POLI 4001:
RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
Spring 2018

Instructor:
Fevzi Sarac
Office: 307 Stubbs Hall
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Office Hours: T & Th 10:30 am -11:30 am.
And other times by appointment.

Class:
Hours: T & Th 12:00PM-1:20PM
Classroom: 116 Tureaud Hall

Course Overview

This course focuses on the scientific approach to politics. Students will be introduced to the logic of scientific inquiry and to basic statistical methods used in the study of government and politics. Statistics are an efficient and accepted way of communicating ideas; they are a means of bridging the gap between conjecture and evidence. Contemporary political science research utilizes statistical techniques and, consequently, a basic understanding of these methods is crucial. The lectures will illustrate how human reasoning is often flawed by illogical and otherwise biased processes, which can and often do lead to erroneous conclusions. Statistical thinking can be a corrective to many such biases.

The lectures, assignments, and exams are designed to instruct you in the understanding and proper use of social science methods and promote your critical analysis of statistical findings. By the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Develop a thorough understanding of the social scientific research process.
2. Evaluate empirical social scientific research.
3. Improve their critical thinking writing skills.
4. Strengthen their information gathering and analytical reasoning skills.

Required Course Materials

Jack Levin, James Fox & David R. Forde 2013. Elementary Statistics in Social Research. New York: Longman Publishers. **12th Edition**. ISBN: 0205845487

Roles/ Course Requirements

Grading Components: Grading is based on the following course components;

Final exam	20 points
Mid-term	16 points
Homework	27 points (Each 3 points)
Quiz	27 points (Each 3 points)
Participation	10 points
Total points possible	**100 points**

Assignments:
Homework: Students will have ten homework. There is not any make-up for homework. Late returns will not be allowed. Your lowest two grades will not be calculated. Students have a chance to take %3 for their final grade in each of other nine homework.
Quiz: Students will have ten quizzes. There is not any make-up for quizzes. Your lowest two grades quizzes will not be calculated. Students have a chance to take %3 for their final grade in each of other nine quizzes.

Exams: The exams will cover material presented in the lectures, textbooks, visual materials, and any assigned outside readings. If you must miss an exam, please contact me before the date of the exam. The format of the make-up exam is left to the discretion of the instructor. NOTE: If you miss an exam and fail to contact me before the date of the exam, this behavior will result in a ZERO for that exam.

Attendance & Class Participation: Attendance is required and active participation in class discussion is expected. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all of the reading and assignments before class.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Week One

Thursday (January 11): Course Overview and Introduction (No Readings)

Week Two

Tuesday (January 16): Why the social scientists use statistics?
Reading: Chapter 1

Thursday (January 18): Why the social scientists use statistics?
Due date for Homework 1
Quiz 1

Week Three

Tuesday (January 23): Organizing the data
Reading: Chapter 2

Thursday (January 25): Organizing the data
Due date for Homework 2
Quiz 2

Week Four

Tuesday (January 30): Measures of Central Tendency
Reading: Chapter 3

Thursday (February 1): Measures of Variability
Reading: Chapter 4
Due date for Homework 3
Quiz 3

Week Five

Tuesday (February 6): Probability and the normal curve
Reading: Chapter 5

Thursday (February 8): Probability and the normal curve
Due date for Homework 4
Quiz 4

Week Six

Tuesday (February 13): MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY
Thursday (February 15): Review Chapter 1,2,3,4

Week Seven

Tuesday (February 20): Samples and populations
Reading: Chapter 6
Thursday (February 22): Samples and populations
Due date for Homework 5
Quiz 5

Week Eight

Tuesday (February 27): Testing between differences between means
Reading: Chapter 7
Thursday (March 1): Testing between difference between means
Due date for Homework 6
Quiz 6

Week Nine

Tuesday (March 6): Analysis of Variance
Reading Chapter 8
Thursday (March 8): Analysis of Variance
Due date for Homework 7
Quiz 7

Week Ten

Tuesday (March 13): Review for Midterm Exam
Thursday (March 15): **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week Eleven

Tuesday (March 20): Nonparametric tests of significance
Reading: Chapter 9
Thursday (March 22): Nonparametric tests of significance
Due date for Homework 8
Quiz 8

SPRING BREAK

Week Twelve

Tuesday (April 3): Correlation
Reading: Chapter 10
Thursday (April 5): Correlation
Due date for Homework 9
Quiz 9

Week Thirteen

Tuesday (April 10): Regression analysis
Reading: Chapter 11

Thursday (April 12): Regression analysis
Due date for Homework 10
Quiz 10

Week Fourteen

Tuesday (April 17): Nonparametric measures of correlation
Reading: Chapter 12

Thursday (April 19): Choosing Statistical Procedures for research problems
Reading: Chapter 13
Due date for Homework 11
Quiz 11

Week Fifteen

Tuesday (April 24): Review for Final Exam

Thursday (April 26): Review for Final Exam

May 1: FINAL EXAM