

**The Hawkeye Poll
Political Science 3001:0001
Spring 2022**

Course Delivery: Our course will meet in person
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm-1:45pm
Classroom: 51 SH
Instructor: Cassandra Tai
Email: Yuehong-tai@uiowa.edu
Supervisor: Frederick J. Boehmke
Email: frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu
Office: 369 Schaeffer Hall
Office Hours: Virtual office hours: Monday, 11:00am -12:00pm; Tuesday 1:50 pm-2:50 pm; and Thursday 1:50-2:50pm; or by appointment. Please email me to schedule an online meeting.
Web Page: ICON

Course description

Public opinion polls are a vital component of contemporary politics. The aim of this course is to help students learn the conceptual tools and practical skills required to design, conduct, and interpret surveys. Students in this course will help design and participate in the spring 2022 Hawkeye Poll. First, we will learn about polling procedures including sampling design, question wording, interpreting responses, and writing press releases and research reports. We will then implement this knowledge in web and telephone survey of Iowans age 18 and over that will ask respondents for their opinions and behaviors on a variety of political and policy-related topics. Calling will take place in the call center of the Iowa Social Science Research Center for about 8-10 hours for each student in April.

In general, each week is divided into two sessions. Tuesday sessions focus on the theoretical concepts and framework for understanding survey research and political analysis. Thursday classes involve group activities that guide students to design questions and provide analytical and statistical research skills that help students analyze and interpret survey results. In addition, students will develop a working knowledge of Stata, a widely used data analysis and graphics software during Thursday sessions.

Readings will serve as an introduction and supplement to the topics addresses in class, so students are expected to be familiar with the reading before class. Classes will introduce materials not covered in the reading, so on-time attendance is highly recommended. Note that class participation is a large part of the final grade. Please note the policy on late assignments below.

Final grades will be determined by participation in class, training, and calling as well as performance on the research paper and short group assignments, outlined below.

Course Learning Objectives

Student will learn the key components of survey data collection and analysis.

- How to determine the most appropriate mode of data collection.
- How to design and write questions to measure key concepts of interest.
- How to generate a sample of from the population of interest and to evaluate the quality of a given sampling strategy.
- How to analyze and interpret survey data through quantitative analysis using statistical software.
- How to communicate the results of a survey to researchers and the public.

Reading Materials

There are two books for the class. Both have been ordered to the Hawk Shop.

Pollack, Philip H. III and Barry C. Edwards. 2019. *The Essentials of Political Analysis, Sixth Edition*. USA: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1506379616.

Floyd J Fowler, Jr. 2013. *Survey Research Methods, Fifth Edition*. USA: Sage Publications, Inc. ISBN: 978- 1452259000.

The following is not required, but may be of help for using Stata, our data analysis software.

Pollack, Philip H. III and Barry C. Edwards. 2018. *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis, Fourth Edition*. USA: CQ Press College. ISBN-13: 978-1506379708.

Additional assignments will be posted online through the course ICON page.

Software and Technology Support through the Political Science Collaboratory

We will be using Stata to analyze data throughout the semester. Stata is available via the UIowa Virtual Desktop as well as in Political Science Collab (334 SH). The Political Science Technology TAs, currently Jeongho Choi (jeongho-choi@uiowa.edu) and Haofeng Ma (haofeng-ma@uiowa.edu.), are available to consult with students in Political Science courses regarding computing questions. Detailed instruction on how to get started with Stata will be provided in class.

The Collaboratory TAs are available for in-person or virtual appointments during their office hours:

- Jeongho Choi : Monday 9:30am -12:20 pm, Tuesday 3:40 pm - 5:00 pm and Friday 9:30am - 12:50 pm
- Haofeng Ma: Wednesday 2:00pm – 5:30pm and Friday 1:30pm – 5:30pm

Course Requirements

Your grade will be based on five components.

