

Instructor

Simon Weschle
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Eggers Hall 530
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315.443.8678

Class Information

Days: Monday/Wednesday

Time: 2:15 - 3:10
Heroy 001 Auditorium

Student Hours

Day: Wednesday
Location: Eggers 530 or Zoom (Meeting ID 967 4250 4513, Password 884019)

Time: 11:00 - 1:00

Teaching Assistants

Aysenur Deger
Sections: 101 (Friday 10:35-11:30) and 103 (Friday 2:15-3:10)
Student Hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30

adegerya@syr.edu

Eggers 100H

Xiaoxia Huang
Sections: 105 (Friday 9:30-10:25) and 104 (Friday 2:15-3:10)
Student Hours: Wednesday 4:00-5:00

xhuang16@syr.edu

Eggers 023

Katharine Russell
Sections: 102 (Friday 10:35-11:30) and 106 (Friday 9:30-10:25)
Student Hours: Thursday 11:00-12:00

kbrussel@syr.edu

Eggers 306F

Course Description

The purpose of this course, required for political science majors, is to build skills for conducting, interpreting, and presenting political science research. These skills include: basic research and data collection practices, techniques for measuring political science concepts quantitatively, hypothesis testing, interpretation of statistical evidence, and the presentation of findings in a clear and compelling manner. Tying these components together is a thematic focus on important political science concepts such as democracy, power, or representation.

MAIN THINGS TO KNOW

Course Website

<http://www.simonweschle.com/psc202>

The website has the continuously updated class schedule, including all readings and assignments. Please check the page EVERY WEEK.

Textbook

Pollock, Philip H. and Barry C. Edwards 2019. *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. 6th Edition. CQ Press.

You have access to this book through Orange Instant Access (OIA). You are automatically enrolled and the book will be accessible via Blackboard. You will have until January 31 to decide if you would like to remain enrolled in OIA. If not, you have been provided instructions on opting out by the campus store. After January 31 2023, 11:59PM EDT, the cost of your material (\$42.35) will be charged to your SU Bursar account. If you acquire the textbook on your own, make sure you have the correct edition (6th). The book is also available to check out for a short period of time from the Library Course Reserves. All other readings are posted on Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

- *Class Participation (10%)*: Blackboard quizzes on lectures and readings (due before each class), other tasks.
- *Three Exams (40%)*: February 20, March 27, and May 1.
- *Problem Sets (30%)*: Approximately weekly, due on Fridays.
- *Discussion Section (20%)*: See separate section syllabus.

Covid

You are expected to adhere to all public health guidelines. If you have any symptoms, do not come to class. Just let me know and I'll excuse your absence. If you experience personal stress or hardship (for any reason, Covid or not), *please* get in touch with me. I'll work with you to help you succeed in the class.

MORE DETAIL ON IMPORTANT THINGS**Assignments and Grading**

Your grade in this class will be based on class participation, three in-class exams, problem sets, and your grade from the discussion section.

- *Class Participation (10%)*: This part of the grade is made up of several components. First, you should make every effort to attend class. There will be Blackboard quizzes (due by the start of each class) that contain questions on the content of the lectures.
Second, it is important that you do the assigned readings **before** class. The reading load for this course is light to enable a close reading of each text. Before each class, I recommend that you take notes on the readings. This will also help you prepare for the problem sets and the exams. Some of the readings are more complex, so you may have to read them more than once. The Blackboard quizzes that are due before each lecture will contain questions on the readings.
Finally, there will be miscellaneous small tasks throughout the semester for which you can get credit. For example, one is right here: To show that you read the syllabus, go to <https://>

forms.gle/F4ohccct2BCM3fCq5 and enter your name, SUID, and tell me about your current favorite movie/TV show, book, album, or podcast. If you do, you'll receive credit towards your participation grade.

- *Three Exams (40% total)*: Exams take place on **February 20**, **March 27**, and **May 1**. You are allowed to bring a single-page 8.5x11 sheet with you, as long as you yourself prepared it. What you put on the sheet is entirely up to you.

The exams are not cumulative in the regular sense. However, since material we discuss later in the class builds on what we cover earlier in the class, Exams 2 will contain some “old” material that was discussed before Exam 1, and Exam 3 will contain material that was discussed before Exams 1 and 2. There is no exam during finals week. Instead, there will be a final problem set covering material from the entire class (see below).

If you have a good reason why you are unable to take the exam and can provide appropriate documentation (e.g. illness, death in the family), please notify me *as soon as you can*. If I know about it in advance, we can work out something on a case-by-case basis. It tends to be harder to find a solution that works for everyone if you only come to me after you have missed an exam.

