

# PSCI 100: Introduction to Political Science

Winter 2019 – Face-to-face Edition  
Drexel University

Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:50 AM  
One Drexel Plaza, GL 48

**Instructor:** Jack Santucci, Ph.D. (jas948@drexel.edu)

**Office:** MacAlister Hall 3021

**Appointments:** <https://jacksantucci.acuityscheduling.com>

## 1 Overview & goals

This course provides a comprehensive overview of topics and methods in political science. We will learn from real examples of research – both well-worn classics, plus newer items on topics of current interest. By the end of this course, you will know:

1. What we mean by “doing science” (i.e., discovering and testing hypotheses).
2. The differences among qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive research.
3. How to read political-science research without poring over every word.
4. How to read statistical results, whether in political science or some other field.
5. About some topics that political scientists study (e.g., voting behavior, identity formation, war and peace, environmental protection).

## 2 Things to buy

There are no required purchases for this course.

## 3 Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance (10%).
2. Article-hunt assignment (20%) – find an article in a peer-reviewed, political science journal. It must have been written after 1960. No two students may use the same article. No later than February 27, email me and Carly with the title, abstract, journal title, author(s), and link. We reserve the right to reject your choice on substantive grounds.

In a blank Word document (or equivalent), properly write the Chicago-style citation at the top of the page.<sup>1</sup> Then paste the abstract, making the font match the rest of the document. Then, in one sentence each, say why this article interested you, what its dependent variable is, and what its independent variable is. Finally, in plain English, state its key point (one sentence) and the useful knowledge that comes from the article (one sentence). The purpose of this assignment is for you to practice finding and reading political science on your own. It is due no later than the last day of class.

3. Midterm exam – multiple choice (35%)
4. Final exam – multiple choice and essay-length prompt(s) (35%).

## 4 Other policies

You agree to:

1. Treat guest speakers and classmates with respect.
2. Check Drexel email daily through the date of the final exam.
3. Attend class and meet course deadlines *except in documented cases of bereavement, severe illness, or medical emergency*. You must provide a doctor's note or funeral announcement if you cannot meet a deadline and/or attend a class meeting. Out-of-class written work loses five points for each 24-hour period past the time and date it is due.
4. Use Internet search or a dictionary to look up words you do not understand.
5. Abide by all other Drexel policies, found at the following websites. Note: I reserve the right to use plagiarism-detection software.

Academic integrity: [http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic\\_dishonesty.asp](http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic_dishonesty.asp)

Disability accommodation: <http://drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/students/>

Add/Drop: <http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-add-drop>

Course withdrawal: <http://drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-withdrawal>

I agree to:

1. Abide by any grading guidelines in this syllabus and related instructions for assignments. Grading is on the 0-100 scale: 97 and up (A+), 93-96 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-87 (B), 80-82 (B-), and so on, down to 50 (F).
2. Answer student e-mail within 48 business hours. Business hours are 9 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, non-holiday.

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

3. Except for the required books, post links to readings on Blackboard, if not the readings themselves.
4. Grade written work within 10 business days of submission.
5. Notify you of changes to this syllabus at least one week in advance of affected due dates.
6. Give office hours on a by-appointment basis. (See link above.) Students who are not in Philadelphia can book these times for phone conversations.

## 5 Schedule of work

### 5.1 The hunt for “useful knowledge” about politics

**Class 1** This syllabus.

**Class 2** Cameron, Charles. “What is Political Science?” In *A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences*, Andrew Gelman and Jeronimo Cortina (eds.), pp. 207-222, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

**Class 3** Almond, Gabriel A. “Political Science: The History of the Discipline.” In *The New Handbook of Political Science*, Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), pp. 50-96, Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 1996. **Read pages 50-52, 64-78, and 81-83.**

### 5.2 Getting the point without reading every word

**Class 4** Two items:

- Santucci, Jack. 2018. “Tips on Reading Political Science.” Typescript. [http://www.jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice\\_for\\_readers.pdf](http://www.jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice_for_readers.pdf)
- Sykes, Alan O. “An Introduction to Regression Analysis.” Working Paper No. 20, Coase-Sandor Institute for Law & Economics, 1993. **Read pages 1-10.**

**Class 5** Spillover.

### 5.3 What is a good theory? The case of international relations

**Class 6** Ackerman, John, Barak Carlson and Young Han. “International Relations Paradigms.” Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) Distance Learning Program, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, 2010.

### 5.4 Quantitative and interpretive work in American politics

**Class 7** Setzler, Mark and Alixandra B. Yanus. “Why Did Women Vote for Donald Trump?” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51, no. 3 (2018): 523-527.

**Class 8** Hochschild, Arlie Russell. "I Spent 5 Years With Some of Trump's Biggest Fans. Here's What They Won't Tell You." *Mother Jones* (September/October 2016).  
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/08/trump-white-blue-collar-supporters/>

**Class 9** Schwartz, Thomas. "Why Parties?" Typescript, 1989. **Read pages 1-3 and 12-17.**

**Class 10** McDaniel, Eric A., Maraam A. Dwidar, and Hadill Calderon. "The Faith of Black Politics: The Relationship Between Black Religious and Political Beliefs." *Journal of Black Studies* 49, no. 3 (2018): 256-283.

## **5.5 Midterm exam**

**Class 11** Midterm in class.

## **5.6 Qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive work in comparative politics**

**Class 12** Linz, Juan J. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1, no. 1 (1990): 51-69.

**Class 13** Rydgren, Jens and Sara van der Meiden. "The Radical Right and the End of Swedish Exceptionalism." *European Political Science*, early online version (2018): 1-17.

**Class 14** Auyero, Javier. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review* 35, no. 3 (2000): 55-81.

## **5.7 Qualitative and quantitative work in the field of public policy**

**Class 15** Guest speaker.

**Class 16** Two items:

Downs, Anthony. "Up and Down with Ecology: The 'Issue-attention Cycle.'" *Public Interest* 28 (1972): 38-50.

**Last day to choose topic of your article-hunt assignment.**

**Class 17** Manow, Philip. "Electoral Rules, Class Coalitions and Welfare State Regimes, or How to Explain Esping-Andersen with Stein Rokkan." *Socio-Economic Review* 7 (2009).

## **5.8 Current issues in American politics**

**Class 18** Santucci, Jack. "Maine's election shows that ranked-choice voting is hot right now. But we have been here before." *LSE's USAPP* (June 15, 2018). <http://bit.ly/2lbEsBp>.

**Class 19** Santucci, Jack. "Using Mixed Methods to Recover Electoral History: The American Path to Proportional Voting." *SAGE Research Methods Cases*, part 2 (2019): 2-11.

## 5.9 Working as a political scientist

**Class 20** Four items:

- Reid, Rebecca A. and Todd A. Curry. “Are We There Yet? Addressing Diversity in Political Science Subfields.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, early version (2019): 1-5.
- *2016-2017 APSA Graduate Placement Survey: Placement Report*. White paper, American Political Science Association, 2018. **Skim.**
- Golshan, Tara and Ella Nilsen. “How a 21-year-old college senior became the breakout star of 2018 election forecasting.” *Vox.com* (June 1, 2018).  
<https://www.vox.com/2018/6/1/17164960/midterms-2018-forecast-projection-g-elliott-morris>
- **Article-hunt assignment is due.**