

POS 6736 Section 3293  
 Wednesdays 3 pm to 6 pm, Anderson 216 / Matherly 251  
 Fall 2015

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Office Hours: 208 Anderson Hall  
 Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:30 pm  
 Wednesdays, 10:30 am to noon

## Conduct of Inquiry

### Goal of the course

Why do we call our discipline "political *science*"? What kinds of research do political scientists do, and how do they communicate that knowledge to one another? How do we know what we think we know? How do we measure political phenomena? How would we know if a new public policy "worked"? Are polls still able to predict election outcomes with the samples they can get? How do we analyze data, and what are good data to analyze? Are ethics as hard to define for political scientists as they are for political campaigners?

During the course of the semester, we will discuss these issues and others. Our discussions, the readings, various written assignments, computer assignments, the final exam, and the final research paper will facilitate your becoming intelligent consumers of political science research, as well as help you become producers of your own research. The skills that you develop in the course will help you understand the literature that you read in substantive seminars, help you evaluate that research, enable you to better understand the assumptions behind each research design, introduce you to data management using a popular statistical package, help you find published research and data archives on topics that interest you, and familiarize you with some of the techniques used in individual and aggregate level analysis.

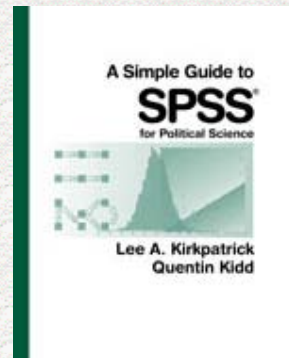
My only assumption is that participants in the seminar are intelligent, motivated students beginning a Ph.D. program or an M.A. program (Public Affairs, Political Campaigning, or International Relations). For many students, this will be an entirely different kind of course. Many good undergraduate lecture courses and graduate seminars require you to become knowledgeable about a field, such as Political Behavior, Public Policy, or International Relations. In this course, we are not focused on a particular field, but are more interested in understanding the methods that political scientists in all fields use to understand and build knowledge. Of course, new things can be both exciting and frightening. Any trepidation that you may have is best overcome by "feeling the fear, and doing it anyway." The excitement will come with the realization that this knowledge is empowering, in that it will enable you to find, read, and understand research on your own. You will also begin to produce this kind of research, which will give you a product of your own labors.

### Requirements

In order to meet these goals, participants in the seminar will be required to

- **Attend and participate in seminar (10%).** Every person should come to seminar prepared to comment on the assigned readings, and help others to understand the concepts presented in the readings and assignments. Research is not a spectator sport, so you should expect me to ask for your contributions on a regular basis. Some time in seminar will be devoted to lecture, but your participation in this course is expected to be that of an "active learner". **Any absence from seminar requires a prompt explanation.** Multiple absences seriously jeopardize the prospect for successful completion of the course.
- **Write occasional assignments (30% cumulative).** Some assignments are short essays (roughly 5 pages), and others are exercises using data. Written assignments are announced on this syllabus. Data assignments will be announced in class. All completed assignments must represent each participant's own and sole work, unless otherwise directed.
- **Complete an Examination (35%).** December 9 during classtime.
- **Write a Research Paper (25%).** Each participant will be required to submit a research paper. Papers will be judged on readability, the appropriateness of the research question, the suitability of the design for that question, the interpretation of the analysis, and (if appropriate) the feasibility of extending the analysis in an M.A. Thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. Guidelines for the paper are posted [here](#). **Due noon Monday, December 14**

