

# PSCI 100-001: Introduction to Political Science

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Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:50 PM  
PISB 106

Office hours: <https://jacksantucci.as.me>

## 1 Overview & goals

The goal of every science is to accumulate useful knowledge – useful for causing (or stopping) some (un)desired change in the world. The goal of most political scientists is to learn about causes of human prosperity. In searching for those causes, we usually end up at one or both of the following factors: people’s values and the design of political institutions.

Skepticism is the difference between science and religion. Given our rules of evidence, one can never prove some point. All the scientist can do is ask whether their hunches are consistent with data – verbal or numeric, sparse or in great quantity. And our hunches (i.e., hypotheses) are good if they come from coherent theories about how the world works.

Research is the process by which political scientists gather knowledge. The nature of our data determine whether that work is qualitative or quantitative. The goals of our research determines whether it is hypothesis-testing or hypothesis-generating. And people doing all this work tend to sort themselves into subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and public policy.

When this course is over, you will:

- Be able to read political science without poring over every word;
- Be able to read statistical results, whether in political science or some other field;
- Know the major research approaches in political science;
- Have gotten practice with analytic writing;
- And able to think about politics the way a political scientist would.

## 2 Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance and participation (10%) – Write your full name and one question/comment about the day's reading(s) on a small piece of paper. Drop this into the coffee can, which I will circulate at the beginning of each class. What you write down must reflect the fact that you have done the reading. The coffee can is meant to make you read and integrate material throughout the quarter.
2. Midterm exam (30%) – Short-answer and multiple-choice. In class on February 10.
3. Article hunt (30%) – Select a research article from the approved list of political science journals. The article must have been published after 1959. Do not select a review article. In 1-2 pages, give the dependent variable, independent variable, and main point of the study. Then say what type of research this (mostly) is, and justify that claim. More instructions are forthcoming. Due by start of class on February 17.
4. Political event essay (30%) – Due at midnight on March 16. Tips on how to write A-grade essays can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2to6Bgd>.

## 3 How to get what you want efficiently by sending me e-mail

1. Use a subject line that indicates your need. Please don't reply to a blanket email sent through Blackboard, nor to a thread about some other issue.
2. Include the full course number (e.g., PSCI-100-001).
3. Be as specific as possible, and use complete sentences.
4. Keep all correspondence with respect to the same issue in the same thread. Start a different thread for a different issue.
5. Use your Drexel email so that I can search my inbox for your username.

## 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. 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 know.
5. Abide by all other Drexel policies, found at the following websites. Note that 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). Rounding occurs for final grades only, to the nearest whole number. The rounding threshold is 0.5 percentage points.
2. Answer student e-mail within 48 business hours. Business hours are 9 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, non-holiday.
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 classes

### 5.1 What is political science, and how is it done?

**January 6** This syllabus.

**January 8** 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.

**January 13** 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 How to read political science

**January 15** 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.**

## 5.3 American politics

**January 22** Setzler, Mark and Alixandra B. Yanus. “Why Did Women Vote for Donald Trump?” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51, no. 3 (2018): 523-527.

**January 27** 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/>

**January 29** Schwartz, Thomas. “Why Parties?” Typescript, 1989. **Read pages 1-3 and 12-17.**

**February 3** 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.

## 5.4 Midterm exam

**February 5** Review in class.

**February 10** In class, closed-book.

## 5.5 What is a good theory? Examples from international relations

**February 12** 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.

## 5.6 Comparative politics

**February 17** Dahl, Robert A. “Democratization and Public Opposition.” In *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, pp. 1-18, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971.

**February 19** Linz, Juan J. “The Perils of Presidentialism.” *Journal of Democracy* 1, no. 1 (1990): 51-69.

**February 24** 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.

**February 26** Auyero, Javier. “The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account.” *Latin American Research Review* 35, no. 3 (2000): 55-81.

## **5.7 Public policy**

**March 2** Manow, Philip. “Electoral Rules, Class Coalitions and Welfare State Regimes, or How to Explain Esping-Andersen with Stein Rokkan.” *Socio-Economic Review* 7 (2009).

**March 4** Downs, Anthony. “Up and Down with Ecology: The ‘Issue-attention Cycle.’” *Public Interest* 28 (1972): 38-50.

## **5.8 Conclusion**

**March 9** Students’ choice of lecture.

**March 11** Course evaluations and spillover day.