

Political Science 104: Introduction to Research in Political Science

Spring 2009

Garrett Glasgow
3719 Ellison Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment.

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<http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/ps104.html>

Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45pm in Girvetz 1004.

Teaching Assistants:

Candace Miller

Sections: Monday 2pm, Monday 4pm, Tuesday 2pm

4712 Ellison Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 3-4pm, Tuesdays 3-4pm, Wednesdays 2-3pm

email: c_miller@umail.ucsb.edu

Emiliana Patlan

Sections: Monday 5pm, Wednesday 10am, Wednesday 11am

4712 Ellison Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:30pm, Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm

email: epatlan@umail.ucsb.edu

Karen Pitakdumrongkit

Sections: Tuesday 1pm, Tuesday 3pm, Tuesday 4pm

4708 Ellison Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm and 2-3pm

email: kaewkamol@umail.ucsb.edu

1 Course Description

This course introduces students to the basic methods and approaches used in political science. We will consider questions of logic and research design, the measurement of social and political data, and how this data is used to test hypotheses and answer questions about how the world works. By the end of the course you should be comfortable reading and critiquing arguments about social and political problems and conducting your own basic research into social problems – skills that will be useful not only in your other upper division political science courses, but also throughout any career in business, law, public policy, or the social sciences.

2 Course Requirements

Grades will be based on five components:

- *Lecture Reading/Participation*: Readings will be assigned for most class meetings. Even though you will not be formally graded on participation in lecture, you should do the readings before each class and participate actively during the lecture in order to get the most of the class. **I will post each week's readings on the class website – be sure to check in often for updates to the reading list.**
- *Five Homework Assignments (8% each, for a total of 40%)*: I will post homework assignments to my website (and announce them in class) approximately every other week. These assignments will generally involve reading and critiquing political science research as well as some hands-on examination of one or more political science research problems. Homework assignments will usually be due one week after they are assigned (I'll announce the due date for each homework when I post it). Homeworks must be turned in by the end of the lecture in which they are due – late homeworks (including homeworks turned in the same day, but after the end of the lecture) will be marked down one letter grade per day. Due to the large enrollment in our class (about 120 students), we will not accept homeworks by email.
- *A midterm examination (20%)*: The midterm will be held in class *Wednesday, May 6th*.
- *A final examination (30%)*: The final will be held on *Tuesday, June 9th, 12-3pm* in our usual room. It will be comprehensive.
- *Lab Participation (10%)*: These sections will begin meeting in the second week of classes (the week of April 6th). Attending and participating in lab meetings is an important way to learn about the topics covered in lecture through hands-on experience with political science research problems. **Note that all sections this quarter will meet in the Ellison Hall computer lab (2626 Ellison Hall).**

Regrades on assignments are possible if you believe there was an error in grading. If you feel your grade is mistaken, you can bring the homework or test to your TA along with a **1-page typewritten memo** explaining where you feel the mistake in grading is, and we'll take a look at it.

All the usual warnings about plagiarism and cheating apply (don't do it). Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic F in the class and disciplinary action by the Dean of Students. If you are having trouble with the class don't do anything desperate or dishonest – ask us for help.

3 Required Course Materials

- Salkind, Neil J. (2007). *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics*, 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. This book is available at the campus bookstore or online.
- Johnson, Janet Buttolph, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. (2008). *Political Science Research Methods*, 6th edition. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. This book is available at the campus bookstore or online.
- I will be posting readings to our class website on a regular basis for you to download.

4 Notes

There will be no class on **Wednesday, April 1st** (I'll be traveling to an academic conference) or **Monday, May 25th** (the Memorial Day holiday).