

Political Science 9591B
Winter term 2014
QUANTITATIVE METHODS

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Thurs. 3-5

SSC 4103

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to statistical techniques that are used in contemporary political science research. The course is designed so that students will comprehend works they read, be able to criticize work, and actually do quantitative work. We will read an intermediate text and many articles, and will use data sets to perform statistical analyses using SPSS.

Books

Philip H. Pollock III, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 4th ed. (Washington: CQ Press, 2012) [hereafter *Essentials*].

Philip H. Pollock III, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*, 4th ed. (Washington: CQ Press, 2012) [hereafter *Companion*].

As well, many articles will be taken from David A. Rochefort, ed., *Quantitative Methods in Practice: Readings from PS* (Washington: CQ Press, 2006) [hereafter *Readings*]. You can buy the book or you can download the original article from the Library through JSTOR.

Evaluation

Students will do practical assignments throughout the course, using the data sets found in *Companion* to respond to questions found in this text (20%). Each student will make two presentations about an article to lead off discussion of it (10% each). Students will write an assessment (3-4 pages) of some effort to operationalize a complex concept (10%). Students will also write two critiques of articles (to be chosen consultatively) (30%). Finally, students will be graded on the quantity and quality of class participation (20%).

The operationalization assignment will be due January 23, 2014. The critiques will be due April 24, 2010. The practical assignments will be due weekly (almost). On Thursdays we will cover topics through lecture and discussion of the readings. Following the class on a topic, students will do selected problems from the *Companion*, handing them in the following week.

Outline

January 9: Introductions, the research process, levels of measurement

Stephen Thornton, 'Karl Popper,' *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, summer 2009 edition, ed., Edward N. Zalta.

Robert Young, 'National Identification in English Canada: Implications for Quebec Independence,' *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 12:3 (July 1977), 69-84.

Companion, 'Getting Started.'

January 16: operationalization, descriptive (univariate) statistics

Essentials, ch. 1-2

Readings, Steven W. Hook, 'Domestic Obstacles to International Affairs: The State Department Under Fire at Home.'
Companion, ch. 1.

January 23: sampling, questionnaires

Readings, Scott L. Althaus and Devon M. Largio, 'When Osama Became Saddam: Origins and Consequences of the Change in America's Public Enemy #1.'

Readings, Cameron G. Thies and Robert E. Hogan, 'The State of Undergraduate Methods Training in Political Science.'

Companion, ch. 2, also ch. 3 (read only).

January 30: the normal curve, inference

Essentials, ch. 6.

Companion, ch. 6.

Readings, Joshua D. Clinton, Simon Jackman, and Doug Rivers, "'The Most Liberal Senator'? Analyzing and Interpreting Congressional Roll Calls.'

February 6: hypothesis testing

Essentials, ch. 3, ch. 7, 155-64.

Companion, ch. 4.

Andrew Dunsire, 'Bureaucrats and Conservative Governments,' in André Blais and Stéphane Dion, eds., *The Budget-Maximizing Bureaucrat: Appraisals and Evidence* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991), 175-203.

February 13: bivariate relationships: measures of association and tests of significance

Essentials, ch. 7, 164-77.

Readings, 'David A. Dulio, Donald L. Goff, and James A. Thurber, 'Untangled Web: Internet Use During the 1998 Election.'

Companion, ch. 7.

February 20: Reading week.

February 27: experimental design and control

Essentials, Ch. 4.

Readings, Donald L. Jordan and Peter M. Sanchez, 'Traditional Versus Technology-Aided Instruction: The Effects of Visual Stimulus in the Classroom.'

Companion, Ch. 5 (read only).

André Blais and Robert Young, 'Why do people vote? An experiment in rationality,' *Public Choice*, 99 (1999), 39-55.

March 6: analysis of variance

Eelko Huizingh, *Applied Statistics with SPSS* (Los Angeles: SAGE, 2007), 277-89.

Readings, Yang Zhong, Jie Chen, and John M Scheb II, 'Political Views from Below: A Survey of Beijing Residents.'

March 13: regression

Essentials, ch. 8, 182-99.

Companion, ch. 8.

March 20: multiple regression

Essentials, ch. 8, 199-206.

Readings, William G. Mayer, 'Forecasting Presidential Nominations, or My Model Worked Just Fine, Thank You.'

Companion, ch. 9.

Rollin F. Tusalem, 'A Boon or a Bane? The Role of Civil Society in Third- and Fourth-Wave Democracies,' *International Political Science Review*, 28:3 (2007), 361-86.

March 27: more multiple regression

Readings, Jeremy D. Mayer and Lee Sigelman, 'Zog for Albania, Edward for Estonia, and Monarchs for All the Rest? The Royal Road to Prosperity, Democracy, and World Peace.'

Nicholas Charron, 'Government Quality and Vertical Power-Sharing in Fractionalized States,' *Publius*, 39:4 (2009), 585-605.

April 3: no class.

April 10: logistic regression

Leo H. Kahane, *Regression Basics*, 2nd ed., (Los Angeles: SAGE, 2008), ch. 5-7.

Essentials, ch. 9.

Readings, D. Sunshine Hillygus and Todd G. Shields, 'Moral Issues and Voter Decision Making in the 2004 Presidential Election.'

Companion, ch. 10.

Cameron D. Anderson and Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, 'Youth Turnout: Adolescents' Attitudes in Ontario,' *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 41:3 (2008), 697-718.

April 17: data reduction: factor analysis, principal component analysis

Readings TBA.

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf