

POLS3316 - Statistics for Political Science

Lecture 2: Introduction to Probability and Statistics

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Overview

- 1 Survey and Pre-quiz
- 2 Overview
- 3 Why do we study statistics?
- 4 Descriptive Statistics
 - The basics
- 5 Graphical Look at Correlation
- 6 Graphical Look at OLS Regression
- 7 Lab Prep for Wednesday

- You have 20 minutes
- Please be sure to answer the survey type questions
- Don't spend too long struggling on math problems
- For the longer/tougher math problems, writing up the formula is sufficient for credit to show you know it

- Why are we interested in probability and statistics?
- Quiz and R Studio Cloud Examples
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Probability
 - Correlations (graphical)
 - Regression

What are we after?

- We want to answer questions about data
- We want to understand cause and effect

How do probability and statistics help?

- Humans make bad judgments just looking at data
- Statistics help us make better judgments
- Probability helps us model randomness
- Statistics and probability help us make sense of a random world

Descriptive Stats

- Minimums
- Maximum
- Range
- Quartiles
- Percentiles

Measures of variation/dispersion

- Variance
- Standard Deviation
- Covariance

R Studio Cloud

- scatterplot
- mean drawn through plot
- connect the dots
- regression line

R Studio Cloud

What you should do!

- Sign up for Posit Cloud
- Sign up for Github *
- Install Git *
- Install R *
- Install R Studio Desktop *
- Setup R Studio to work with Git/Github *
- Clone the class Github Repository *

Questions

The End