

**NOTE: This syllabus is subject to revision.**

**PS 372 – Fall 2009**

**Introduction to Political Analysis**

**Instructor:** Jonathan Powell

**Office:** 1618 Patterson Office Tower

**Email:** [jonathan.powell@uky.edu](mailto:jonathan.powell@uky.edu) - include “PS 372” in subject line

**Classroom:** 340 Whitehall Classroom Building

**Website:** [elearning.uky.edu](http://elearning.uky.edu) (blackboard)

**Meeting Time:** MWF 12:00-12:50

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:00-11:00; Friday 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

### **Book**

Johnson, Janet, H.T. Reynolds and Jason D. Mycoff. 2008. *Political Science Research Methods* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. CQ Press: Washington, DC. (REQUIRED)

Michael LeRoy. Michael. *Research Methods in Political Science: An Introduction Using Microcase ExploreIT*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thompson-Wadsworth. (REQUIRED)

Students will also need to be familiar with retrieving scholarly materials through the library’s ejournals, jstor, and/or google scholar. I will make an effort to post all reading materials on blackboard but it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to acquire readings from academic journals.

### **Comments**

PS 372 is a course that is designed to introduce students to the *empirical* study of political phenomena. This class will inevitably focus on the use of statistics. Students will be expected to comprehend the research process, including theory-building, construction of hypotheses, research design, conceptualization and operationalization of key terms, and inference. At the very least students should expect to be able to adequately critique and improve upon existent studies; ideally students will be able to construct a research design of their own.

### **Grade**

Article Critiques &	
Data Assignment	25%
Quizzes & Participation	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Final student grades will be assigned as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, and E=0-59.

### **Quizzes**

There will be a number of unannounced and scheduled quizzes during the semester. Students are expected to have completing a reading by the date it is listed on the syllabus. For example, you should be finished with Chapter 1 of the main text by August 28.

### **Article Critiques**

Students will complete three article critiques during the semester. Two of these critiques will be between two and three pages (double-spaced, 12-pt font). The third will involve leading a discussion on a critique we are doing in class. You will be expected to evaluate the merits and flaws of the article, how the work could be improved upon, and how the method could be used to answer other research questions. Following the first week, Fridays will often involve an in-class presentation and discussion of a scholarly article(s) or dataset by the instructor or students. Further details will be provided in class.

### **Data Assignments**

These assignments will require the student to interpret statistical output, and/or critically evaluate a dataset that is used by scholars. Some assignments will require students to conduct their own statistical analysis using Microcase ExploreIt. I encourage students to work in groups and trade ideas when doing these assignments, but you must turn in a finished product that is your own. Students that turn in the same work as others will receive a ZERO for the assignment.

### **Attendance/Participation**

The instructor will not regularly take attendance. That said, there will be a number of unannounced quizzes during the semester. Unexcused absences on quiz or exam days will result in a zero for the grade. Further, in-class discussions will be an important determinant of the participation grade.

### **Absences**

The University of Kentucky considers an absence to be excused if it falls under one of the following: Serious illness of the student, a member of the student's household, or a member of the student's immediate family; death of a member of the student's household or a member of the student's immediate family; University sponsored trips; major religious holidays; "Any other circumstance which the instructor finds reasonable cause for nonattendance."

In each of these cases the student must provide written documentation for the absence. Students are expected to provide documentation for their excused absence within one week. If documentation is not offered within a week of the absence, it will not be considered excused.

### **Cheating**

Under no circumstances will cheating be tolerated. If a student is found to have cheated on an exam or quiz, they will receive a 0 for the assignment. If a student's work is found to have been plagiarized, they will be punished to the fullest extent—which can include suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is, or its penalties, I encourage you to consult the following:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>

### **Expectations**

I expect students to act in a professional manner. Be courteous and respectful to your classmates. Turn off cell phones and pagers during each session, and ARRIVE ON TIME. Classroom interruptions will have a negative impact on participation grades. If a legitimate reason will causes you to arrive late, leave early, or to have a cell phone on while in class, let me know in advance.

### **Special Needs**

If any student has a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please notify the instructor as early in the semester as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, the student must provide the instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, [jkarnes@email.uky.edu](mailto:jkarnes@email.uky.edu)).

### **Tentative Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

**\*Journal articles will be added as the semester progresses**

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

Aug 26: Introduction

Aug 28: JRM Chapter 1

#### **Week 2: Political *Science***

Aug 31: JRM Chapter 2

Sept 2: APSA – No Class

Sept 4: No Class (Read JRM Chapter 3)

#### **Week 3: Building Blocks**

Sept 7: JRM Chapter 3

Sept 9: JRM Chapter 4

#### **Week 4: Research Design**

Sept 14: JRM Chapter 5

Sept 16: Iyengar, Peters, & Kinder. 1982. "Experimental Demonstrations of the Not-So-Minimal Consequences of Television News Programs."

#### **Week 5: Research Design, Literature Review**

Sept 23: JRM Chapter 6

#### **Week 6: Sampling Issues**

Sept 28: JRM Chapter 7

Sept 30: Clark, David, and William Reed. 2003. "A Unified Model of War Onset and Outcome." *Journal of Politics* 65(1): 69-91.

\*\*LEROY CHAPTER 3 IS DUE on OCT 2

#### **Week 7:**

Oct 5: Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. 2004. "The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 653-669.

Oct 9: MID-TERM EXAM (Take home portion is due Oct 14)

#### **Week 8: Observation**

Oct 12: No Class (Take-home exam is due by the start of class on Oct 14.)

Oct 14: JRM Chapter 8

\*\*LEROY CHAPTER 6 IS DUE ON OCT 16

\*\*LEROY CHAPTER 8 IS DUE ON OCT 23

#### **Week 10: Survey Research**

Oct 26: JRM Chapter 10

Oct 28: Henderson. "Keeping the Peace." *BJPS*.

\*QUIZ over Ch. 10, Henderson on Oct. 28

#### **Week 11-12: Statistics**

Nov 2: JRM Chapter 11 (to 393)

\*QUIZ over JRM, previous material on Nov. 2

\*\*DATASET REVIEW IS DUE NOV 6

Nov 9: JRM Chapter 11 (from page 393)

\*\*1<sup>ST</sup> CRITIQUE IS DUE NOV 9

\*\*LEROY CHAPTER 10 IS DUE ON NOV 13

**Week 13-14: Bivariate Relationships, Multivariate Analysis**

Nov 16: JRM Chapter 12

\*Quiz over Chapter 12 on Nov 23

Nov 23: JRM Chapter 13

Nov 25: No Class

Nov 27: No Class

\*\*LEROY CHAPTER 13 AND THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CRITIQUE ARE DUE ON DEC 4

**Final Exam**

10:30 Friday, December 18.