Political Science 51: The Scientific Study of Politics
MW, 7:30-8:50 AM
Khaira Lecture Hall 123
https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/courses/863614

Section A01: M, 11–11:50 AM (44851)
Section A02: M, 12:10–1 PM (44852)
Section A03: T, 2:10–3 PM (44853)
Section A04: T, 3:10–4 PM (44854)
Section A05: R, 8–8:50 AM (44855)
Section A06: R, 9–9:50 AM (44856)
Section A07: F, 9–9:50 AM (44857)
Section A08: F, 10–10:50 AM (44858)
Section A09: F, 3:10–4 PM (44859)
Section A10: F, 4:10–5 PM (44860)

Instructor
Christopher Hare
cdhare@ucdavis.edu
Office Location: Kerr 574
Office Hours: W 9:30–11:30 AM

Teaching assistants

Haley Daarstad	Alexa Federice	Yu-Shiuan (Lily) Huang
(A10)	(A09)	(A03/A04)
pbernhard@ucdavis.edu	hbdaarstad@ucdavis.edu	rlkornrumpf@ucdavis.edu
Kerr 567	Kerr 569	Kerr 567
Office Hours: W 12–1 PM	Office Hours: F 2–3 PM	Office Hours: T 10 AM–12 PM

Richard Kornrumpf	Amanda Loehrke
(A01/A02)	(A07/A08)
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Office Hours: M 9–11 AM	Office Hours: F 11 AM–1 PM

Course description
This course provides an introduction to the *science* of political science. The first part of the course focuses on key concepts in the scientific study of politics: theory building, research design, and the measurement of political variables. The second component of the course provides training on methods for the empirical analysis of data, including an introduction to the `R` programming environment.

Required texts

1. Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, 3rd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-108-69880-1

2. **Available online through UCD Libraries.** James E. Monogan III. *Political Analysis Using R*. New York: Springer, 2015. ISBN: 978-3-319-23445-8

Journal articles/handouts will be made available on Canvas (`https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/courses/863614`).

Grade components

Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam (`Feb 19, 7:30-8:50 AM`)	35%
Final Exam (`March 22, 1-3 PM`)	35%

Grading system

≥ 97	A+	87 - 89	B+	77 - 79	C+	67 - 69	D+	< 60	F
93 - 96	A	83 - 86	B	73 - 76	C	63 - 66	D		
90 - 92	A-	80 - 82	B-	70 - 72	C-	60 - 62	D-		

Assignments and exams
There will be four homework assignments assigned throughout the course. I will drop the lowest grade, meaning that the remaining assignments each count 10% towards your final grade. No extensions will be given for any assignment without prior approval, or without a written medical excuse or note from the Dean's office. All late papers will be graded down one portion of a grade (e.g., from a "B+" to a "B") for every day late, including Saturday and Sunday.

Assignments must be submitted through Canvas (`https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/courses/863614`).

Inquiries about assignments and exams—especially those concerning logistics about completing/taking these—should generally be made to your assigned section head (i.e., the teaching assistant managing your section). However, I am more than happy to answer substantive questions about the course material or discuss political science, graduate school, career opportunities, etc. either in office hours or by appointment.

Makeup exams
Makeup exams will not be administered without prior approval, or without a written medical excuse or note from the Dean's office. You should make arrangements with your assigned section teaching assistant as soon as possible if you know that you will be absent for one of the exams.

Extra credit
At random points throughout the course, I will provide **in-class** extra credit opportunities. These must be completed in person, no makeups. Depending on assignment and exam grades, I may curve grades upward (I will never curve downwards). However, based on past experiences, this is unlikely. I will also round final grades a point (e.g., an 89.5 to a 90).

Academic honesty

I strictly adhere to the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct (`http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html`). I will report any suspected academic misconduct to Student Judicial Affairs.

Disabilities

Students with special needs that require accommodation should notify the Student Disability Center (54 Cowell Building; `530.752.3184`; `https://sdc.ucdavis.edu`) as soon as possible so that arrangements detailed in the Letter of Accommodation can be made.

Tentative schedule

This schedule is subject to change:

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1 Jan 8 **NO CLASS: Jan 10 (SPSA conference)**	Introduction	
Week 2 Jan 17 **NO CLASS: Jan 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)**	Theory-Building: Rational Choice and Game Theory	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 1. • James McManus, "Game Theory: Poker, Bluffing, and the Royal Flush of Cold Warfare," `http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/01/sports/othersports/bluffing-and-the-royal-flush-of-cold-warfare.html`
Week 3 Jan 22 - Jan 24	Theory-Building: Issues with Rational Chocie Theory and the Spatial Voting Model	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 2. • Jonah Lehrer, "The Allais Paradox," `https://www.wired.com/2010/10/the-allais-paradox/`
Week 4 Jan 29 - Jan 31 **Assignment #1 Due: Feb 1**	Causation and Research Design	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 3-4. • Ronald E. Milliman, "Using Background Music to Affect the Behavior of Supermarket Shoppers," *Journal of Marketing* 46: 86-91.
Week 5 Feb 5 - Feb 7	Measurement	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapter 5. • Seva Gunitsky, "How Do You Measure 'Democracy'?," `https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/06/23/how-do-you-measure-democracy`

Week 6 Feb 12 - Feb 14 **Assignment #2 Due: Feb 19**	Introduction to R	• *Political Analysis Using R*, Chapters 1-3. • CRAN: `https://cran.r-project.org/` • The R Graph Gallery, `https://www.r-graph-gallery.com/`
Week 7 Feb 21 **NO CLASS: Feb 19 (President's Day Holiday)** **Midterm Exam: Feb 21**	Midterm Exam	
Week 8 Feb 26 - Feb 28	Probability and Statistical Inference	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 6-7. • Nate Silver, "How I Acted Like A Pundit And Screwed Up On Donald Trump," `http://53eig.ht/1W25sBn` • Nate Silver, "Why FiveThirtyEight Gave Trump A Better Chance Than Almost Anyone Else," `http://53eig.ht/2fkn7oi`
Week 9 March 4 - March 6 **Assignment #3 Due: March 8**	Correlation and Bivariate Regression	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 8-9. • *Political Analysis Using R*, Chapter 5. • *Harvard Business Review*, "Beware Spurious Correlations," `https://hbr.org/2015/06/beware-spurious-correlations`
Week 10 March 11 - March 13 **Assignment #4 Due: March 15**	Multiple Regression	• *Fundamentals of Political Science Research*, Chapters 10-11. • *Political Analysis Using R*, Chapter 6. • Matthew L. Jacobsmeier and Daniel C. Lewis, "Barking Up the Wrong Tree: Why Bo Didn't Fetch Many Votes for Barack Obama in 2012," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 46: 49-59.
Exam Week **Final Exam: Friday, March 22, 1-3 PM**		