

Homework #1 (Article Summary)
PSCI 2300 - Fall 2019 (Dr. Hensel)

This homework assignment must be turned in at the beginning of class on **Friday, September 27**; any work turned in after lecture begins that day (even if only a few minutes into class) will be assessed a late penalty. Note that all work must be your own -- students found to have copied work from others (or to have had their work copied) will receive automatic zero grades on this assignment, and may face further disciplinary action.

For the purposes of this assignment, you are to read and evaluate a recent poli sci research article. This will be useful practice that will help you in reading published research in future coursework. You may choose either one of the following articles. Be sure to indicate which article you chose!

- Todd A. Curry and Mark S. Hurwitz (2016). "Strategic Retirements of Elected and Appointed Justices: A Hazard Model Approach." *Journal of Politics* 78, 4: 1061-1075.
- Douglas Lemke and Jeff Carter (2016). "Birth Legacies, State Making, and War." *Journal of Politics* 78, 2: 497-511.

Once you have chosen the article, you must address the following points:

1. What is the research hypothesis that the author is attempting to test? If the article has more than one, what is the *first* hypothesis that the author discusses?
2. What is the independent variable in the hypothesis from #1, what is the dependent variable, and what is the expected direction of the relationship between them?
3. What is the basic theoretical story behind this research hypothesis from #1? That is, what leads the author to suggest that the hypothesis will work this way? (please limit your answer to 1-2 paragraphs)
4. Drawing from the introduction, literature review, and/or theoretical section, why does the author believe that it is important to answer this research question by testing this hypothesis from #1?
5. How does the author measure the main independent variable from #1? Depending on what the author does, answering this question may require you to identify a data set that the author uses, specify how the author collected original data (perhaps through observation, surveys, or document analysis), and/or discuss mathematical operations or transformations that were made to the original data.
6. How does the author measure the main dependent variable from #1? Depending on what the author does, answering this question may require you to identify a data set that the author uses, specify how the author collected original data (perhaps through observation, surveys, or document analysis), and/or discuss mathematical operations or transformations that were made to the original data.
7. Which cases are used for testing (e.g., all countries from 1816-1992, all Middle Eastern dyads from 1948-1980, 1000 randomly selected U.S. voters, etc.), and what is the study's N?
8. Which statistical method does the author use to test the hypothesis from #1?
9. What is the result of the statistical test, and what does the author conclude from this result about the support for the hypothesis from #1?
10. What, if anything, does the author suggest should be done to follow up on this research in future work?