

PS 401: POLITICAL ANALYSIS

University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Fall Semester 2023

Class meets 3:00-4:30, T/TH, Sage 3218

3 CREDITS

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Course Description: Political Science 401 Political Analysis (SS) 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. *Prerequisite: Political Science 245, senior standing and Political Science major.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the subfields of political science
- Curate a reflective portfolio of your best work/reflections/application materials
- Apply data and research to a given research question
- Effectively convey research in a variety of media
- Market their skills as political scientists and students of the liberal arts
- Apply their knowledge and skills toward a future career.

You should view 401 as an opportunity to survey the field of political science, apply your knowledge and research skills, demonstrate and reflect on what you have learned in the major, and to think through the relationship between your achievements in the major and your future goals and plans.

Required Texts and Fees:

Baglione, L. A. (2018). *Writing a research paper in political science: A practical guide to inquiry, structure, and methods*. 4th Edition. Cq Press.

Political Science Major Field Test (administered by ETS). The Major Field Test assesses your knowledge, understanding, and application of American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. The test will be administered in one of the campus computer labs during class or at the testing center. This cost was covered in your course fee at registration.

Grading Scale and Assignments

I use a **93/90/87** grading scale in this course (which means that 93 is the cut-point for an A, 90 for an A-, 87 for a B+, etc.). Your grade will be determined by several assignments and exams, detailed as follows:

Semester project: (35%): Using research skills for “public” scholarship

Your larger semester project will have (at least) four deliverables that will allow you to showcase the skills you’ve developed over the course of your college career. Unlike your experience in 245, these projects are intended to produce public-facing scholarship, rather than an academic article. We will work with faculty and students at Arizona State University to produce:

State News Archive (10%): Students will use a news database to gather articles related to trends in reporting on veterans and veteran families. Each student will be assigned a different state and a time range and code the articles. Combined articles will comprise a database of news coverage of veterans to be used later in the project. *Due Oct 8.*

Scholarly Article and Codebook Proposal (5%): Students will explore the CES codebooks and articles from the journal *Armed Forces & Society* to select a topic of interest for their fact sheet and presentation. The focus will be on applying or confronting existing work rather than developing new theories. *Due Oct 22.*

Toplines and Crosstabs (5%): Students will conduct basic analysis (frequencies, crosstabs, and visualizations) for their topic of interest. *Due Nov 12.*

Fact Sheet (10%): The final deliverable from students will be a fact sheet containing polished prose and visualizations to convey our understanding of a given topic related to veteran opinion or behavior. *Due Dec 8.*

Presentation (5%): Students will present their work to others in a short, persuasive presentation. *Due Dec 12.*

Career Preparation Assignments (22.5%): Practicing for what’s next

Resume (5%): Students will produce a professional resume, review it with tools from Career and Professional Development, and submit their work for review. *Due Oct 1.*

LinkedIn Profile (5%): Students will create an effective LinkedIn Profile and connect with faculty and the department LinkedIn profile. *Due Oct 15.*

Ambassador talk (2.5%): Students will attend a talk on *October 19* with former Ambassador to the Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch.

Cover Letter and personal statement(5%): Students will write a cover letter and personal statement for a position of their choosing: private or public sector, law or graduate school. *Due Nov 5.*

Mock Interviews (5%): Students will participate in mock interviews and receive feedback on their interviewing proficiency. *Held in class on Nov 16.*

Reflection and Skills Assessments (32.5%): Understanding what you’ve done at UWO

Completed ePortfolio (20%):

1. Cover Page

2. List of courses completed
3. Your resume and cover letter
4. A personal reflection on your accomplishments in the major and how it has prepared you for the job market and life
5. A reflection on the best paper you have written in the major and a copy of that paper
6. The research assignments produced for this class
7. A reflection on these assignments, including why you chose the topic, and what the product says about your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, an analyst, and a researcher. *This will be due on Canvas on Thursday, Dec 14.* You will receive further instruction about the ePortfolio later in the semester.

