

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs		UUPC Approval <u>12-6-21</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Political Science College Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Current Course Prefix and Number POS 3330		Current Course Title Understanding Political Science Research	
<i>Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.</i>			
Change title to: Exploring Political Science Change prefix From: To: Change course number From: To: Change credits* From: To: Change grading From: To: Change WAC/Gordon Rule status** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> Change General Education Requirements*** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> <small>*Review Provost Memorandum</small> <small>**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.</small> <small>***General Education criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See GE Guidelines.</small>		Change description to: Change prerequisites/minimum grades to: Change corequisites to: Change registration controls to: <small>Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).</small>	
Effective Term/Year for Changes: Fall 2022		Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:	
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Angela D. Nichols, nicholsa@fau.edu			
Approved by Department Chair <u>Xerim Wagner</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>[Signature]</u> College Dean <u>[Signature]</u> UUPC Chair <u>Dan Macroff</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Edward Pratt</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____		Date <u>11/8/21</u> 11.23.21 12-1-2021 <u>12-6-21</u> <u>12-6-21</u> _____ _____	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Political Science Memo and Rationale for Changes

The Department of Political Science has decided to update its curricular program to meet the existing needs of its students. Towards that aim, the department proposes several changes to the undergraduate curriculum, as explained in this memo.

Section 2A

- **POS 3330 will be re-titled to “Exploring Political Science” and will replace POS 3703: Research Methods in Political Science as one of the required courses.**

The current course requirement, POS 3703: Research Methods in Political Science, teaches students advanced quantitative methodology. While some knowledge of quantitative methods is necessary at the undergraduate level, the department thinks students would be better served by a course that exposes them to the field of political science more broadly. POS 3330: Exploring Political Science (proposed new title) was created expressly for this purpose. POS 3330 introduces students to the various subfields of political science, approaches to scientific inquiry within the field, and the fundamentals necessary to conduct initial research in the discipline. Students will be encouraged to take this foundational course early in their academic careers, leading to better performance in their upper-division courses and an improved graduation rate.

- **Change from three required courses (9 credits) to two required courses plus a choice of two out of four required courses (12 credits).**

Currently, Political Science majors must pass three required courses: POS 2041: Government of the U.S.; CPO 3003: Comparative Politics; and POS 3703 Research Methods in Political Science. The current list of required courses excludes some of the major sub-fields of political science, including International Relations and Political Theory. To encourage broader exposure to the various subfields of political science, the requirements will be amended so that all political science majors will now take two foundational courses (POS 3330: Exploring Political Science and POS 2041: Government of the U.S.) plus a choice of two out of four courses representing major subfields of political science: Comparative Politics; International Relations; Research Methods; and Political Theory. This change will ensure that students receive broad exposure to the different sub-fields, which is essential for a complete education in political science. Additionally, the new structure will give students more choices for fulfilling their requirements, which should help to improve graduation rates.

Section 2B

- **Change in upper-division coursework from 27 to 24 credits.**

To encourage broader exposure to the core courses in each subfield of the discipline, we proposed increasing the required courses from 9 to 12 credits. So that the total credits needed for the B.A. in Political Science degree remain at 36 credits, the upper-division coursework has been adjusted accordingly, from 27 to 24 credits.

- **Change in distribution of upper-division coursework.**

The existing requirements specify that majors must complete 27 credits of upper-division coursework with at least 9 credits in “Section A: American Politics, Political Theory, and Public Policy” and at least 6 credits in “Section B: World Politics.” The proposed change would delineate the sub-fields of political science more clearly and encourage students to explore more of the sub-fields by requiring majors to take at least one course (3 credits) in three of the following five categories: American Politics; Comparative Politics; International Relations; Political Theory; and Public Policy/Public Administration.

- **List of upper-division courses replaced with more general language.**

Currently, the degree requirements list specific courses that count towards each section of the upper-division coursework requirement. This list is out-of-date; some of these courses are no longer offered, and some regularly taught courses are not included. This has created substantial confusion for students, as it is not clear to them that courses not on the list may also count towards the major and so they sometimes avoid taking those courses. To remedy this problem, the new requirements will simply read, “Any 3000/4000 level course with a __ prefix [__ 4931/4932 may be repeated for credit with a different topic],” with the blank filled in with the prefix of each designated subfield (POS for American Politics, CPO for Comparative Politics, INR for International Relations, POT for Political Theory, and PUP/PAD for Public Policy/Public Administration). This is similar to language found in the Political Science degree requirements at other SUSF schools, including the University of Florida and Florida State University.