### Readings and Resources



- Johnson, Janet Buttolph and H. T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods*. Seventh Edition. CQ Press. [ISBN 978-1-60871-689-0](https://doi.org/10.1080/10571825.2012.708888)
- Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. 2013. *A Simple Guide to SPSS® for Political Science*. Wadsworth Cengage. [ISBN 978-1-11135-379-7](https://doi.org/10.1080/10571825.2013.788888)
- You will also be required to access numerous journal articles, which are generally available electronically through access to E-Learning. If you prefer reading (and paying for) hardcopy, an optional coursepack that contains should be available at [Target Copy](#) (1412 W University Ave.). **The coursepack is under the course number POS 4734, and it contains many, but not all, of the required readings.**
- [You will also learn some basic data analysis using SPSS. SPSS is available](#)
  - in the [UF Apps](#) package (free, and can be used on a Windows, Mac, or tablet, but can be slow)
  - for lease (to November 30 plus 60 day grace period) from [UF Software Services](#) for use on your laptop or home computer (\$35 plus tax)
  - for six-month lease from [Onthehub](#) for use on your laptop or home computer (\$38 + \$4.99 download fee)
  - in the [Academic Technology labs](#) around campus (free, but you should also have a version on your laptop or tablet that you can use and bring to class).
- listserv - Registered students in the class are enrolled on the class listserv. Messages from the listserv are sent to students' Gatorlink email addresses (eg., youhoo@ufl.edu), and students should check that email regularly.
- E-Learning - I will also post some materials, assignments, assignment inboxes, and grades on the class E-Learning - Canvas site. Log in at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

The following is a tentative calendar, and dates on assignments are especially subject to revision. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are included in the Target Copy coursepack.

**Introduction to the course and Anatomy of a Research Article**

Read: Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 1 and 2

Gray, Virginia, John Cluverius, Jeffrey J. Harden, Boris Shor, and David Lowery. 2015. "Party Competition, Party Polarization, and the Changing Demand for Lobbying in the American States." *American Politics Research* 43: 175-204.

Most, Benjamin A. 1990. "Getting started on political research." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 23 (4, December), 592-596.

Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. Chapter 1.

Bound copies of most journals should be available in [Library West](#).

Aug 26

**Be prepared to discuss:**

(1) Describe Gray etl al's article, outlining its component parts. What is their main "theory"? Do they have a

"theory", in the sense that term is used by Johnson and Reynolds (Chapter 2) ?

(2) What are their hypotheses? How do they test them?

(3) If Most were advising Gray et al on where to go next in their research on lobbying in the American states, what directions would be scientifically fruitful?

**Have SPSS loaded onto your laptop or tablet ready to use, and bring it to class.**

**Researchers as Readers: Literature Review**

**Meet in Library West 211.**

**Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 3

Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. "Doing a Literature Review." *PS-Political Science & Politics* 39 (1, January): 127-132.

Kirkpatrick, Lee A. and Quentin Kidd. Chapter 2.

**Followup Assignment Due (Sept 6; 6%)** - Write a short literature review that reviews one of the following optional journal articles, at least one journal article which was cited by the selected article, and at least one journal article that cited the selected article. Your review should explain whether the ideas and methods represented in the three (or more) articles are cumulative, and if so, how the ideas (or methods) from later articles were developed from ideas in earlier articles. Your review should close with your thoughts on avenues for future research in the subfield. I expect good papers will be five to seven pages.

Optional journal articles:

Boettcher, William A., III, and Michael D. Cobb. 2009. "'Don't Let Them Die in Vain' Casualty Frames and Public Tolerance for Escalating Commitment in Iraq." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53 (5, October): 677-697.

Koch, Jeffrey W. 2000. "Do Citizens Apply Gender Stereotypes to Infer Candidates' Ideological Orientations?" *Journal of Politics* 62 (2, 2000): 414-429.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. "A Kantian System? Democracy and Third-Party Conflict Resolution." *American Journal of Political Science* 46 (4, October): 749-759.

Sept 2

**Researchers as Theorists: Hypotheses, Concepts, and Variables**

**Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 4

Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 3.