- *Problem Sets (30% total)*: The best way to learn the material in this class is to work through a lot of exercises. To that effect, there are (approximately) weekly problem sets. They are posted on Fridays after the discussion section and are due a week later. There will be one final problem set that covers material from the entire course that is due during the finals period. This assignment will count double. All assignments must be typed in their entirety. They are graded on a scale from 1 to 5, and late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for every 24 hours past the due date. Any homework extension requests must be made to in writing and at the time of the homework being posted (or sooner).
- *Discussion Section (20%)*: The discussion section is designed for small group discussion and activities that are integral in a course like this that requires you master a specific skill set. Your grade will depend on your attendance as well as your participation in class. You will receive a syllabus for your section with more details.

For your final grade, I use the following scale as a guide: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), and F (0-59). However, the final determination about grades is with me and may deviate from this scale. We will post grades to Blackboard. You are expected to keep track of your own grade using the raw scores from Blackboard and the weights above.

If you feel, at any point, depressed, panicked, or anything the like, please come talk to me. There's always something that can be done to help you and to make sure you are in a position to complete the course. The same goes if you are in danger of failing the class. I'm happy to help, but I cannot read your mind or otherwise intuit what is going on in your life. So, come talk to me as early as possible. It's much more difficult to do something after the fact.

Student Hours

Student hours are the designated time that I set aside each week specifically for meeting with students. If you want to come during that time, you do not need to let me know in advance or ask permission, I will always be there. These hours are your chance to talk to me about course material, college in general, or just to chat so we can get to know each other. I am also happy to meet with you outside of the designated time, but for that you need to schedule an appointment in advance. Student hours are held simultaneously in-person and on Zoom, and you can choose whichever modality you prefer. If you cannot meet during designated time, please let me know and we'll set up another time.

As mentioned in the previous section, it is easiest for everyone if you talk to me as early as possible about any issues or questions. Instead of waiting until you get a bad grade in an exam and asking how you can “make up” for it, come talk to me before the exam and ask questions about the material. That way, we can walk through the material together and I can explain a course concept in a different way. Similarly, rather than waiting until the end of the semester to tell me about issues that prevented you from focusing on school, talk to me earlier when there is still time for me to accommodate your circumstances. You get the point—if you find yourself asking whether you should come talk to me about something, come talk to me.

Tentative Course Outline

The course outline below is tentative and subject to change. The exact week-to-week schedule, along with the required readings, will be posted on the Course Website <http://www.simonweschle.com/psc202>, which you should check at least once a week.

- Jan 18: Introduction to the Course
- Jan 23: Studying Politics Scientifically
- Jan 25: Research Questions in Political Science
- Jan 30: Developing Theories in Political Science
- Feb 1: Concepts and Measurement
- Feb 6: Variables
- Feb 8: Describing Variables
- Feb 13: Sampling and Surveys
- Feb 15: More Sampling and Surveys, Exam Review
- Feb 20: Exam # 1
- Feb 22: Hypotheses and Causality
- Feb 27: Observational Research Designs: Quantitative and Qualitative Analyses
- Mar 1: Qualitative Analyses

- Mar 6: More Qualitative Analyses
- Mar 8: Bivariate Hypothesis Testing
- Mar 13 and 15: No Class (Spring Break)
- Mar 20: More Bivariate Hypothesis Testing
- Mar 22: More Bivariate Hypothesis Testing
- Mar 27: Exam # 2
- Mar 29: Hypothesis Testing When Using a Sample
- Apr 3: More Hypothesis Testing When Using a Sample
- Apr 5: Hypothesis Testing with One Confounder
- Apr 10: More Hypothesis Testing with One Confounder
- Apr 12: Linear Regression
- Apr 17: Linear Regression in Practice
- Apr 19: Experimental Research Designs
- Apr 24: More Experimental Research Designs, Exam Review
- Apr 26: Review
- May 1: Exam # 3

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, FINE PRINT, AND THINGS I HAVE TO PUT ON THE SYLLABUS**Campus Resources**

As an SU student you have access to a variety of resources that can help you in this class and beyond. Please make use of them.

- Mental health and overall well-being are significant predictors of academic success. As such it is essential that during your college experience you develop the skills and resources effectively to navigate stress, anxiety, depression and other mental health concerns. Please familiarize yourself with the range of resources the Barnes Center provides (ese.syr.edu/bewell) and seek out support for mental health concerns as needed. Counseling services are available 24/7, 365 days a year, at 315.443.8000, and I encourage you to explore the resources available through the Wellness Leadership Institute, <https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/wellness-leadership-institute/>

