

030:101/POLI:3001:0001 The Hawkeye Poll Fall 2013

Class Time: 3:30-4:45, Tuesday/Thursday
Classroom: 216 Phillips Hall
Primary Instructor: Emily Schilling
Office: 318 Schaeffer Hall
Office Phone Number: 319-335-3844
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3, Thursday 11-12, or by appointment
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Course Supervisor: Frederick Boehmke
Office: 308 Schaeffer Hall
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Course Description:

Students in this course will help design and participate in the fall 2013 Hawkeye Poll. First, we will learn about polling procedures including sampling design, question wording, interpreting responses, and writing press releases and research reports. In learning how to interpret the responses, we will spend time covering some basic statistics topics and how to use statistical computer software. We will then implement this knowledge in a local telephone survey during the run-up to the 2013 election, asking respondents about their opinions and the issues that they care about. Calling will take place in the ISRC call center for about 12 hours. We will have individual assignments to help the group design questions and interpret the results.

The class will meet in one of the University's new TILE classrooms, so expect very interactive class sessions. TILE classrooms focus on interactive, small-group assignments rather than spending the entire time focused on the instructor lecturing.

Readings will serve as an introduction and supplement to the topics addresses in class, so students are expected to be familiar with the reading before class. Classes will introduce materials not covered in reading, so on-time attendance is highly recommended. Note that class participation is a large part of the final grade. Also, note the policy on late assignments below.

Final grades will be determined by participation in class, training, and calling as well as performance on the quizzes, the research paper and the short group assignments that will be assigned throughout the semester.

This course can, upon request, substitute for Guided Research Tutorial (030:193) or an Honors Research Project (030:185) for students pursuing either a BS degree in Political Science or Honors in Political Science. Please discuss this with me early on in the semester if you are interested.

Reading Materials:

There are two books for the class, which can be purchased online:

Pollack, Philip H. III. 2011. *The Essentials of Political Analysis, Fourth Edition*. USA: CQ Press. ISBN-13: 978-1412958417.

Fowler, Floyd J. Jr. 2008. *Survey Research Methods, Fourth Edition*. USA: CQ Press. ISBN-13: 978-1412958417.

The following two books are not required, but may be of help for using Stata, the data analysis software we will be using in class.

Pollack, Philip H. III. 2010. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis, Second Edition*. USA: CQ Press College. ISBN-13: 978-160871615.

Acock, Alan C. 2012. *A Gentle Introduction to Stata, Third Edition*. USA: Stata Press. ISBN-13: 978-1597181099.

Any additional reading assignments will be posted on the course ICON page.

Course Requirements:

Your grade will be based on six components:

1. (10%) **Class attendance** Since much of our class time will consist of interactive discussion and group activities as we design the survey, I expect you to attend and will make note of any absences. I allow two unexcused absences, no questions asked. Please discuss excused absences with me beforehand, unless the circumstances prevent it.
2. (20%) **Class participation** We will spend a fair bit of time talking as a class and working in small groups to develop questions, discuss survey results, etc. I expect everyone to participate in this.
3. (15%) **2 Quizzes** There will be 2 quizzes placed intermittently throughout the semester. They will cover the material that is covered in the readings as well as the material discussed in class. This makes it very important that not only do you attend class and listen to lectures but it will also be necessary for you to stay up to date on the readings.
4. (15%) **Group presentations** Occasionally you will be split up into small groups and asked to present more formal presentations of their work, including discussion of questions and press releases.

5. (20%) **Survey Participation** This involves completing IRB certification (5%) by the listed deadline, participating in our survey calling training session (5%), and completing the required hours of calling (10%). The exact number of calling hours will depend on enrollment in this course as well as students signing up through other courses but will probably be around 12 hours. You must fully complete each of these to get credit – there is no partial credit for any of these categories. Please note that if you do not complete IRB certification you will not be eligible to call and will therefore receive a zero for that portion as well.

6. (20%) **Final Group Project** More information will be provided on this as we approach the end of the semester.

