

INTA 2010: Empirical Methods (Spring 2013)

Instructor:	Mollie Taylor
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Office hours:	W 1:00-2:00 and by appointment
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Class time:	MWF 11:05-11:55
Class location:	IC 109

1 Course Description

The goal of this course is to develop essential, marketable skills in empirical political science research methods.

By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- Determine political science research questions and hypotheses that are amenable to empirical analysis;
- Identify and read relevant literature;
- Outline and plan a research paper;
- Understand the basics of quantitative and qualitative analyses; and
- Convey data accurately and effectively.

2 Required Reading

1. Johnson, Janet Buttolph, and H. T. Reynolds. *Political science research methods*, 7th edition. CQ Press, 2012.
2. Additional articles will be posted on [T-Square](#).

3 Software Requirements

We will use SPSS. You may access the software on the [VLab \(IAC 2012\)](#) (with limitations) from your own computer. The software is also available in the Habersham computer lab. You may also purchase a six-month or one-year student license (GradPack): [SPSS website](#).

4 Class Requirements

4.1 Participation (15%)

Participation will be graded based on three criteria:

- Attendance (5%)

- Participation in class discussions (5%)
- Participation in in-class group activities (5%)

4.2 Homework (45%)

Each week there will be a homework assignment. These assignments will cover a broad range of topics, including but not limited to: reading scholarly literature, using statistical software to perform quantitative analyses, visually displaying data, and choosing a research topic.

4.3 Quizzes (15%)

There will be three quizzes throughout the semester (5% each).

4.4 Final Project (25%)

The final project will combine many of the topics discussed in the class. Many of the homework assignments will pertain directly to the final project.

The final project will be a paper proposal. In it, each student will outline their research topic, hypothesis/hypotheses, related literature, data requirements, analyses to be performed, how to tell whether the hypotheses are supported, and possibilities for future research.

More details about assignments will be handed out at a later date.

Grade scale:

A	100-90	Excellent
B	89-80	Good
C	79-70	Fair
D	69-60	Passing
F	Below 60	Failure

5 Make-up Policy

Extensions and make-up exams will only be offered in cases of documented medical emergencies or official university excuses. Students must bring any such case to the instructor's attention as soon as they become aware of it.

6 Disability or Health-Related Issues

Students with a disability or a health related issue who need a class accommodation or are concerned about class performance should make an appointment to speak with me during the first week of class or as soon as the health concern arises.

Georgia Tech offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need a classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with the [ADAPTS office](#).

7 Academic Honesty

All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

For specifics on Georgia Tech's Honor Code, see www.honor.gatech.edu.

Specific instructions regarding collaboration and citations will be provided for each assignment. Deviations from the instructions will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.