

PSCI 100: Introduction to Political Science

Winter 2019 – Face-to-face Edition
Drexel University

Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:50 AM
One Drexel Plaza, GL 48

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Appointments: <https://jacksantucci.acuityscheduling.com>

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1 Overview & goals

This course provides a comprehensive overview of topics and methods in political science. We will learn from real examples of research – both well-worn classics, plus newer items on topics of current interest. By the end of this course, you will know:

1. The differences among qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive research.
2. More about subfields in political science: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, public policy, and public administration.
3. How to read political-science research without poring over every word.
4. How to read statistical results, whether in political science or some other field.

Finally, we will look at *what it takes to become a political scientist*: doing the work, navigating the politics, and getting a job that's not academic.

2 Things to buy

There are no required purchases for this course.

3 Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance (10%).

2. Article-hunt assignment (20%) – find an article in a peer-reviewed, political science journal. It must have been written after 1960. No two students may use the same article. No later than February 27, email me and Carly with the title, abstract, journal title, author(s), and link. We reserve the right to reject your choice on substantive grounds.

In a blank Word document (or equivalent), properly write the Chicago-style citation at the top of the page.¹ Then paste the abstract, making the font match the rest of the document. Then, in one sentence each, say why this article interested you, what its dependent variable is, and what its independent variable is. Finally, in plain English, state its key point (one sentence) and the useful knowledge that comes from the article (one sentence). The purpose of this assignment is for you to practice finding and reading political science on your own. It is due no later than the last day of class.

3. Midterm exam – multiple choice (35%)
4. Final exam – multiple choice and essay-length prompt(s) (35%).

4 Other policies

You agree to:

1. Treat guest speakers and classmates with respect.
2. Check Drexel email daily through the date of the final exam.
3. Attend class and meet course deadlines *except in documented cases of bereavement, severe illness, or medical emergency*. You must provide a doctor's note or funeral announcement if you cannot meet a deadline and/or attend a class meeting. Out-of-class written work loses five points for each 24-hour period past the time and date it is due.
4. Use Internet search or a dictionary to look up words you do not understand.
5. Abide by all other Drexel policies, found at the following websites. Note: I reserve the right to use plagiarism-detection software.

Academic integrity: http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic_dishonesty.asp

Disability accommodation: <http://drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/students/>

Add/Drop: <http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-add-drop>

Course withdrawal: <http://drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-withdrawal>

I agree to:

1. Abide by any grading guidelines in this syllabus and related instructions for assignments. Grading is on the 0-100 scale: 97 and up (A+), 93-96 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-87 (B), 80-82 (B-), and so on, down to 50 (F).

¹https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

2. Answer student e-mail within 48 business hours. Business hours are 9 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, non-holiday.
3. Except for the required books, post links to readings on Blackboard, if not the readings themselves.
4. Grade written work within 10 business days of submission.
5. Notify you of changes to this syllabus at least one week in advance of affected due dates.
6. Give office hours on a by-appointment basis. (See link above.) Students who are not in Philadelphia can book these times for phone conversations.

5 Schedule of work

5.1 What is political science?

January 7 This syllabus.

January 9 Cameron, Charles. “What is Political Science?” In *A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences*, Andrew Gelman and Jeronimo Cortina (eds.), pp. 207-222, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

January 14 Almond, Gabriel A. “Political Science: The History of the Discipline.” In *The New Handbook of Political Science*, Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), pp. 50-96, Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 1996. **Read pages 50-52, 64-78, and 81-83.**

5.2 How to read political science

January 16 Two items:

- Santucci, Jack. 2018. “Tips on Reading Political Science.” Typescript. http://www.jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice_for_readers.pdf
- Sykes, Alan O. “An Introduction to Regression Analysis.” Working Paper No. 20, Coase-Sandor Institute for Law & Economics, 1993. **Read pages 1-10.**

January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no class.

5.3 American politics

January 23 Seltzer, Mark and Alixandra B. Yanus. “Why Did Women Vote for Donald Trump?” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51, no. 3 (2018): 523-527.

January 28 Hochschild, Arlie Russell. “I Spent 5 Years With Some of Trump’s Biggest Fans. Here’s What They Won’t Tell You.” *Mother Jones* (September/October 2016). <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/08/trump-white-blue-collar-supporters/>

January 30 Schwartz, Thomas. "Why Parties?" Typescript, 1989. **Read pages 1-3 and 12-17.**

February 4 McDaniel, Eric A., Maraam A. Dwidar, and Hadill Calderon. "The Faith of Black Politics: The Relationship Between Black Religious and Political Beliefs." *Journal of Black Studies* 49, no. 3 (2018): 256-283.

5.4 Midterm exam

February 6 Midterm in class.

5.5 Comparative politics

February 11 Linz, Juan J. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1, no. 1 (1990): 51-69.

February 13 Rydgren, Jens and Sara van der Meiden. "The Radical Right and the End of Swedish Exceptionalism." *European Political Science*, early online version (2018): 1-17.

February 18 Auyero, Javier. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review* 35, no. 3 (2000): 55-81.

5.6 International relations

February 20 Ackerman, John, Barak Carlson and Young Han. "International Relations Paradigms." Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) Distance Learning Program, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, 2010.

5.7 Public policy and public administration

February 25 Guest lecture: Carly Connolly on airport policy and doing a large, independent research project at Drexel. Reading to be determined.

February 27 Two items:

- Stewart, Charles III and Stephen Ansolabehere. "Waiting to Vote." *Election Law Journal* 14, no. 1 (2015): 47-53.
- **Last day to choose topic of your article-hunt assignment.**

5.8 Working as a political scientist

March 4 Two items:

- Reid, Rebecca A. and Todd A. Curry. "Are We There Yet? Addressing Diversity in Political Science Subfields." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, early version (2019): 1-5.

- Mitchell, Kristina M. W. and Jonathan Martin. “Gender Bias in Student Evaluations” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51, no. 3 (2018): 648-652.

March 6 Santucci, Jack. “Using Mixed Methods to Recover Electoral History: The American Path to Proportional Voting.” *SAGE Research Methods Cases*, part 2 (2019): 2-11.

March 11 Three items:

- *2016-2017 APSA Graduate Placement Survey: Placement Report*. White paper, American Political Science Association, 2018. **Skim.**
- American Political Science Association. “Career Path Profile: Kevin R. Kosar.” *Political Science Now* (January 17, 2017).
<http://politicalsciencenow.com/career-path-profile-kevin-r-kosar/>
- Golshan, Tara and Ella Nilsen. “How a 21-year-old college senior became the breakout star of 2018 election forecasting.” *Vox.com* (June 1, 2018).
<https://www.vox.com/2018/6/1/17164960/midterms-2018-forecast-projection-g-elliott-morris>

5.9 Conclusion

March 13 Review in class for final exam. Bring questions. **Article-hunt assignment is due.**