**Be prepared to discuss:** What are the characteristics of good hypotheses? What is Gray et al's unit of analysis?

**Followup Assignment Due (Sept 13; 4%):** Find an existing dataset somewhere

- in the ICPSR archive ([www.icpsr.umich.edu](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu))
- American National Election Study ([www.electionstudies.org](http://www.electionstudies.org))
- Quality of Government Institute data (<http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/>)
- or a publicly available dataset you have found in the readings

Propose two hypotheses that you could test with that dataset. For each hypothesis, tell me

1. The dataset that you are proposing to use
2. The unit of analysis
3. The independent variable(s)
4. The dependent variable(s)

Sept 9

**Researchers as Counters: Measurement**

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| Sept 16 | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 5<br/>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 4.</p> <p>* Karp, Jeffrey A., and David Brockington. 2005. "Social Desirability and Response Validity: A Comparative Analysis of Overreporting Voter Turnout in Five Countries." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 67: 825-40.</p> <p>Hamm, Keith E., Ronald D. Hedlund, and Nancy Martorano. 2006. "Measuring State Legislative Committee Power: Change and Chamber Differences in the 20th Century." <i>State Politics &amp; Policy Quarterly</i> 6 (1, Spring): 88-111.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What are the principal desirable characteristics of social science measures? What is the differences between those characteristics? What measurement issues are important in developing good measures of voter turnout and committee power? Do Gray et al's measures have desirable characteristics? How do you know, or how could you know?</p> <p><b>Followup Assignment Due (Sept 20; 4%):</b> For each of the following variables in the designated datasets, (1) identify the unit of analysis and (2) present appropriate univariate statistics (either frequencies or descriptives) to describe the univariate distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feeling thermometer for Sarah Palin in the 2008 American National Election Study.</li> <li>• The Freedom House Political Rights measure (fh_pr) in the Quality of Government basic dataset (<a href="http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/data/datadownloads/qogbasicdata/">http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/data/datadownloads/qogbasicdata/</a>)</li> <li>• The percent of state legislatures that are women (WOMENLEG) in the State Politics and Policy Quarterly dataset (<a href="http://academic.udayton.edu/sppq-TPR/tpr_data_sets.html">http://academic.udayton.edu/sppq-TPR/tpr_data_sets.html</a>)</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Researchers as manipulators: Experiments</b> |
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| Sept 23 | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 6 (pp. 165 - 193)</p> <p>* Majeski, Stephen J. and Shane Fricks. 1995. "Conflict and Cooperation in International Relations." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 39 (4, December): 622-645.</p> <p>* King, David C. and Richard E. Matland. 2003. "Sex and the Grand Old Party - an Experimental Investigation of the Effect of Candidate Sex on Support for a Republican Candidate." <i>American Politics Research</i> 31 (6, November): 595-612.</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>Kinder, Donald R., and Thomas R. Palfrey. 1993. "On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science." In <i>Experimental Foundations of Political Science</i>. Eds. Donald R. Kinder, and Thomas R. Palfrey. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press. pp. 1-39.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 5.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What are the essential characteristics of an experiment, and what are the basic strengths and weaknesses of an experimental research design as compared to non-experimental designs? Evaluate those strengths and weaknesses with respect to the assigned articles. How is the independent variable manipulated, and how is the dependent variable measured? Is Hall (1992) an experiment? Why or why not?</p> <p><b>Followup Assignment (Oct 6; 3%)</b> - Use the King - Matland dataset to replicate their key findings.</p> |
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| <b>Sep 30</b> | <b>No class: ICPSR meetings</b> |
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| <b>Researchers drawing inferences: Observational Designs</b> |
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| Sept 30 | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 6 (pp. 194 - 221)</p> <p>* Fuhrmann, Matthew, and Michael C Horowitz. 2015. "When Leaders Matter: Rebel Experience and Nuclear Proliferation." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 77: 72-87.</p> <p>* Stratmann, Thomas and Martin Baur. 2002. "Plurality Rule, Proportional Representation, and the German</p> |
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| Oct 7 | <p>Bundestag: How Incentives to Pork-Barrel Differ across Electoral Systems." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 46 (3, July): 506-514.</p> <p>Choi, C., C. C. Turner, and C. Volden. 2002. "Means, Motive, and Opportunity - Politics, Community Needs, and Community Oriented Policing Services Grants." <i>American Politics Research</i> 30 (4, July): 423-455.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 6.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What are the basic strengths and weaknesses of a quasi-experimental research design and a case-study design as compared to an experimental design? Are Choi et al. (2002), Stratmann and Baur (2002) and Drury et al. (2005) high in internal validity, external validity, neither, or both?</p> |
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| <b>Researchers as Misers: Sampling</b> |  |
| Oct 14                                 | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 7</p> <p>Reiter, Dan and Curtis Meek. 1999. "Determinants of Military Strategy, 1903-1994: A Quantitative Empirical Test." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 43 (2, June): 363-387.</p> <p>* Dolan, Kathleen and Lynn E. Ford. 1997. "Change and Continuity among Women State Legislators: Evidence from Three Decades." <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 50: 137-51.</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 8.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> When should researchers <i>avoid</i> sampling? Why do researchers have to sample? What kinds of samples are used in the assigned articles for this week? Why were these samples chosen? Were these samples appropriate? For each sample, what is the theoretical population?</p> |