I will assign grades on a scale of F through A, including both plus and minus grades.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Homework write-ups, presentations, and papers are all due at the time specified. Any late homework or paper will have points reduced by 10% of the total available points per day unless arrangements are made prior to the due date. If you have a legitimate, personal reason for missing a scheduled assignment and cannot notify me in advance, please come talk to me afterwards and provide documentation. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. I will let you know which day they will be during their specified week in advance so you can plan accordingly. Quizzes missed due to extraordinary circumstances will be excluded from grade calculations

Policy on Classroom Etiquette, and Expectations:

1. Discussion Etiquette: This class will focus on a lot of in-class discussion. It is important during these discussions to be respectful of everyone else's opinions and to phrase your contributions in a constructive manner. When you are in the classroom, your focus should be on the work at hand.

2. Computer Etiquette: We will be spending a lot of time on the computers, please be respectful of me and the other students in the class by not spending time on the Internet unless it is contributing something to the class discussion. In addition to this, please silence your cell phones and refrain from texting during class.

3. Studying Expectations: CLAS guidelines suggest that you should expect to do about 12 hours of work per week outside of class to prepare and study. Most of that time for this class should be spent completing the readings, working with your group on your presentations, and making sure that you understand the math and computational work we do in class.

4. Recommendations for Success:

- a. Do the weekly readings and attend lectures. This should prepare you for the two quizzes that will occur during the semester.
- b. During in-class discussions and group break-out sessions, make an effort to contribute to the group. This will make the class more interesting for you and will ensure that you receive full credit for class participation.
- c. Make sure to stay up on the deadlines for the poll itself as well as complete all the requirements to participate. The completion of all of the requirements is necessary to receive credit for that section. This portion of your grade should be easy to get full credit.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Class Introduction (August 26-30)

No class on Thursday, August 29 for APSA

Week 2: Overview (September 2-6)

Readings: Fowler, chapters 1-2; Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology, chapter 1

Week 3: The Basics of Survey Research and Sampling (September 9-13)

Readings: Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology on Survey Research, Survey Chapter; Fowler, chapters 3-4

Week 4: Discussion of Question Ideas and Designing Questions (September 16-20)

Readings: Fowler, chapters 6-7; Pollack, chapter 1

Week 5: Interviewing Tehcniques and Ethics (September 23-27)

Readings: Fowler, chapters 8 & 11

Week 6: Experiments (September 30-October 4)

Readings: Oxford Handbook of Experiments on Survey Experiments; Redlawsk, Tolbert, and Franko (2011)

Quiz 1

Week 7: Introduction to Political Science Research Methods (October 7-11)

Readings: Fowler, Chapter 10; Pollack, chapters 3-4; Huff, chapter 8

Week 8: Relationships between Variables (October 14-18)

Readings: Pollack, chapter 5

Week 9: Inference and Hypothesis Testing (October 21-25)

Readings: Pollack, chapter 6

Week 10: Regression Analysis (October 28-November 1)

Readings: Pollack, chapter 7-8

Week 11: Writing Press Releases (November 4-8)

Visit from UI News Service

Quiz 2

Week 12: Survey in the Field (November 11-15)

Week 13: First Look at Survey Results (November 18-22)

NO CLASSES NOVEMBER 25-29: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: Visualizing and Interpreting Data (December 2-6)

Week 15: Final Group Presentations (December 9-13)

Teaching Policies & Resources

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Student Resources

The Writing Center www.uiowa.edu/writingc/ and the Campus Information Centers Tutor Referral Services <http://imu.uiowa.edu/cic/> at the IMU.

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.

**The Political Science Department, The University of Iowa,
Professor Sara Mitchell, Chair, 341 Schaeffer Hall, 335-2358**

Please visit the Political Science Departments Website at <http://www.uiowa.edu/polisci>. It is frequently updated regarding events and procedures in our department, changes in the Schedule of Courses, plus TA and faculty hours when available. You may also find current information on pre-advising, and registration.