- (10%) Class attendance. Active involvement in a shared learning involvement is among the most vital elements of this class. As much of our class will consist of interactive discussion and group activities as we design, analyze, and interpret the survey, I expect you to attend. I will allow one unexcused absence, no questions asked. Beyond that, please speak with me in advance to discuss excused absences, which should happen only in unusual circumstances such as health or family issues. See the CLAS policy on Absences and Attendance in the Information for Undergraduates section at the end of this syllabus.
- (10%) In-class quizzes. There will be five short quizzes (about 5 minutes each) given at the beginning of class. The quizzes will cover the main points from the assigned readings. The dates for this will be posted in advance in ICON. Make-up quizzes will be given only in unusual circumstances such as health or family issues. If you need to reschedule a quiz, you must contact me before the scheduled exam.
- (40%) Written assignments. Individual students and groups will submit materials related to in-class and out-of-class assignments.
- (20%) Survey participation. This involves completing Responsible Conduct of Research Training (2%), IRB-02 certification (3%), survey training sign-up (1%), participating in a survey calling training session (5%), and completing the required hours of calling (14%). Expect 10-12 calling hours total. You must fully complete each of these to get credit – there is no partial credit for any of these categories. Please note that if you do not complete IRB-02 certification you will not be eligible to call and will therefore receive a zero for that portion as well.
- (20%) Final presentations. Groups will do formal presentations and submit materials related to their research, including a brief report on their work and information and code related to their statistical analyses, during the final week of the semester.

We will conduct calling inside the Iowa Social Science Research Center's call center. Calling training and calling have been arranged with the ISRC. More detail will be updated on ICON.

I will assign grades on a scale of F through A, including both plus and minus grades.

Policy on Late Assignments

Homework write-ups, papers and exams are all due at the time specified. Any late assignment or paper will have points reduced by 5% of the total available points per day unless arrangements are made prior to the due date. If you have a legitimate, personal reason for missing a scheduled assignment and cannot notify me in advance, please come talk to me afterwards and provide documentation – see the CLAS policy on Absences and Attendance in the Information for Undergraduates section at the end of this syllabus.

Policy on Classroom Etiquette

- This class will focus on in-class discussion. During class discussion, please be respectful of other students' opinions and phrase your contributions in a constructive manner.
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other noise-emitting devices.
- No texting, Internet use unless it is contributing something to the class discussion, etc. during class.
- Please show up to class on time.

Recommendations for Success

- Do the weekly reading and attend lectures. This should prepare you for the five quizzes that will occur during the semester.
- Regularly consult ICON. Class materials and deadlines will be posted to the ICON website.
- During in-class discussions and group activities, make an effort to contribute to the group. This will make the class more interesting for you.
- Make sure to stay up on the deadlines for the Poll, as well as complete all the requirements to participate. The completion of all of the requirements is necessary to receive credit for that section. It should be easy for you to get full credit for this portion of your grade.

Outline of Course Modules

Here is a listing of the topics we will cover each week. These are outlined in ICON as separate modules with details on associated readings and assignments due.

Survey Participation Deadlines (*To Be Update)

- Research Training Part 1-RCR: Thursday, Feb. 3 at 5 pm
- Research Training Part 2-IRB-02: Thursday, Feb. 10 at 5 pm
- Finalizing Survey Instrument: Thursday, Mar. 3 at 1:45pm
- Survey Training Sign-up: Thursday, Mar. 3 at 5pm
- Survey Calling Training Session: Wednesday, Mar.30 at 8pm
- Calling Session: Wednesday, Apr.13 at 8pm

Week 1: Class Introduction and Overview, Discussion of State of Survey Research

- Tue, Jan 18: Class introduction; introduction to survey research methods
- Thu, Jan 20: In-Class Group Exercise-The Scope of Surveys

Week 2: The Basics of Survey Research

- Tue, Jan 25: *Key components of survey research*; types of errors
 - Reading assignment: Fowler, chapters 1 and 2.
- Thu, Jan 27:
 - In-Class Group Exercise-Polling Failures

Week 3: Sampling and Nonresponse

- *Tue, Feb 1: Sampling*
 - *Reading assignments:* Fowler, chapters 3 to 5.
- *Thu, Feb 3:*
 - Quiz #1 in class
 - Research Training Part 1: RCR due at 5:00 pm on Feb 3
 - In-Class Group Exercise

