

# POLI 1151 INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC STUDY POLITIC (3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

## Required Text:

Janet Buttolph Johnson; H. T. Reynolds; Jason D. Mycoff (2020). *Political Science Research Methods* (9th ed.). CQ Press.

Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

**Pre-requisites:** None.

## Course Description

Deeply studying political phenomena from the perspective of scientific exploration. The course introduces the basic principles of scientific research in political science. Key topics range from political institutions and institutions to contemporary issues in international relations and political science, research design and empirical analysis of data with applications in political science. Through a thorough exploration of political science theory, research methods, and key concepts, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to critically examine political structures, behaviors, and processes.

## Course Objectives and Goals

- Provide students with a solid foundation in the scientific study of politics.
- Understand and adhere to ethical principles in political science research, including issues related to data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Engage with current debates and challenges in the field of political science.
- Equip students with the skills necessary to independently conduct political science research.
- Develop the ability to apply theoretical knowledge and research skills to analyze and propose solutions for real-world political issues.

## Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

Writing Assignments	30%
Group Projects	20%
Exams	50%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% and above	B- 80 - 82%	D+ 67 - 69%
A- 90 - 92%	C+ 77 - 79%	D 63 - 66%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 73 - 76%	D- 60 - 62%

B 83 - 86%      C- 70 - 72%      F 59% or below

**Withdrawal Policy:** Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

**Academic Honesty:** Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

**Student Responsibility:**

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

**Tentative Schedule of Topics**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks &amp; Evaluations</u>
The Empirical Approach to Political Science	Chapter 1	Writing A 1
Research Design: Establishing Causation	Chapter 2	Exam 1
A Brief Overview of the Empirical Research Process	Chapter 3	
Scientific Relevance	Chapter 4	Group Project 1
Building a Theory	Chapter 5	
Qualitative and Quantitative Methods and Analysis	Chapter 6	Writing A 2
Qualitative Research: Case Study Designs	Chapter 7	
Making Empirical Observations: Qualitative Analysis	Chapter 8	Exam 2
Choosing among Data Collection Methods	Chapter 9	
Quantitative Research Designs	Chapter 10	Group Project 2
Quantitative Methods	Chapter 11	
Content Analysis Procedures	Chapter 12	Exam 3
Ethical Concerns with Quantitative Methods	Chapter 13	
Data Description and Exploration	Chapter 14	
Testing Relationships	Chapter 15	Writing A 3
Analyzing Relationships for Categorical Data	Chapter 16	
Significance Test for Analysis of Variance	Chapter 17	Exam 4