New Approaches in American Politics  
Political Science 904  
Prof. Ellie Powell

Seminar Schedule: Tuesday 1:20-3:20  
Seminar Location: Ingraham 223  
Email: eleanor.powell@wisc.edu  
Office Location: 216 North Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12. Must sign-up online to reserve a spot (UW Scheduling Assistant)

Course Description: The focus of this course is on cutting-edge research in American Politics that explores new questions, with new evidence, new methods, and/or using new research designs. The purpose of graduate school is to become an academic and contribute to our scientific knowledge of political science. In this class, we're going to talk about concrete ways to do this in political science generally, and American Politics in particular. The goal of the course is that through dialog with this new work we can have constructive conversations about how to push our scientific knowledge further.

Requirements:
1. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings.
2. Actively participate in class discussions.
3. Lead two class discussions
4. 2 page paper proposal & presentation of proposal
5. Oral Presentation of Research Paper (15 min presentation; 15 min feedback)
6. 25 pg Research Paper due at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity:  
All papers should be your own independent work citing sources where appropriate. I strongly encourage you to review Wisconsin's policies regarding academic honesty. These policies will be strictly enforced in this class. In general, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Lead Class Discussion</td>
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<td>Paper Proposal and Presentation</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation of Research Findings</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Introduction – How to Think About New Research</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Causality Part I: Thinking About Causality</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Causality Part II: Designs, Methods, Tools</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Data and Tools</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Ideas Presentation Day</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>New Study of Institutions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>2016 Presidential Election: Authoritarianism, and Polling</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Political Misinformation and Voter Competence</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Group Consciousness</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Race in American Politics</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Grab Bag: Cool Papers</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Research Presentation Day 1</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Research Presentation Day 2</td>
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<td>Final Papers Due: 5pm December 20th.</td>
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Reading:

1. Causality Part I: Thinking About Causality


2. **Causality Part II: Design, Methods, Tools**


3. **Measurement: Big Data, Text as Data, Networks**


4. **Data and Tools**


5. **Idea Presentation Day**

6. **New Study of Institutions**


### 7. 2016 Presidential Election: Authoritarianism, and Polling


Hetherington, Marc J. and Jonathan D. Weiler. 2009. *Authoritarianism and Polarization in American Politics*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1,3,8]


8. Political Misinformation and Voter Competence


9. Group Consciousness


10. Race in American Politics


Gillion, Daniel Q. 2016. *Governing with Words: The Political Dialogue on Race, Public Policy and Inequality in America*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1-3]


11. Grab Bag: Cool Papers


