



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: POLS

Course and Section #: 3000 - 001

Course Title: Political Analysis

Credits: 3

Course Description

Covers the analytical and quantitative methodologies used in political science and public policy research. Includes statistical analysis, database research, and writing exercises.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Steven M. Sylvester

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the challenges present in the attempt to study politics scientifically.
 2. Transform an abstract concept into an observable operationalization.
 3. Categorize variables into their appropriate level of measurement.
 4. Develop an appropriate hypothesis of a relationship between an independent and dependent variable.
 5. Identify an appropriate research design to test a hypothesis.
 6. Describe the central tendency and dispersion of a variable's distribution using the appropriate statistics.
 7. Analyze relationships between variables using the appropriate statistical methods.
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Course Materials and Texts

Johnson, B.J., Reynolds, T.H., & Mycoff, D.J. (2020). *Political Science Research Methods*, 9th Edition. Los Angeles, CA: CQ Press. (JRM) ISBN: 9781544331430

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Article Synopsis: 5%

Homework Assignments: 25%

Research Paper: 25%

Exams: 35%

Grading Scale: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; E 0-59

A - Work demonstrates consistently excellent academic performance; thorough comprehension; ability to correlate the material with other ideas, to communicate with course concepts and skills; reliability in attendance, and attention to assignments.

B - Work demonstrates superior academic performance overall; reliability in attendance and attention to assignments; may demonstrate excellence but with less consistency than an A student.

C - Work demonstrates satisfactory performance overall, as well as reliability in attendance and attention to assignments.

D - Work demonstrates minimal performance overall and limited knowledge of the subject area.

E - Work demonstrates unsatisfactory performance or unfulfilled requirements.

A note on rounding: Rounding for grades .5 to .99 is considered based on my perception of outstanding participation in the course, and requests for rounding or grade changes are not entertained.

A note on grades: Do your best, care primarily about learning the material, and don't stress over grades too much (to the best of your ability). I am happy to discuss your grade or standing in the class at any time, but I encourage you to initiate these conversations sooner rather than later, so our discussion can have the most impact.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Johnson, B.J., Reynolds, T.H., & Mycoff, D.J. (2020). *Political Science Research Methods*, 9th Edition. Los Angeles, CA: CQ Press. **(JRM) ISBN: 9781544331430**

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Course Intro/Approaching Political Science Empirically	JBM – Chapter 2
2	Theories, Concepts, and Hypothesis	JBM – Chapter 4
3	From Concepts to Measurement	JBM – Chapter 4

4	Examining Distributions: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion	JBM – Chapter 11
5	Survey Research	JBM – pgs. 196 to 202
6	Sampling	JBM – Chapter 5
8	Z-Scores and Normal Distributions	JBM – Chapter 12
9	Inferential Statistics	JBM – Chapter 12
10	Bivariate Analysis	JBM – Chapter 13
11	Multivariate Analysis	JBM – Chapter 14

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts you must develop over time to develop your voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine-tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work. Students who are seen using AI will receive a 0 for the assignment and could potentially be reported to student misconduct.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.