street Building E304)

**11:00-12:00** *Workshop*: References in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**1:00-2:00** GAPS Introduction/Advice from Students (Locust Street Building E304)

**2:30-3:30** Implicit Bias Training (Middlebush 212)

## **Thursday, August 18**

**8:30-12:15** Graduate Teaching Orientation (Zoom): Day 1 of 2

- NOTE: students must register for the GTO at the Graduate School website

## **Friday, August 19**

**9:00-3:00** Graduate Teaching Orientation (In-person, location TBD): Day 2 of 2

- NOTE: students must register for the GTO at the Graduate School website