Political Science 51: The Scientific Study of Politics
TR, 3:10-4:30 PM, Haring 2016
T, 10:00-10:50 AM, Kerr 451

Instructor:
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Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to the *science* of political science. The first part of the course focuses on key concepts in the scientific study of politics: theory building, research design, and the measurement of political variables. The second component of the course provides training on methods for the empirical analysis of data.

Required Texts:

1. Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. ISBN: `978-1-107-62166-4`

Journal articles are available on SmartSite (`https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/portal/site/pol51_hare_fall2015`).

Grade Components:

Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam (November 5)	35%
Final Exam (December 11)	35%

Grading System:

≥ 97	A+	87 - 89	B+	77 - 79	C+	67 - 69	D+	< 60	F
93 - 96	A	83 - 86	B	73 - 76	C	63 - 66	D		
90 - 92	A-	80 - 82	B-	70 - 72	C-	60 - 62	D-		

Class Attendance: I consider college students fully capable of making appropriate decisions with respect to class attendance and equally capable of living with the consequences of those decisions.

Assignments: There will be four homework assignments assigned throughout the course. I will drop the lowest grade, meaning that the remaining assignments each count 10% towards your final grade. No extensions will be given for any assignment without prior approval, or without a written medical excuse or note from the Dean's office. All late papers will be graded down one portion of a grade (e.g., from a "B+" to a "B") for every day late, including Saturday and Sunday.

Assignments must be submitted through the SmartSite course page at `https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/portal/site/pol51_hare_fall2015`.

Makeup Exams: Makeup exams will not be administered without prior approval, or without a written medical excuse or note from the Dean's office. You should make arrangements with me as soon as possible if you know that you will be absent for one of the exams.

Academic Honesty: I strictly adhere to the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct (`http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html`). I will report any suspected academic misconduct to Student Judicial Affairs.

Disabilities:
Students with special needs that require accommodation should notify the Student Disability Center (54 Cowell Building; `530.752.3184`; `https://sdc.ucdavis.edu`) as soon as possible so that arrangements detailed in the Letter of Accommodation can be made.

Tentative Schedule:
This schedule is subject to change:

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1 September 24	Introduction	
Week 2 September 29 - October 1	Theory Building	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 1-2. • Elizabeth Eaves, "Why Elinor Ostrom Matters," `http://onforb.es/1K7drpP` • Sam Whitt and Rick K. Wilson, "The Dictator Game, Fairness and Ethnicity in Postwar Bosnia," *American Journal of Political Science* 51: 655-668.
Week 3 October 6 - October 8 **Assignment #1 Due: October 8**	Causation and Research Design	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 3-4. • Steven D. Levitt, "Using Repeat Challengers to Estimate the Effect of Campaign Spending on Election Outcomes in the United States House," *Journal of Political Economy* 102: 777-798. • Gregory A. Huber and Kevin Arceneaux, "Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising," *American Journal of Political Science* 51: 957-977.

Week 4 October 13 - October 15	Measurement	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 5. • Jeffrey A. Segal and Albert D. Cover, "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices," *American Political Science Review* 83: 557-565. • Michael Tesler, "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care," *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 690-704.
Week 5 October 20 - October 22 **Assignment #2** **Due: October 22**	Introduction to `R`	• CRAN: `https://cran.r-project.org/` • RStudio: `https://www.rstudio.com/`
Week 6 October 27 - October 29	Probability and Statistical Inference	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 6. • Gerald H. Kramer, "The Ecological Fallacy Revisited: Aggregate- versus Individual-level Findings on Economics and Elections, and Sociotropic Voting" *American Political Science Review* 77: 92-111.
Week 7 November 3 - November 5 **Midterm Exam:** **November 5**	Probability and Statistical Inference	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 6.
Week 8 November 10 - November 12	Correlation and Bivariate Regression	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 7-8. • Alan I. Abramowitz and Kyle L. Saunders, "Is Polarization a Myth?," *Journal of Politics* 70: 542-555.
Week 9 November 17 - November 19 **Assignment #3** **Due: November 17**	Multiple Regression	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 9-10. • R. Michael Alvarez and Jonathan Nagler, "Economics, Issues and the Perot Candidacy: Voter Choice in the 1992 Presidential Election" *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 714-744. • Sarah A. Treul, "Ambition and Party Loyalty in the U.S. Senate" *American Politics Research* 37: 449-464.

Week 10 November 24	Multiple Regression (cont.)	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 10. • David Karol and Edward Miguel "The Electoral Cost of War: Iraq Casualties and the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election," *Journal of Politics* 69: 633-648.
Week 11 December 1 - December 3 **Assignment #4** **Due: December 3** **Final Exam:** **December 11,** **1-3 PM**	Bayesian Statistics and Revisiting Measurement	• S. James Press, "Multivariate Group Assessment of Probabilities of Nuclear War," *Bayesian Statistics* 2: 425-462.