

INTL 6010: Research Methods in International Policy

Fall 2020

DUE TO COVID-19, THIS CLASS WILL MEET IN PERSON ROUGHLY THREE OF EVERY FOUR WEEKS. SEE THE BELOW SCHEDULE FOR AVAILABLE IN-PERSON MEETINGS. A SUBSET OF STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND EACH IN-PERSON CLASS. ALL CLASS MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM DURING THE SCHEDULED CLASS TIME AND WILL BE RECORDED. IF YOU DO ATTEND CLASS IN PERSON, PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE FOLLOWING ALL UGA GUIDELINES RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC: <https://coronavirus.uga.edu/>

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Office: 305 International Affairs Building (202 Herty Drive)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00PM (via Zoom)

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Course Webpage: UGA eLearning Commons

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 9:35AM-12:20PM

Class Location: 309 Gilbert Hall

Goal of the Course: The goal of this course is to help you understand how we study politics and policy and to provide guidance in conducting original research. The course will provide you with a general understanding of what science is and a foundation in the logic and practice of systematic social science inquiry. In addition to discussing general questions about the philosophy of science, we will cover fundamental issues such as arriving at a research question, theory building, hypothesis development, variable measurement, and identifying and dealing with confounding factors, and causality. We will then move to quantitative analysis; topics covered will include statistical inference, bivariate relationships, and multivariate relationships. The student should leave with an understanding of how to conduct his or her own research and a solid foundation for reading scholarly literature in political science and international policy.

Required Readings:

Kellstedt, Paul M., and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (KW)

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Putnam)

Several journal articles, all of which are available online for free

Student Responsibilities and Grade Breakdown:

Readings: Students are required to do the readings for each class period ahead of time. Each week, students should write a short memo summarizing the readings for each class ahead of time. They should then refer to the memo during discussion.

Participation: As this is a graduate seminar, your participation is crucial and will count for 10% of your grade. Your involvement toward the end of the semester, when we will critique the research designs of students in the class, is particularly important.

Research Design and Presentation: A critical assignment in the course is a research design, which includes a research question, theory and literature review, hypotheses, variable operationalization and measurement, dependent and independent variables, and what your expected findings would be if you were to actually conduct the research. (If you are able, you are encouraged to actually conduct analyses.) You will present your design toward the end of the semester. The research design will count for 25% of your grade. Note that a one-page summary of your research design is due in class midway through the semester.

Exams: There will be two exams, each of which will count for 30% of your grade.

Homework Assignment: There will be one, rather long homework assignment handed out in the second half of the semester. This can be turned in any time on or before the day of the second exam. It will count for 5% of your grade. The purpose of the homework is to help you prepare for the second exam. You should approach me with any questions you have about the homework questions.

Grade Scale:

>=93%:	A
90-92.99%:	A-
87-89.99%:	B+
83-86.99%:	B
80-82.99%:	B-
77-79.99%:	C+
73-76.99%:	C
70-72.99%:	C-
60-69.99%:	D
<60%:	F

Late/Missed Assignments: Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Make-up exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs

at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Academic Integrity: The academic honesty policy of the university is supplemented (not replaced) by an Honor Code which was adopted by the Student Government Association and approved by the University Council May 1, 1997, and provides: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” All students agree to abide by this code by signing the UGA Admissions Application.

Readings and Course Schedule: *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

Readings with a “*” in front are optional

WEEK 1

August 25: Welcome and Introduction

The Edicts of Candler Hall

WEEK 2

September 1: The Scientific Study of Politics and Policy (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

KW, Chapter 1

Putnam, Chapter 1 (an example of selecting and formulating a research agenda)

WEEK 3

September 8: Theory, Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

KW, Chapter 2

Skim: Burlacu, Diana. 2020. Corruption and Ideological Voting. *British Journal of Political Science* 50 (2): 435-56. (a good comparative politics example with clear hypotheses and variables)

Skim: Cassese, Erin C. 2020. Straying from the Flock? A Look at How Americans’ Gender and Religious Identities Cross-Pressure Partisanship. *Political Research Quarterly* 73 (1): 169-83. (a good American politics example with clear hypotheses and variables)

Skim: Fuhrmann, Matthew. 2009. Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements. *International Security* 34 (1): 7-41. (a good international relations example with clear hypotheses and variables)

WEEK 4

September 15: Operationalization and Measurement (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

KW, Chapter 5 and pages 125-130 of Chapter 6

Putnam, Chapter 3 (an example of operationalization and measurement)

*McDonald, Michael P., and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. The Myth of the Vanishing Voter. *American Political Science Review* 95 (4): 963-974. (an example of how measurement decisions can affect substantive conclusions)

WEEK 5

September 22: Causality and Relationships between Variables

KW, Chapter 3

WEEK 6

September 29: Experimental and Observational Designs (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

KW, all of Chapter 4 but Section 4.4

Putnam, Chapter 4 (Putnam's theory testing chapter)

Skim: Gerber, Alan S, and Donald P. Green. 2000. The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment. *American Political Science Review* 94 (3): 653-663. (an example that will inform our discussion of internal validity)

WEEK 7

October 6: Exam 1

WEEK 8 (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

October 13: Sampling and Surveys

Hand out homework assignment

KW, Chapter 7

*<https://www.economist.com/international/2018/05/26/plunging-response-rates-to-household-surveys-worry-policymakers> (an article on the perils of declining survey response rates)

WEEK 9

October 20: Descriptive Statistics and Statistical Inference (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

Hand in one-page research design summaries

KW, pages 130-139 of Chapter 6, Chapter 7 again, and section 8.3 of Chapter 8

WEEK 10

October 27: Bivariate Relationships (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

Sign up for research design presentation days

KW, skim Chapter 8 and read Chapter 9 in depth

Putnam, Chapter 4 again, skim it (Putnam's theory testing chapter, which includes several bivariate examinations)

WEEK 11 (AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON MEETING)

November 3: Multivariate Relationships

KW, Chapter 10 and pages 246-258 of Chapter 11

*Brambor, Thomas, William Roberts Clark, and Matt Golder. 2006. Understanding Interaction Models: Improving Empirical Analyses. *Political Analysis* 14 (1): 63-82. (provides excellent guidance for testing conditional hypotheses with multiple regression)

WEEK 12

November 10: Exam 2

WEEK 13

November 17: Presentation of Research Designs

WEEK 14

November 24: Presentation of Research Designs (Last Day of In-Person Class due to COVID-19)

WEEK 15

December 1: Open date due to COVID-19 uncertainty. We may have an online meeting.

FINALS WEEK

December 17: Research design papers due by 5:00PM. Email me your paper as a PDF file.