

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 401 | FALL 2021 | 3 CREDITS

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION

“Political Analysis is a seminar designed to provide a capstone experience for majors. The course will assess the student’s mastery of the discipline of Political Science. Possible areas of study include the proper methods of political analysis, revision and extension of previous work, advanced analysis of texts, and/or a culminating research project. In addition, students will take a comprehensive departmental exam covering the discipline and prepare a portfolio of their undergraduate work in the discipline.”

FALL 2021 COURSE DESCRIPTION

You’re graduating with a major in Political Science. So what? What did you learn from the courses in your major, and how will you use your education in the future? How will you market the skills you acquired in your time here? More importantly, how does what you learned in our major connect to other courses you’ve had at UW Oshkosh? This course provides you an opportunity to look both *backwards* and *forwards*. We’ll look *back* as we survey your career in the major, highlighting your best work and your strongest skills, and recap what you’ve learned. And we’ll look *ahead* as we determine how you will synthesize and apply the knowledge you’ve acquired when you leave UW Oshkosh to pursue a career.

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Prof. Tracy H. Slagter (Ph.D., University of Iowa)

Office Location: Sage Hall 4626

Office Hours: MW, 10:30-12:00pm
(in-person or via MS Teams)

Email: slagtert@uwosh.edu

Cell Phone: (920)410-5244 (text only, please)

Time: TTh, 1:20-2:50pm

Class Location: Sage 3206 (yes, it’s a strange room)

Department Office: Sage 4631, (920) 424-3456

COURSE MATERIALS

The following book is available in the University bookstore or via online retailers. Most of the other readings are from the *Annual Review of Political Science* and are posted on Canvas, as are other select journal articles.

Baglione, Lisa. 2019. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science, 4e*. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press/Sage.

You will each take the *ETS Major Field Test (MFT)* this semester. This is a national test designed to gauge your knowledge in the discipline, and it also helps us identify strengths and weaknesses in the program. Through this assessment, you will see how you compare to students across the country. If you notice a course fee on your tuition statement, it was to pay for this examination.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Demonstrate* knowledge of the subfields of political science;
- *Curate* a portfolio of their best work, reflecting on their own learning processes;
- *Create* a detailed research design around a question of their own choosing;
- *Defend* the scholarly choices they have made;
- *Market* their skills as political scientists and students of the liberal arts; and
- *Apply* their knowledge and skills toward a future career.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following assignments. I grade on **93/87/80** scale, though the MFT may be graded on a curve.

- Participation: 5%
- Major Field Test: 10%
- Research Mentoring: 15%
- Six-Minute Interview and Resume: 15%
- Research Design: 35%
- Online Portfolio: 20%

Participation: I expect you to attend class each session and to come prepared. This means you should complete all readings and assignments before you come to class.

MFT: The Major Field Test is an objective grade based on national standards in our discipline.

Research Mentoring: Each of you will be paired with a student from PS 245 (Political Methodology) to be “research mentors” as those students prepare their papers.

Six-Minute Interview and Resume: No one leaves this class without a perfect resume and some solid interviewing skills.

Research Design: To showcase your critical thinking and synthesis skills, you will prepare a full research design, including a literature review, hypotheses, methodology, and discussion sections. More details will follow in class.

Online Portfolio: Every student will create a professional online portfolio in Wix, containing samples of their best work and reflections on their progression through the major and through college. The research design and resume will also be included in this presentation. This will be something you can use as you eventually apply for jobs and/or graduate and professional school placements. It will be the best evidence of who you are as a student and what you have to offer a potential employer or program. Detailed instructions on how to create the presentation will be given in class.

ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

You'll note that participation is a very small part of your overall course grade. This is because this is the highest level seminar we offer, and participation is *expected* of every student. While I will not take attendance, it will be noticeable if you're not in class each session—our class is small by design, and we should expect excellent contributions from each member. If you must be absent, please notify me well in advance. I will extend you that same courtesy.

THIS CLASS AND COVID-19

The University requires us all to wear a mask that covers both the nose and mouth whenever we are indoors. If you will not abide by this requirement, we cannot have a class. This is non-negotiable. Please wear your mask properly—better yet, wear a mask AND get vaccinated. Vaccination is free, safe, effective and our best chance to fully exit this pandemic. I am fully vaccinated.

If you are not feeling well, please do not come to class. If you test positive for COVID-19, you must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days. In both instances you will be able to get notes/information from a classmate and/or from me.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to

work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your instructor directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here:

<https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

GRIEVANCES

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom or online experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have or think you may have a learning difference or a disability—a mental health, medical, or physical impairment—that would limit your access to learning or demonstrating your knowledge in this course, please contact the Dean of Students Office. If you already have an accommodation, please let me know in the first week of class. Note that this class *may* be recorded for accommodation purposes.

STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT (1990)

Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Student Right to Know Act of 1990:

<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note that this schedule is tentative. We will take more or less time with certain topics when necessary. Please listen closely in class for any alterations to this schedule. NOTE: If a full citation is not provided for a particular reading, that means it is from the Annual Review of Political Science and is posted for you on Canvas.