Week4: Designing Survey Questions

- *Tue, Feb 8: Designing survey questions and instruments*
 - *Reading assignments:* Fowler, chapters 6 and 7.
- *Thu, Feb 10:*
 - In-Class Group Exercise
 - Research Training Part 2: IRB-02 due at 5:00 pm on Feb 10

Week5: Writing Questions

- *Tue, Feb 15: Overview of measuring concepts; the features of variables*
 - *Reading assignments:* Pollack, chapters 1 and 2.
- *Thu, Feb 17:*
 - *Quiz #2 in class*
 - *Group Presentation*

Week6: Survey Instrument

- *Tue, Feb 22: Ethical issues in survey research and interviewing*
 - *Reading assignments: Fowler, chapters 8 and 11.*
- *Thu, Feb 24:*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week7: Introduction to Political Science Research Methods

- *Tue, Mar 01: Proposing explanation, framing hypotheses and making comparison*
 - *Reading assignments: Pollack, chapters 3 and 4; Huff, How to Lie with Statistics, chapter 8 (on ICON)*
- *Thu, Mar 03:*
 - *Quiz #3 in class*
 - *Survey training sign-up due at 5:00 pm on Mar 3*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week8: Analyzing Survey Data: Single Variables

- *Tue, Mar 08: Research Design; describing relationships between variables*
 - *Reading assignments: Pollack, chapters 5 and 6; Fowler, chapters 9 and 10*
- *Thu, Mar 10:*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Spring Break: March 13 – March 20

Week9: Analyzing Survey Data: Relationships Between Variables

- *Tue, Mar 22: Basic statistical tests of hypotheses*
 - *Reading assignments: Pollack, chapters 7 and 8*
- *Thu, Mar 24:*
 - *Quiz #4 in class*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week10: Reporting Survey Results: Press Releases

- *Tue, Mar 29: Reporting results based on survey data*
 - *Reading assignments: Fowler, chapter 12*
 - *Survey participation: Finish the survey calling training session by Mar 30(TBU)*
- *Thu, Mar 31:*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week11: Survey in Field (TBU)

- *Tue, Apr 05: To be announced*
- *Thu, Apr 07: To be announced*
 - *Survey Participation: Complete the required hours of calling between Mar 31 and Apr 13 (TBU)*

Week12: Digging into the Data and Writing Press Release

- *Tue, Apr 12: Survey calling reflection; survey tabulations*
- *Thu, Apr 14:*
 - *Quiz #5 in class*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week13: Picking Research Presentation Topics

- *Tue, Apr 19: Conduct research*
 - *Reading assignments: Pollack, chapter 10*
- *Thu, Apr 21:*
 - *In-Class Group Exercise*

Week14: Working with and Analyzing Survey Data: Data Visualization

- *Tue, Apr 26: Data analysis revision*
- *Thu, Apr 28: Visualization workshop*

Week15: Group presentations

- *Tue, May 03: To be announce*
- *Thu, May 05: Presentation*

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Information for CLAS Undergraduates
Spring 2022

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students are responsible for attending class and for knowing an instructor's attendance policies, which vary by course and content area. All students are expected to attend class and to contribute to its learning environment in part by complying with University policies and directives regarding appropriate classroom behavior or other matters.

ABSENCES

Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon they know that an absence might occur or as soon as possible in the case of an illness or an unavoidable circumstance. Students can use the CLAS absence form to help communicate with instructors who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused; the form is located on ICON within the top banner under "Student Tools." Delays by students in communication with an instructor could result in a forfeit of what otherwise might be an excused absence (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>).

ABSENCES: ILLNESS, UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND UNIVERSITY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students who are ill, in an unavoidable circumstance affecting academic work, or who miss class because of a University sponsored activity are allowed by UI policy to make up a missed exam. Documentation is required by the instructor except in the case of a brief illness. Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon as the absence is known (<https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/students/absences-class#8.1>).

ABSENCES: HOLY DAYS

The University is prepared to make reasonable accommodations for students whose religious holy days coincide with their classroom assignments, test schedules, and classroom attendance expectations. Students must notify their instructors in writing of any such Religious Holy Day conflicts or absences within the first few days of the semester or session, and no later than the third week of the semester. If the conflict or absence will occur within the first three weeks of the semester, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible. See [Operations Manual 8.2 Absences for Religious Holy Days](#) for additional information.

