

Experimental Methods in Political Science Government 385L

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Academic Honesty and Integrity

Issues of academic dishonesty will be taken very seriously and any finding of cheating or other unethical behavior will be pursued to the full extent possible under university policy. Students should consult the University of Texas Honor Code.

Your course grade is based on the following components:

Seminar Participation:	20%
Written Assignments:	30%
Class Presentation:	10%
Final Paper:	40%

Seminar Participation: We expect that you show up to class ready to participate. While you're reading you should take notes - highlight ideas that you find interesting or questionable and be ready to discuss them in class.

Written Assignments: During the course of the term we will assign short (2 page, double spaced) write-ups, such as critiques of articles, or preliminary writing for you own papers. We will also assign some data/coding assignments to give you experience implementing experimental techniques such as randomization or analysis tests.

Final Paper: You will turn in a research design proposal early in the semester. This will need to be updated and polished before you implement your experiment. It will then be turned into the final paper. Thus, the 40% listed will be earned in different stages.

Projects

You will need to fully complete an experiment during this course. This will require you to stay especially engaged in the first 5--6 weeks in order to solidify a feasible, quality design. That said, we have each taught versions of the course in which students were required to complete and experiment and some terrific projects have emerged.

We have access to a number of resources that will make the experiments possible. For lab experiments, the Government experiments lab is available. For survey and field experiments we can also use the lab, but also the university has a site license to Qualtrics, which is easy to use

and yet powerful. Other experiments can be carried out by email, on the web, facebook, and in many other ways that we will discuss.

Access

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471--6259, <http://diversity.utexas.edu/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify us of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergencies

Please also see the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512--471--5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>. 1. Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. 2. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. 3. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. 4. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. 5. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. 6. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512--232--5050. 7. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.

Tentative Topics and Readings

August 30: Research Design I

1. Milgram, Stanley. 1963. "Behavioral Study of Obedience" *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 67(4): 371-378.
2. Burger, Jerry M. 2009. Replicating Milgram: Would People Still Obey Today? *American Psychologist*.
3. Zimbardo, Philip G. 1973. Pirandellian Prison. *New York Times Magazine*. April 8.
4. Whitbourne, Susan Krauss. 2013. The Rarely Told True Story of Zimbardo's Prison Experiment. *Psychology Today*. July 20.
(<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201307/the-rarely-told-true-story-zimbardo-s-prison-experiment>)

Begin discussion of interests

Assignment: Find an article related to your substantive interests that uses an experiment. Briefly summarize the article, and offer your critique (roughly 2 pages, double-spaced). E-mail to both of us by September 5th at noon.

September 6: Research Design II

1. Druckman, Green, Kuklinski, Lupia: Experimentation in Political Science. In Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science.
2. Jensen, Findley, Nielsen: Electoral Institutions and Electoral Cycles in Foreign Direct Investment: A Field Experiment on Over 3,000 U.S. Municipalities.
4. Albertson. 2011. Religious Appeals and Implicit Attitudes. Political Psychology.
5. Gerber & Green 1-1.3, 2.

September 13: Workshop experiment designs for the whole class.

Res design presentation; 8 students turn in draft design proposal and presentation by September 12th at noon.

1. -Nisbett: The Anticreativity Letters: [Link here](#)
2. -Loehle: A Guide to Increased Creativity in Research: [Link here](#)
3. Gerber & Green, Chapters 3 & 13 and Appendix B
4. Albertson & Gadarian. Did that Scare You? Political Analysis. Forthcoming.
5. *Recommended:* Gerber & Green, Chapter 12

September 20: Workshop experiment designs for the whole class continued.

Res design presentation; 8 students turn in draft design proposal and presentation by September 19th at noon.

-Belmont Report: [Link here](#)

-The Common Rule: [Link here](#)

Gerber & Green, Chapter 4, Appendix A

-Readings may be assigned later depending on design discussions.

September 27: Lab Experiments I

-IRB apps due to the IRB by September 26

Assignment: Convert research design and IRB documents into a preregistration document. See www.e-gap.org for examples. These do not need to be extensive, but should contain all information in the EGAP online form as well as your design and IRB material in the form of an

analysis plan where you identify clear hypotheses and expected tests. E-mail to both of us by October 4 at noon.