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| <b>Researchers as lurkers and intruders: Observation</b> |   |
| Oct 21   | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 8</p> <p>* Mazie, Steven V. and Patricia J. Woods. 2003. "Prayer, Contentious Politics, and the Women of the Wall: The Benefits of Collaboration in Participant Observation at Intense, Multifocal Events." <i>Field Methods</i> 15 (1, February): 25 - 50.</p> <p>Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1978. <i>Homestyle: House Members in Their Districts</i>. Boston: Little Brown. Introduction (xi to xvi) and Appendix (pp. 249-295)</p> <p>Kirkpatrick and Kidd, Chapter 7.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> Are there any advantages or disadvantages to participant observation techniques to gather data? Do these strategies pose any threats to the internal validity of the research design?</p> <p><b>Followup Assignment Due (Oct 28, 2:59 pm, 6%):</b> Observe a public meeting. This can be any meeting of a legislature, legislative committee, commission, local board, or any other public agency that you have the right to attend by virtue of your citizenship. Examples of acceptable meetings are the Florida House of Representatives, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Boynton Beach City Commission, or the Alachua County Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee. You may, but are not required to, observe a public meeting in your hometown over spring break. The Sunday <i>Gainesville Sun</i> usually lists upcoming public meetings in the City of Gainesville and Alachua County. Examples of unacceptable meetings are Student Government, its committees, other student or UF groups, or neighborhood property owners association meetings.</p> <p>This website lists public meetings in the City of Gainesville:<br/> <a href="http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/ClerkOfTheCommission/NoticeofMeetings/tabid/372/Default.aspx">http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/ClerkOfTheCommission/NoticeofMeetings/tabid/372/Default.aspx</a></p> <p>This website lists public meetings in Alachua County: <a href="http://www.alachuacounty.us/Pages/AlachuaCounty.aspx">http://www.alachuacounty.us/Pages/AlachuaCounty.aspx</a></p> <p>Write a short essay which (a) describes the setting of the meeting, (b) describes your observation role (using a role as</p> |