Week 1 (September 9, 2021)

Introduction to the course and expectations, assignments and assessment

READ: Baglione, Chapters 1 and 2

THINK: Start thinking about a topic for your research design (we'll talk about this in class)

Week 2 (September 14 and 16, 2021)

Revisiting American Politics I

READ: Binder, Sarah. 2015. "The Dysfunctional Congress." (Canvas)

Lee, Francis. 2015. "How Party Polarization Affects Governance." (Canvas)

Baglione, Chapter 3

Week 3 (September 21 and 23, 2021)

Revisiting American Politics II

READ: Lowande, Kenneth and Jon Rogowski. 2021. "Presidential Unilateral Power." (Canvas)

Hasen, Richard L. 2019. "Polarization and the Judiciary." (Canvas)

Baglione, Chapter 4

SUBMIT: 🐾 **Preliminary research questions due; submit via Canvas.**

Week 4 (September 28 and 30, 2021)

Revisiting Comparative Politics I

READ: Elkins, Zachary and Tom Ginsburg. 2021. "What Can We Learn from Written Constitutions?" (Canvas)

Pepinsky, Thomas. 2019. "The Return of the Single Case Study." (Canvas)

WRITE: Research question critiques (in-class); talk through next phases of the design.

NOTE: **NO CLASS** on September 30 (Dr. Slagter at a conference)

Week 5 (October 5 and 7, 2021)

Revisiting Comparative Politics II

READ: Grofman, Bernard. 2016. "Perspectives on the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems." (Canvas)

Gidron, Noam and Daniel Ziblatt. 2019. "Center-Right Political Parties in Advanced Democracies." (Canvas)

Baglione, Chapter 5

MENTOR: Research Mentoring: 245 research questions (in-class workshopping)

SUBMIT: 🐾 **Literature Review drafts due; submit on Canvas.**

Week 6 (October 12 and 14, 2021)

Revisiting International Relations I

READ: Berman, Sheri. 2021. "The Causes of Populism in the West." (Canvas)

Waltz, Kenneth and James Fearon. 2012. "A Conversation with Kenneth Waltz." (Canvas)

WRITE: Literature review critiques (in-class); talk through next phases of the design.

Week 7 (October 19 and 21, 2021)

Revisiting International Relations II

READ: Voeten, Erik. 2019. "Making Sense of the Design of International Institutions." (Canvas)

Keohane, Robert. 2020. "Understanding Multilateral Institutions in Easy and Hard Times." (Canvas)

Baglione, Chapter 6

SUBMIT: 🦋 **Methods section drafts due; submit on Canvas.**

Week 8 (October 26 and 28, 2021)

Revisiting Political Theory

READ: Lane, Melissa. 2016. "Political Theory on Climate Change." (Canvas)
Bidadinure, Juliana Uhuru. 2019. "The Political Theory of Universal Basic Income." (Canvas)
Baglione, Chapter 7

WRITE: Your resume (we'll talk about resumes and revise them next week); bring THREE copies of a draft resume to class on October 28.

Week 9 (November 2 and 4, 2021)

Major Field Test

READ: None this week.

ENDURE: 🦋 **Major Field Test** on November 2 in Sage 1208A (computer lab). The exam typically takes around 90 minutes to complete but could go longer depending on how quickly you read. Please arrange your schedules accordingly.

SUBMIT: A perfect copy of your resume by class time on November 4.

Week 10 (November 9 and 11, 2021)

Research Mentoring & 401 Writing Workshops

READ: Baglione, Chapter 8

MENTOR: Research Mentoring: 245 literature reviews (in-class workshopping)

Week 11 (November 16 and 18, 2021)

Research Mentoring & 401 Writing Workshops

READ: Baglione, Chapter 9

MENTOR: Research Mentoring: 245 theory and methods sections (in-class workshopping)

Thanksgiving Week (November 23 and 25, 2021)

Thanksgiving Consultations

DO: Consultations with Dr. Slagter as necessary; schedule with me individually

OTHER: Thanksgiving Break; enjoy!

Week 12 (November 30 and December 2, 2021)

Marketing Your Skills

ENDURE: 🦋 **Six-Minute Interviews** (in-class only; don't miss it)

WRITE: Revise your resume and submit to Canvas

CONTINUE: Your research design (final edits); work on your portfolio

TALK: To me, as necessary! Please schedule an appointment with me or drop in during office hours.

Week 13 (December 7 and 9, 2021)

Writing Week (Portfolios) and 245 Presentations

READ: Nothing this week.

WRITE: Finishing touches on everything

ATTEND: 245 Research Presentations on December 9 (more details to follow)

Week 14 (December 14 and 16, 2021)

Conclusions

DO: Senior Survey and course evaluations on December 16 (bring laptops)

SUBMIT: 🦋 **Portfolios due on December 16**; no class (submit URL to Canvas)

🦋 **Research Designs submitted BOTH** within the portfolio AND to Canvas dropbox