Minor in Political Science:

- **Adjustments to Minor in alignment with Major changes described above.**

In accordance with the changes to the Major as described above, the Minor in Political Science will now require that students take two foundational courses (POS 3330: Exploring Political Science and POS 2041: Government of the U.S.) plus a choice of one out of four courses representing major subfields of political science: Comparative Politics; International Relations; Research Methods; and Political Theory. In addition, Minors will be required to take 2 upper-division courses. Again, this will ensure broad exposure to the discipline and help students to complete the Minor in a timely manner due to the greater number of choices amongst the required classes.



Exploring Political Science

POS 3330.001

T & R 11:00 – 12:20

3 credits

Fall 2022

Prof. Angela D. Nichols, Ph.D.

Office: SO 384D

Office hours: W 1-3pm

Email: nicholsa@fau.edu



Course Description

This course is designed to familiarize political science students with political science research. It introduces students to the various subfields of political science—American, Comparative, International Relations, and Theory. Approaches to scientific inquiry within the field, as well as the fundamentals necessary to conduct initial research in the discipline will be covered in this course. Information regarding the philosophy of science and various methodological approaches of applying the scientific method to social science questions are covered. Logic, critical thinking, writing for political science, and the identification of appropriate sources are some of the topics covered throughout the semester. This course is required for all political science majors and must be completed within two semesters of declaring Political Science as your major. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Student Learning Objectives

SLO 1: Core Knowledge. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of core principles and skills in political science. They should be familiar with language specific to the discipline.

SLO 2: Critical Thinking & Analysis. Students are expected to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate information, their own work, and the work of others. Students will be required to complete assignments in logic and critical thinking. Students will also engage in self and peer review sessions.

SLO 3: Research Skills. Students will learn how to identify and cite scholarly material. They are expected to be able to search for, sort, and analyze both individual pieces of work, as well as groups of articles. Students should also use appropriate referencing style throughout course. The American Political Science Association's Style Manual for Political Science can be found here:

<https://connect.apsanet.org/stylemanual/>

COVID-19 Statement

Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases and the delta variant, all students regardless of vaccination status are expected to wear masks while indoors in any FAU facilities, including classrooms and laboratories. Students experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or students who have come in contact with confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, should immediately contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512). Symptomatic students will be asked to leave the classroom to support the safety and protection of the university community. For additional information visit <https://www.fau.edu/coronavirus/>. In classes with face-to-face components, quarantined or isolated students should notify me immediately as you will not be able to attend class. I will not be able to offer an online version of the class but will make reasonable efforts to assist students in making up the work. Vaccinated students have much lower chances of needing to quarantine and a much lower chance of missing class time.

SLO 4: Written Communication. Students will learn about the norms and protocols of writing within political science. They will become familiar with exemplary texts in the discipline and will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in using the tone and style of political science writing. Students will be required to complete writing assignments utilizing evidence-based argumentation.

SLO 5: Integrate Information from Various Sources: Students will be able to identify information from various sources and integrate it into work. This includes identifying the credibility and rigor of the source, as well as identifying how it supports or challenges the student's argument and existing work.

Course Materials

There are no books required for the course.

All reading assignments typically come from academic journals, and are available from three sources:

[FAU Library](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

directly from an online provider (typically JSTOR)

JSTOR is likely your best option to access the assigned material. JSTOR is an academic journal service that FAU provides for us. Access is free from any FAU computer (e.g., in computer labs or dorms, or via FAU wireless networks); you can search for individual articles by author or title, or browse by journal name and issue at www.jstor.org. Additionally, you can access the FAU electronic journal library via <http://www.fau.edu/library/ecollect/ejournals.php>.

Instructional Method

Lectures will be delivered in person at the designated times and locations.

Student Assignments & Responsibilities

Exam: Twenty-five percent of your grade will be determined by an exam. The exam will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, and essay and take place about half-way through the semester. This midterm exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Literature Review: You must also complete a literature review for this course. The paper will be broken down into component parts with multiple due dates and peer review sessions. It also allows you to learn from your mistakes and adjust before the final product is due. More information regarding this assignment will be distributed throughout the course. The final version of this assignment is worth 25% of your final grade.

Homework Assignments: You will be required to complete a series of homework assignments for this course. These assignments are designed to help you familiarize yourself with the various components of political science research across the subfields. These assignments will comprise your homework grade for the course and be equal to 25% of your final grade.

Attendance & Participation: The topics and issues we will cover throughout the semester can be most clearly understood through discussion and the evaluation of alternative perspectives. In other words, participation increases active learning. While this course will have a substantial lecture component, there will also be opportunities for participation in classroom exercises and discussions. Thus, attending class and participating regularly are key to achieving the course objectives discussed above.