ABSENCES: MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Students absent from class due to U.S. veteran or U.S. military service obligations (including military service-related medical appointments, military orders, and National Guard Service obligations) must be excused without penalty. Instructors must make reasonable accommodations to allow students to make-up exams or other work. Students must communicate with their instructors about the expected possibility of missing class as soon as possible. (For more information, see <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/iv-8-absences-class%C2%A0-0>).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have in essence agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Academic misconduct affects a student's grade and is reported to the College which applies an additional sanction, such as suspension. Outcomes about misconduct are communicated through UI email (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. If a student has a diagnosed disability or other disabling condition that may impact the student's ability to complete the course requirements as stated in the syllabus, the student may seek accommodations through [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS). SDS is responsible for making Letters of Accommodation (LOA) available to the student. The student must provide a LOA to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, but requests not made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled activity for which an accommodation is sought may not be accommodated. The LOA will specify what reasonable course accommodations the student is eligible for and those the instructor should provide. Note that accommodations are not granted retroactively but from the time of the student's request to the instructor onward. Additional information can be found on the [SDS website](#).

CLASS RECORDINGS: PRIVACY AND SHARING

Course lectures and discussions are sometimes recorded or live-streamed. These are only available to students registered for the course and the intellectual property of the faculty member. These materials may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the instructors. Students may not share these recordings with those who are not enrolled in the course; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and could be a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); also see <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/code-of-student-life/>.

COMMUNICATION: UI EMAIL

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)). Emails should be respectful and brief, with complex matters addressed during the instructor's drop-in hours, for example. Faculty are not expected to answer email after business hours or during the weekends.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ACADEMIC MATTERS

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related academic issue should first visit with the instructor and then with the course supervisor (if one is assigned), and next with the Chair of the department or program offering the course. If not resolved, students may bring their concerns to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICIES

The final exam schedule is published during the fifth week of the fall and spring semesters or on the first day of summer classes; *students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of their final exams*. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. A student with exams scheduled on the same day and time or who have more than two final exams on the same day should visit this page for how to resolve these problems by the given deadline: <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/makeup-final-examination-policies>. No exams may be scheduled the week before finals; some exception, however, have been made for labs, language courses, and off-cycle courses (<https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>).

FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

The University of Iowa supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principles of academic and artistic freedom. We are committed to open inquiry, vigorous debate, and creative expression inside and outside of the classroom. Visit Free Speech

at Iowa for more information on the University's policies on free speech and academic freedom (<https://freespeech.uiowa.edu/>).

HOME OF THE COURSE

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the course's add and drop deadlines, the "second-grade only" option (SG0), and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Different UI colleges may have other policies or deadlines. See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>. Questions? Contact CLAS at clasps@uiowa.edu or 319-335-2633.

MENTAL HEALTH

Students are encouraged to be mindful of their mental health and seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling overwhelmed and/or struggling to meet course expectations. Students are encouraged to talk to their instructor for assistance with specific class-related concerns. For additional support and counseling, students are encouraged to contact University Counseling Service (UCS). Information about UCS, including resources and how to schedule an appointment, can be found at counseling.uiowa.edu. Find out more about UI mental health services at: mentalhealth.uiowa.edu. Student Health can also address related concerns (<https://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/>). These visits are free to students. After hours, students are encouraged to call the Johnson County Community Crisis Line at (319) 351-0140 or dial 911 in an emergency.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, [Office of Institutional Equity](#), the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705, oiie-ui@uiowa.edu. Students may share their pronouns and chosen/preferred names in [MyUI](#), which is accessible to instructors and advisors.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The University of Iowa prohibits all forms of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and related retaliation. The [Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct](#) governs actions by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Incidents of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct can be reported to the [Title IX and Gender Equity Office](#) or to the [Department of Public Safety](#). Students impacted by sexual harassment or sexual misconduct may be eligible for academic supportive measures and can learn more by [contacting the Title IX and Gender Equity Office](#). Information about confidential resources can be found [here](#). Watch the [video](#) for an explanation of these resources.