1. Grossman: Lab--in--field experiments (from APSA comparative newsletter)
2. Adreoni & Vesterlund- Which is the Fair Sex? Gender Differences in Altruism.
3. White, Laird & Allen. 2014. Selling Out? The Politics of Navigating Conflicts between Racial Group Interest and Self-Interest. APSR.
4. Druckman, James and Cindy D. Kam. 2011. Students as Experimental Participants: A Defense of the 'Narrow Data Base,'" in James N. Druckman, Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia, eds., Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011
5. Green & Gerber, Chapter 7

October 4: Lab Experiments II

1. Tomz: Audience costs in IR
2. Harris and Findley: Is Ethnicity Identifiable (Lab in field experiment)
3. Rothstein and Eek: Political Corruption and Social Trust
4. Karpowitz & Mendelberg: Gender Inequality in Deliberative Participation
5. Green & Gerber, Chapter 8

October 11: Survey Experiments I

1. Mutz, Diana. Population Based Survey Experiments. 2011. Selected chapters.
2. Berinsky et al. 2011. Sex and Race: Are Black Candidates More Likely to be Disadvantaged by Sex Scandals. Political Behavior. 2011.
3. Guiler, Kim. "From Prison to the Parliament: Evidence from a Priming Experiment in Turkey." Canvas.
4. Rosenfeld, Imai, and Shapiro. "An Empirical Validation Study of Popular Survey Methodologies for Sensitive Questions."
5. Green & Gerber, Chapter 9

October 18: Survey Experiments II

1. Berinsky, Huber and Lenz "Evaluating Online Labor Markets for Experimental Research: Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk" Political Analysis
2. Barabas and Jerit: Are Survey Experiments Externally Valid
3. Gaines, Brian J., James H. Kuklinski, and Paul J. Quirk. 2007. The Logic of the Survey Experiment Reexamined. Political Analysis, 15(1): 1-20.
4. Andrews, Caitlin. "Foundations of Loyalty: Horizontal, Clientelist, and Charismatic ties in the Argentine Peronist Movement". Canvas.
5. Green & Gerber, Chapter 10

October 25: Field Experiments I

1. Baumeister, et al: Psychology as the science of self--reports and finger movements: [Link here](#)
2. Pedulla, David. 2016. Penalized or Protected? Gender and the Consequences of Nonstandard and Mismatched Employment Histories. *American Sociological Review*.
3. Wantchekon: Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin
4. Kalla, Joshua and David Brockman. 2015. Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment. *American Journal of Political Science*.
5. Haenschen, Katherine. "Social Pressure on Social Media: Using Facebook Status Updates to Increase Voter Turnout"
6. McClendon, Gwenyth H. 2014. "Social Esteem and Participation in Contentious Politics: A Field Experiment at an LGBT Pride Rally" *American Journal of Political Science*.
7. Green & Gerber, Chapter 1.4-1.5 and Chapter 5

November 1: Field Experiments II

1. Butler and Brookman: Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents
 2. Dupas: Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information?
 3. Duflo and Hanna: Incentives Work
 4. Cohen and Dupas: Free Distribution or Cost Sharing
 5. Beath, Christia, and Enikolopov. "Empowering Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan" *American Political Science Review*.
 6. Green & Gerber, Chapter 6
- Recommended: Olken: Monitoring Corruption*
Recommended: Page: Accepting the Gay Person

November 8: Natural Experiments

1. Dunning: Chapters Chapters 1 and 2 "Introduction: Why Natural Experiments" and "Standard Natural Experiments".
 2. Hyde: The Observer Effect in Int'l Politics
 3. Longo, Matthew, Daphna Canetti and Nancy Hite-Rubin. 2014. A Checkpoint Effect? Evidence from a Natural Experiment on Travel Restrictions in the West Bank. *American Journal of Political Science*. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12109
 4. Lelkes, Yphtach, Gaurav Sood, Shanto Iyengar. 2015. The Hostile Audience: The Effect of Access to Broadband Internet on Partisan Affect. *American Journal of Political Science*.
 5. Healy & Malhotra: Irrelevant events affect voters' evaluations of government performance
 6. Gerber & Green, Chapter 1.6
- Recommended: Posner: The Political Salience of Cultural Difference*

November 15: Miscellaneous topics (tentative)

1. Arcenaux, Gerber, Green: Comparing Experimental and Matching Methods (Matching)

2. Findley, Harris, Milner, Nielson: Elite and Mass Perceptions of Foreign Aid in Uganda (Elites)
3. Hafner -Burton et al: Decision Makers Preferences for International Legal Cooperation (Elites)
4. Gerber & Green, Chapter 11

November 22: Miscellaneous Topics (tentative)

1. Dunning, Thad. "Transparency, Replication, and Cumulative Learning: What Experiments Alone Cannot Achieve." (Limits of experiments)
2. Grossman, Humphreys, Sacramone-Lutz. "Information Technology and Political Engagement: Mixed Evidence from Uganda." (Scaling up experiments)
3. Findley et al. "External Validity in Parallel Global Field and Survey Experiments on Anonymous Incorporation." (Comparison of field and survey)
4. Paluck: Experiments and Qualitative

November 29: Final Presentations