To this end, attendance and participation is worth 25% of your final grade. I will take attendance daily throughout the semester. I will also take note of how regularly you participate in class, both in productive and distractive ways. Your base attendance and participation grade will be based upon the proportion of times you are in class. Then, I will adjust that grade up or down depending on your participation. To maximize this part of your grade, it is highly recommended that you come to class prepared (e.g., having done the assigned readings) and willing to participate. Merely showing up and occupying a seat will not constitute full participation. Other ways to lose participation points include but are not limited to: being a disruption to others (e.g., side conversations with friends, reading for other classes), repeatedly failing to answer a question if called upon, and not participating in classroom discussions and exercises in a productive manner.

Make-up Exams: If you cannot attend one of the exams, you need to notify me as soon as possible by email and in person. Make-up exams will only be given to students who have been unable to sit for the examination as a consequence of illness requiring medical care, required university activities, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation and/or prior permission is required. Additionally, an alternative exam may be provided. I reserve the right to assign a short answer or essay make-up exam in place of the standard exam for this class.

Grading & Evaluation

Grades are assigned in accordance with the following scale:

Total Points	100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	<60
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Other Policies

Materials handed out in class by the instructor (e.g., review sheets, simulation materials, etc.) will only be distributed electronically or outside of class at the professor's discretion.

Allow a reasonable amount of time for a response when you send me an email. Do not email me an hour before an exam and expect me to respond to or receive the email before class. I will not answer questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus or accessing Canvas via email. I encourage students to utilize office hours to answer their questions whenever possible.

Grades will not be released to any student via email, phone, or other electronic means. If you

wish to discuss your grades, report to the appropriate office hours or make an appointment, and come prepared with your university identification.

You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Accommodations (SAS)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed 3 without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Center Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Classroom Conduct

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: lap- tops, cell phones, and the like, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you use a laptop to take notes during class, turn off the sound and restrain yourself from unnecessary surfing. I reserve the right to suspend the use of laptops if this policy is abused. If you need a phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire class. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the professor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. I ask all of you to respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you do not agree with them. In simple terms, that means not interrupting other students while they are speaking and not verbally attacking them for their beliefs. While I believe that it is essential to connect theory to current events, I will cut short debates of current events that do not enhance the understanding of course concepts. I expect you to offer substantive comments and questions when appropriate in class. I also expect you not to dominate a discussion, but to allow free discussion and exchange of ideas.

Political Science Faculty by Subfield

American

- [Burt Atkins](#)
- [Marshall DeRosa](#)
- [Dukhong Kim](#)
- [Orin Kirshner](#)
- [Eric Prier](#)
- [Kevin Wagner](#)

Comparative

- [Mehmet Gurses](#)
- [Aimee Kanner Arias](#)
- [Angela Nichols](#)
- [Robert Rabil](#)
- [Edward Schwerin](#)
- [Renat Shaykhutdinov](#)
- Kristin Shockley
- [Steven D. Roper](#)
- [Annette LaRocco](#)

International Relations

- [Aimee Kanner Arias](#)
- [Jeffrey Morton](#)
- [Edward Schwerin](#)
- [Renat Shaykhutdinov](#)

- Kristin Shockley
- [Steven D. Roper](#)
- [Angela Nichols](#)
- [Annette LaRocco](#)

Public Law and Policy

- [Eric Prier](#)
- [Kevin Wagner](#)

Theory

- [Rebecca Lemoine](#)

Course Content & Schedule

(The readings listed are examples. Assigned readings will vary according to course instructor.)

The following is an approximate schedule of class readings and assignments. Please complete each assigned reading prior to the class it is listed under.

Week 1: What is Political Science?

John S. Dryzek. 2006. "Revolutions without Enemies: Key Transformations in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100:4 (Nov):487-492.

Bond, Jon R. 2007. "The Scientification of the Study of Politics: Some Observations on the Behavioral Evolution in Political Science." *Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 897-907.

Approaches to Political Science, by Bernard Susser

Social Science in the Crucible, by Mark C. Smith

Week 2: What do Political Scientists Study?

James Farr, and Raymond Seidelman, eds. 1993. *Discipline and History: Political Science in the United States*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Also available electronically:
(https://www.press.umich.edu/9943/discipline_and_history/?s=look_inside).

DeMeritt, J.H. and Young, J.K., 2013. A political economy of human rights: Oil, natural gas, and state incentives to repress. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 30(2), pp.99-120.

Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63 (3): 689-718.

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An

Exploration." *American Political Science Review* 71 (3): 883-917.