Major Field Test (10%): An exam covering the entire discipline to assess your knowledge of political science compared to other graduating majors across the country. *Due date TBD.*

Senior Survey (2.5%): A survey about your experience in the class. Completed at the end of the semester. *Due by Friday, Dec 15.*

Attendance and participation: (10%) The final portion of your grade in this class is your attendance and participation. Attendance is required for all classes. For each class that you miss, you will lose one percent of your total course grade. You are considered absent to class if you show up after I have finished taking the attendance for the day.

Students with documentation are excused from class for all-campus events, other university events for which they are a team member, and medical emergencies. Students with documentation are also excused for jury duty, required military leave, or other activities as mentioned in the Registrar's Office's "Class Attendance Policy", found here:

<https://uwosh.edu/registrar/academic-policies/#:~:text=Class%20Attendance%20Policy,for%20each%20scheduled%20class%20session.>

All documentation must be provided within 2 weeks in order for students to be eligible to make up late work.

For participation, I expect you to come to class having completed all assigned readings, prepared to speak up and answer questions, and contribute substantively to class discussions. There is no specific number of times you should talk, but you should make a concerted effort to be active and involved in the class

Early Alert: Early Alert is a program that provides you with an Early Grade Report from faculty. Early Grade Reports will indicate if you have academic performance or attendance issues and specific steps you can take and resources available to help you improve. It is common for students to be unaware of or over-estimate their academic performance in classes so this will help you be aware early on of your progress and provide strategies for success in the classroom. You will receive an email during the 5th week of classes. It is important to read the entire email carefully. Your early alert assignment for this class will be your Vision Wall reflection essay.

Center for Academic Resources: The Center for Academic Resources (CAR) provides free, confidential tutoring for students in most undergraduate classes on campus. CAR is located in the Student Success Center, Suite 102. Check the Tutor List page on CAR's website (www.uwosh.edu/car) for a list of tutors. If your course is not listed, click on a link to request one, stop by SSC 102 or call 424-2290. To schedule a tutoring session, simply email the tutor, let him/her know what class you are seeking assistance in, and schedule a time to meet.

Writing Center: The Writing Center helps students of all ability levels improve their writing. Trained peer consultants help writers understand an assignment, envision possibilities for a draft, and improve their writing process. They even help writers learn to identify their own proofreading errors. Students can make a free appointment or stop by to see whether a consultant is available. For more information, view their website (<http://www.uwosh.edu/wcenter>), call 920-424-1152, email wcenter@uwosh.edu, or visit them in Suite 102 of the Student Success Center.

Reading Study Center: The Reading Study Center is an all-university service whose mission is to facilitate the development of efficient college-level learning strategies in students of all abilities. The center offers strategies for improved textbook study, time management, note-taking, test preparation, and test-taking. For more information, email readingstudy@uwosh.edu, view the website (<http://www.uwosh.edu/readingstudycenter>), visit them in Nursing Ed Room 201, or call 424-1031.

Polk Library/Information Literacy: You have been introduced to Information Literacy in your Quest Speaking and Writing courses. As a reminder, Polk Library offers many professional librarians who can help you find library resources for your research. Specifically, Ted Mulvey, the Information Literacy Librarian, is available to assist you as you access, evaluate, and use information in University Studies Program classes. Phone: 920-424-7329; email: mulveyt@uwosh.edu. You may also set up a research advisory session with a librarian at: rap@uwosh.edu.

Late Papers and Make-Up Exams: You have several papers due in this class. No extensions will be given on this assignment unless you are subject to one of the three excused absence instances above (hospitalization, death in the family, and required school activities) and can give me proof of this absence. All papers are subject to a penalty of one letter grade for each day they are late. You are welcome to turn the project in early if you are unable to on the day the assignment is due.

Please note that computer problems and printer problems are not accepted excuses for late papers. You should always, always, always back up your work and allow plenty of time for printing, and so computer problems and printer problems should not be an issue in handing in your project on time.