- Counseling Center: <http://counselingcenter.syr.edu/faculty-staff/helping-students-in-distress.html> and http://counselingcenter.syr.edu/_documents/Bill_of_Rights.pdf.
- Writing Center: http://wc.syr.edu/?_ga=2.101027140.454082058.1534346263-1387513330.1433439063
- Tutoring Services: CenterforLearningandStudentSuccess:<http://class.syr.edu/tutoring>
- Financial Counseling: <http://financialaid.syr.edu/financialliteracy>
- Career Services: http://thecollege.syr.edu/advising/index.html?_ga=2.101048900.454082058.1534346263-1387513330.1433439063
- Sexual Harassment/Title IX Concerns: Sheila Johnson-Willis, Compliance Officer. titleix@syr.edu. 315.443.0211
- Sexual & Relationship Violence Response Team: 315.443.4715

Harassment, Confidentiality, and Mandatory Reporting

Federal and state law, and University policy prohibit discrimination and harassment based on sex or gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If a student has been harassed or assaulted, they can obtain confidential counseling support, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, from the Sexual and Relationship Violence Response Team at the Counseling Center (315-443-8000, Barnes Center at The Arch, 150 Sims Drive, Syracuse, New York 13244).

Incidents of sexual violence or harassment can be reported non-confidentially to the University's Title IX Officer (Sheila Johnson Willis, 315-443-0211, titleix@syr.edu, 005 Steele Hall). Reports to law enforcement can be made to the University's Department of Public Safety (315-443-2224, 005 Sims Hall), the Syracuse Police Department (511 South State Street, Syracuse, New York, 911 in case of emergency or 315-435-3016 to speak with the Abused Persons Unit), or the State Police (844-845-7269).

I will seek to keep information you share with me private to the greatest extent possible, but as a professor I have mandatory reporting responsibilities to share information regarding sexual misconduct, harassment, and crimes I learn about with the University's Title IX Officer to help make our campus a safer place for all.

Communication

If you have questions about the material, chances are that you are not the only one. Therefore the best way to ask questions is in class. If your question is not related to class material or relevant to other students, please come to my office hours to talk about questions, difficulties with the class material or with homework, and so on. If you cannot make office hours, feel free to send me an email to set up an appointment.

I will usually respond to email within 24 hours during the week. I will not respond to emails during weekends, except for urgent matters. As with all business-related correspondence, please include an

appropriate salutation, identify yourself, and write in complete sentences. Students are expected to check their email accounts regularly, as I will be using email to provide announcements and updates about the course. See Syracuse's email policy at <http://supolicies.syr.edu/it/email.htm>.

Religious Observances

SU's religious observances policy (http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm) recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify their instructors no later than the academic drop deadline. For observances occurring before the drop deadline, notification is required at least two academic days in advance. Students may enter their observances in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to contact me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process.

If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with CDR, please visit Center for Disability Resources. Please call (315) 443-4498 or email disabilityresources@syr.edu for more detailed information.

The CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible to begin this process.

Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit and for upholding course-specific, as well as university-wide, academic integrity expectations. The policy governs citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and truthfulness in all academic matters, including course attendance and participation. The policy also prohibits students from: 1) submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving advance written authorization from both instructors and, 2) using websites that charge fees or require uploading of course materials to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others and present the work as their own. Under the policy, instructors who seek to penalize a student for a suspected violation must first report the violation to the Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS). Students may not drop or withdraw from courses in which they face a suspected violation. Instructors must wait to assign a final course grade until a suspected violation is reviewed and upheld or overturned. Upholding Academic Integrity includes abiding by instructors' individual course expectations, which may include the protection of their intellectual property. Students should not upload, distribute, or otherwise share instructors' course materials without permission. Students found in violation of the policy are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade

sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered, as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. Students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. The Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed at <https://class.syr.edu/academic-integrity/policy/>.

The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

All academic integrity expectations that apply to in-person quizzes and exams also apply to online quizzes and exams. In this course, all work submitted for quizzes and exams must be yours alone. Discussing quiz or exam questions with anyone during the quiz or exam period violates academic integrity expectations for this course. Using websites that charge fees or require uploading of course material (e.g. Chegg, Course Hero) to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others and present the work as your own violates academic integrity expectations in this course.

This class will use the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin. You will have the option to submit your papers to Turnitin to check that all sources you use have been properly acknowledged and cited before you submit the paper to me. I will also submit all papers you write for this class to Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at SU and at other colleges and universities. I will take your knowledge of the subject matter of this course and your writing level and style into account in interpreting the originality report. Keep in mind that all papers you submit for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Privacy and Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) sets forth requirements regarding the privacy of student records. FERPA governs both the access to and release of those records, known as education records, and the information they contain. Under FERPA, faculty have a legal responsibility to protect the confidentiality of student records. For additional information about FERPA and SU's FERPA policy, see: <http://www.syr.edu/registrar/staff/ferpa>.