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|        | <p>defined by one of the readings), and (c) discusses whether the behavior of the meeting's participants varies by some independent variable or variables (eg.: gender, issue type, time). Does your observation of this case tend to confirm a pre-existing theoretical expectation, affirm a pre-existing theoretical expectation, and/or help build theory by induction?</p>  |
|        | <p><b>Researchers as diggers: Content Analysis and Aggregate Data</b></p>  |
| Oct 28 | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 9</p> <p>* Hayes, Danny, and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2015. "As Local News Goes, So Goes Citizen Engagement: Media, Knowledge, and Participation in US House Elections." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 77: 447-62.</p> <p>Damore, David F. 2002. "Candidate Strategy and the Decision to Go Negative." <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 55 (3, September): 669-685.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What kinds of research designs are employed in this week's readings? Where did the researchers dig up their data, and are the data and measures appropriate for the questions posed in the articles? Are these research stronger in internal validity or external validity, and why?</p> <p><b>Followup Assignment Due (November 1; 6%)</b> - Submit a research proposal for your final paper. Your proposal should have an introductory paragraph (or two) stating the research problem that your paper will address, propose at least two hypotheses that will be empirically tested in the paper, identify a dataset that will be used, and identify measures for the independent, dependent, and control variables to be used in the test.</p>   |
|        | <p><b>Researchers as interrogators: Survey Analysis</b></p>  |
| Nov 4  | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapter 10</p> <p>* Javeline, Debra. 1999. "Response Effects in Polite Cultures: A Test of Acquiescence in Kazakhstan." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 63: 1-28.</p> <p>Duff, Brain, Michael J. Hanmer, Won-ho Park, and Ismael K. White. 2007. "Good Excuses: Understanding Who Votes with an Improved Turnout Question." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 71 (1, Spring): 67-90.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What are the challenges in constructing survey instruments posed by the readings? What strategies do the authors propose to address those challenges? Do these strategies aim to improve validity, reliability, sampling, or what?</p> <p><b>Followup Assignment Due (Nov 11; 1%)</b> - Print the survey. (You'll need the <a href="#">Acrobat Reader</a>, if you don't already have it.)</p> <p>Pick a person to interview by phone (this can be a sample of convenience), and interview the person using this questionnaire. Record the forced choice responses by circling the number of the response. Record the open-ended responses by filling in the blank, or by verbatim transcript of the respondent's answers. Be sure to record the start time, the end time, and the respondent's first name in the appropriate places on the questionnaire.</p> |
| Nov 11 | <p><b>Researchers Honoring those who served: Veterans Day</b></p>  |
| Nov 18 | <p><b>Researchers as Number Crunchers: Putting Things Together</b></p>   |
|        | <p><b>Read:</b> Johnson and Reynolds, Chapters 15</p>  |
| Nov 25 | <p><b>Researchers Being Thankful (Thanksgiving Holiday)</b></p>  |
|        | <p><b>Researchers as Demons?: Ethics in Social Scientific Research</b></p>   |
|        | <p><b>Read:</b></p> <p>Humphreys, Macartan. 2014. <a href="#">How to make field experiments more ethical</a>. The Washington Post Monkey Cage (2 November 2014)</p> <p>King, Gary, and Melissa Sands. Working Paper. "<a href="#">How Human Subjects Research Rules Mislead You and Your University, and What to Do About It</a>".</p> <p>Goel, Vindu. 2014. <a href="#">As Data Overflows Online, Researchers Grapple with Ethics</a>. <i>New York Times</i> (12 August</p>   |

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| <p>2014)</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Dec 2</p> | <p>Belmont Report ( <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html">http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html</a> ) .</p> <p>Milgram, Stanley. 1965. "Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority." <i>Human Relations</i> 18 (1, February): 57-76.</p> <p>Greenberg, David and Mark Shroder. 2004. <i>The Digest of Social Experiments</i>. Washington: The Urban Institute Press. "Introduction - Are Experiments Ethical?" (p. 8)</p> <p>Hatemi, Peter K., and Rose McDermott. 2011. "The Normative Implications of Biological Research." <i>PS-Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 44 (2, April):325-329.</p> <p><b>Be prepared to discuss:</b> What standards of ethics should apply to political scientists who study the political behavior of individuals, organizations, or states? Are field experiments inherently unethical? If so, why? If not, are there boundaries?</p> |
| <p>Dec 9</p>                               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Researchers Being Tested: Exam</b></p>   |
| <p>Monday,<br/>Dec 14<br/>5:00 pm</p>      | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Researchers Being Done: Papers Due</b></p>   |