I will give a make-up exam in one of the excused absence circumstances above, but also with good reason if you know beforehand, provided you tell me you need a make-up exam *at least one week* in advance of the test. For instance, if you know at the beginning of class you must be out of town for a family event, I will give you a make-up if you tell me a week or more before the test date. The make-up test will contain different questions than the test given in class.

Office Hours: Some of my office hours are held on Microsoft Teams (MS Teams). This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor's icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot

means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark availability as “busy” (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: 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 teacher 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>

Use of ChatGPT or other AI services: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted for any stage or phase of work in this class. All written work submitted for this course must be completed by you, personally. You may not use AI tools to draft your work, even if you edit, revise, or paraphrase it. Use of artificial intelligence (AI) to generate text is strictly prohibited but you may use simple word processing tools to update spelling and grammar in your assignments. Submission of any content generated by AI will be considered a violation of academic integrity, including any AI-generated work that you have summarized or edited. The use of AI tools will be considered cheating and will be subject to the Academic Misconduct policy.

Regrading: I will be glad to take another look at a paper or test you feel is not graded fairly, with the following conditions: you must speak to me about it during my office hours or by appointment, you must wait 24 hours after the paper or exam is handed back, and you must tell me in writing why you think you deserved more points. The reason for this is that I would like for you to take the paper/exam home and carefully read and think over comments before we talk. If I feel your paper was graded unfairly, I’ll change the grade in your favor, but I also reserve the right to lower your grade upon rereading the paper if, after reevaluation, I think you received too high a grade.

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments are given in the course calendar in this syllabus (below). Assigned reading for a class day is given as the “Reading Assignment” below each entry. I expect you to have done the reading for each class ahead of time, and I reserve the right to quiz you if I feel you are not doing the reading ahead of time. Reading assignments are subject to change, and any change will be announced in class.

Other policies: Please turn your cell phone off or onto silent mode before you enter the classroom. If I see you using your cell phone during class time I will warn you the first time, and mark you as absent after that.

Laptops are welcome for note taking in the classroom. However, I expect that if your laptop is out during class, you will be taking notes rather than checking your email, etc. These activities are distracting to those around you and can interfere with the learning of other students. If I notice that things other than note-taking are going on, you will be marked absent. Tests and other in-class assignments will be written in longhand.

Please do not pack up before I say that class is over. If this becomes a problem, pop quizzes or similar will be your new end of class activity.

I check my email often, and I am happy to answer questions via email. However, please use proper grammar, punctuation, and communication when emailing your professor. If you fail to do so, I will ask you to try again. Also, I am not able to answer questions about grades unless you are using your Oshkosh email address. All class announcements will be sent to your Oshkosh address.

Note to Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. If you have questions about this requirement, your course schedule, possible internships, or career preparation please reach out to your faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisers at least once per year. If you are unsure who your adviser is, you can check TitanWeb or email Ms. Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu.

Accommodations Policy: It is university policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss any accommodations you might need and provide appropriate documentation.

Grievance Statement: The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom 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.

Disclosure statement: “Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>.”

Note: If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

Course Calendar:

Week 1: TH, Sept 7: Class introduction and syllabus (No in person class this day)
▪ Reading assignment: course syllabus, view recorded lecture

Week 2: T, Sept 12: The Role of PS in Public Discourse: Models of Engagement
▪ Reading assignment: Baglione, 1 and AJPE Coding article (on Canvas)