Putnam, R. D. (1995). Tuning in, tuning out: The strange disappearance of social capital in America. *PS: Political science & politics*, 28(4), 664-683.

Week 3: What do Political Scientists Study?(cont'd)

Gerber, A. S., & Green, D. P. (2000). The effects of canvassing, telephone calls, and direct mail on voter turnout: A field experiment. *American political science review*, 94(3), 653-663.

Posner (2004) "The Political Salience of Cultural Differences: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review*. 98(4): 529-545. -really elegantly written piece using a natural experiment with both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the research design and data collection

Medie (2013) "Fighting Gender-Based Violence: The Women's Movement and the Enforcement of Rape Law in Liberia" *African Affairs*. 112(448): 377-397. -fieldwork-based study using interviews, participant observation, and document analysis in a clearly designed study, with research question, design, and case study selection all accessibly described in the article

Friedman (2018) "The 'science' of superiority: Africa and scholarly colonial assumptions" *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 36(4): 449-463. -slightly heterodox piece highlighting the flawed assumptions that often plague political science research in/on Africa

Gurses, M., & Mason, T. D. (2008). Democracy Out of Anarchy: The Prospects for Post-Civil-War Democracy. *Social Science Quarterly*, 89(2), 315-336.

LaRocco, A. A. (2019). Infrastructure, wildlife tourism,(il)legible populations: A comparative study of two districts in contemporary Botswana. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 2514848619877083.

LeMoine, Rebecca. "Foreigners as Liberators: Education and Cultural Diversity in Plato's Menexenus." *American Political Science Review* 111.3 (2017): 471-483.

Week 4: Approaches to Conducting Research in Political Science

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 5: Political Scientists in Private Employment (diplomats, NGOs, pollsters, strategists, data scientists etc.)

Pennock, A. (2011). The case for using policy writing in undergraduate political science courses. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 44(1), 141-146.

Week 6: Puzzles, Questions, & Scientific Inquiry

Karl Popper. 1965. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. New York: Harper.

Stephen Kocs. 1994. Explaining the Strategic Behavior of States, *International Law as System Structure*. *International Studies Quarterly*, 38: 535-556.

Week 7: Writing in Political Science?

Pugh, Jeff. 2005. "Democratic Peace Theory: A Review and Evaluation."

Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. "Doing a Literature Review." *PS: Political Science Politics* 39.1(2006): 127-132.

Gregory M. Scott and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*, 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Week 8: Midterm

The exam will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, and essay and take place about half-way through the semester. This midterm exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Week 9: Qualitative Research Methods

Collier, D. (2011). Understanding process tracing. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 44(4), 823-830.

George, A. L., Bennett, A., Lynn-Jones, S. M., & Miller, S. E. (2005). *Case studies and theory development in the social sciences*. MIT Press.

Week 10: Qualitative Research Methods

Kapiszewski, D., MacLean, L. M., & Read, B. L. (2015). *Field research in political science: Practices and principles*. Cambridge University Press.

Gerring, J., 2006. *Case study research: Principles and practices*. Cambridge university press.

Week 11: Experiments

Iyengar, S., 2011. Laboratory experiments in political science. *Cambridge handbook of experimental political science*, pp.73-88.

De Rooij, E.A., Green, D.P. and Gerber, A.S., 2009. Field experiments on political behavior and collective action. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 12(1), pp.389-395.

Druckman, J.N., Green, D.P., Kuklinski, J.H. and Lupia, A., 2006. The growth and development of experimental research in political science. *American Political Science Review*, pp.627-635.

Week 12: Quantitative Research Methods

Banerjee, S., Erçetin, Ş. Ş., & Tekin, A. (Eds.). (2014). *Chaos Theory in Politics*. Springer.

King, G., 1986. How not to lie with statistics: Avoiding common mistakes in quantitative political science. *American Journal of Political Science*, pp.666-687.

Week 13: Political Theory

Dryzek, J.S., Honig, B. and Phillips, A., 2009. Overview of political theory. In *The Oxford handbook of political science*.

Excerpts from Book I of Plato's *Republic*

Excerpts from Machiavelli's *Prince*

Excerpts from Thucydides' *The Peloponnesian War*

Excerpts from Hobbes' *Leviathan*

Excerpts from Locke's, *Second Treatise of Government, Letter Concerning Toleration*

Excerpts from Rousseau, *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Social Contract*

Excerpts from Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*

Week 14: Political Theory?

Berlin, I., 1962. Does political theory still exist?. *Philosophy, politics and society*, 2, pp.1-33.

White, S.K. and Moon, J.D. eds., 2004. *What is political theory?*. Sage.