

PLSC 502: “Statistical Methods for Political Research”

Opening Remarks

August 23, 2016

- Welcome!
- This is “Baby statistics.”
 - Tamar will teach you math.
 - I’ll teach you probability and statistics, as well as graphics, data, etc.
 - Next semester, I’ll teach you regression.
 - After that, it’s up to you...
- Logistics...
 - Course meets every T-Th, 11:00-12:30, here.
 - Syllabus, notes, readings, homeworks, etc. on the github repo (<https://github.com/PrisonRodeo/PLSC502-2016-git>)
 - Textbook: A&F, Verzani or Acock (buy ‘em), plus other materials.
 - Mostly excerpts from other texts and articles from political science.
 - Grading: Ten homework assignments, plus final project and class participation.
 - No office hours per se – e-mail me, or meet me at Webster’s / Saints / etc.
 - I don’t care if you miss class.
 - I don’t care (much) what software you use (Stata, R supported).
 - My third time teaching the course – so don’t expect miracles...
- Nicholas Dietrich...
 - ...is the TA.
 - Is at `deitrich.nicholas@gmail.com`
 - Office in Pond 210.
 - He may have scheduled office hours once a week or so.
 - Go to him first...
- Software
 - Stata and/or R – learn at least one.
 - Preference is for R .
 - Also: L^AT_EX!

- About me.
 - What to call me.
 - Where I come from / background / history.
 - Personal stuff...
- About you all.
 - Field(s)?
 - Interests?
 - Previous training?
 - Personal stuff?
- **No class Thursday!**
- Next Tuesday: **Read the articles closely, and bring copies to class!**