- TH, Sept 14: Content Analysis: An Example
- Reading assignment: Smith et al (2002), coding handout
- Week 3:
- T, Sept 19: What is Political Science?
- Reading assignment: Yanow, “In the House of Science there are many Rooms”; King, Keohane, Verba “The Science in Social Science”
- TH, Sept 21: Ways of knowing – Rational choice
- Reading Assignment: Mansbridge, “The Rise and Fall of Self-Interest in the Explanation of Political Life”
- Week 4:
- T, Sept 26: Resume and LinkedIn Workshop
- Reading assignment: Resume Do and Don’t (Canvas)
- TH, Sept 28: Ways of knowing – Cultural explanations
- Reading assignment: Granato, Inglehart, Leblang “The Effect of Cultural Variables on Economic Development”
- Week 5:
- S, Oct 1: Resume with VMOCK feedback due by midnight.
- T, Oct 3: Political theory
- Reading assignment: Grant, “Political Theory, Political Science, and Politics”
- TH, Oct 5: American Politics I
- Reading Assignment: Francis. 2015. “How Party Polarization Affects Governance”; Lowande and Rogowski. 2021. “Presidential Unilateral Power”
- Week 6:
- S, Oct 8: Newspaper Database due by midnight.
- T, Oct 10: Research/Codebook Instructions
- Reading Assignment: Baglione 2 and 3, *AF&S* handout
- TH, Oct 12: Research/Codebook Preparation and Workshop
- Reading assignment: Baglione 4, Theys Krueger, and Pedraza (2019)
- Week 7:
- S, Oct 15: LinkedIn Profile due by midnight.
- T, Oct 17: American Politics II
- Reading assignment: Pew Research. 2021. “Wide Partisan Divide on Whether Voting is a Fundamental Right”; Hansen 2019. “Polarization and the Judiciary”
- TH, Oct 19: Comparative Politics I
- Reading assignment: Elkins and Ginsburg. 2021. “What Can We Learn from Written Constitutions?”
 - **Ambassador Yovanovitch Talk: 6:15pm, Reeve Ballroom (attendance required)**
- Week 8:
- S, Oct. 22: Research and Codebook assignment due by midnight.
- T, Oct 24: SPSS/Excel Refresher
- Reading assignment: Topline assignment handout, Pollock excerpts
- TH, Oct 26: Comparative Politics II
- Reading assignment: Grofman. 2016. “Perspectives on the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems”
- Week 9:
- T, Oct 31: Cover letter and Personal Statement Introduction
- Reading assignment: Cover letter handout on Canvas
- TH, Nov 2: Comparative Politics III

- Reading assignment: Schedler. 2010. “Authoritarianism’s Last Line of Defense”
- Week 10: S, Nov 5: Cover letters and personal statements due by midnight.
T, Nov 7: International Relations I
 - Reading assignment: Berman. 2021. “Causes of Populism in the West”
TH, Nov 9: International Relations II
 - Reading assignment: Mearshiemer, Russett and O’Neal, Wendt; Kertzer; Tingley
“Political Psychology in IR”
Week 11: S, Nov 12: Topline and Crosstab assignment due by midnight.
T, Nov 14: Interview Preparation and Career Skills Summary
 - Reading assignment: Interview handout
TH, Nov 16: Mock Interviews
 - Reading assignment: Prepare for your interview.
Week 12: T, Nov 21: Individual Online Interviews and Course Meetings (no class)
 - Reading assignment: Baglione 6
 - Share your fact sheet ahead of this meeting!**TH, Nov 23: Thanksgiving Break**

Week 13: M, Nov 27: Major Field Test this week!
T, Nov 28: Fact sheet and Presentation Instructions
 - Reading assignment: Baglione 5 and 8
TH, Nov 30: Portfolio Introduction
 - Reading assignment: Baglione 9
Week 14: T, Dec 5: Fact Sheet and Quick Pitch Workday (MEET IN SAGE 1208A)
 - Reading assignment: Meet in lab - Be prepared to work on your project.
TH, Dec 7: Fact Sheet and Quick Pitch Workday (MEET IN SAGE 1208A)
 - Reading assignment: Meet in lab - Be prepared to work on your project.
F, Dec 8: Fact Sheet Due by midnight.

Week 15: T, Dec 12: Project Quick Pitches in class
TH, Dec 14: Portfolio Due (no class meeting) by midnight.
F, Dec 15: Senior Survey Due by noon.