

# POLS 9010: Research Design & Analysis

University of Missouri

2019

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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.

## 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.*

## Monday, August 5

9:00-10:00 *Professionalization*: Overview

10:00-12:00 *Writing*: Identifying Research Questions

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

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Advice from Graduate Students

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Overview of Empirical Political Science

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

## Tuesday, August 6

9:00-9:30 Graduate Student Welcome: Lael Keiser (Interim Chair)

10:00-10:45 *Empirical Analysis*: Finding and Using Library Resources: Sandy Schiefer (Librarian)

10:45-12:00 *Writing*: Architecture of Writing

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Tips for Success from Faculty

2:00-3:00 *Writing* (continued): Architecture of Writing

3:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Causality

- *Reading*: Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3-4.

## Wednesday, August 7

9:00-12:00 *Writing*: Divide and Conquer

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Placement

- *Reading*: APSA. 2019. "APSA Graduate Placement Report: Analysis of Political Science Placements for 2017-2018"

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Measurement Theory

- *Reading*: Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5.

## Thursday, August 8

9:00-12:00 *Writing*: Literature Review/Locate a Puzzle

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Publishing in Political Science

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

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Descriptive Statistics

- *Reading*: Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

## Friday, August 9

9:00-10:30 *Writing*: Theory/Hypothesis

10:30-12:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Introduction to Stata I

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Time Management

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Seven Basic Principles of Quantitative Writing

## Monday, August 12

9:30-11:30 New Graduate Student Orientation

1:00-2:30 *Writing*: Implications, Conclusions and References

- *Reading*: APSA. 2018. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Revised 2018 Edition.

2:30-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Introduction to Stata II

## Tuesday, August 13

9:00-12:00 *Writing*: Writing with Clarity

- *Reading*: McCloskey, Deirdre. 1999. *Economical Writing*. Any Edition. Waveland Press. (Read the entire book!)

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Be a Good Colleague

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Displaying Quantitative Information

## Wednesday, August 14

9:00-12:00 *Writing*: Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Presentations in Political Science

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Mathematical Foundation for Empirical Analysis

## Thursday, August 15

9:00-12:00 *Writing*: Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(continued)

1:00-2:00 *Professionalization*: Conferences

2:00-4:00 *Empirical Analysis*: Probability Theory

## Friday, August 16: NO CLASS

8:30-3:00 Graduate Assistant Teaching Orientation: Tate Hall 22

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