

MATH CAMP

Summer 2017

Instructor:	Yue Hu	Jielu Yao
Email:	yue-hu-1@uiowa.edu	jielu-yao@uiowa.edu

1 Course Description

The five sessions of Math Camp will cover the key concepts and theories in basic algebra, linear algebra, and calculus, underlying most work in quantitative political research. Each session consists of a 120-minute lecture including exercises. You are free, but not required, to read the textbook or do some exercises on your own before the session.

You do not need to know anything about calculus or linear algebra to attend the sessions. Nor do you need to be anxious about what you are going to learn. An ultimate goal of these sessions is to help you overcome the fear of learning and applying math. So, don't worry, we will start from scratch. If you believe that you already equip with sufficient mathematic knowledge, there is still a value to attend the sessions. They will show you how the math knowledge and skills are applied in the political methodology and how they will help you doing political scientific research. It is also a good chance for you to know your cohort and make friends.

2 Textbook and Resources

Moore, Will and David Siegel. 2013. *A Mathematics Course for Political and Social Research*. Princeton University Press.

This book can be accessed online through the UI library website. There is a YouTube channel consisting of videos on every topic covered in the book.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrA2SLUKnV6yjdGIfDwFeGg/playlists>

- o Other Suggested Readings

Hagel, Timothy. 1995. *Basic Math for Social Scientists: Concepts*. Sage Publications.

Gill, Jeff. 2006. *Essential Mathematics for Political and Social Research*. Cambridge University Press.

- o Video Resources

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

MIT Video Courses

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/audio-video-courses/>

3 Schedule

(1) August 14, Monday Building blocks

- o 10:00am - noon: Notations, operators, and sets

- o 1:30pm - 3:30pm: Exponents, logarithm, and functions

- o Reading: Moore & Siegel, Chapter 1, 3

(2) August 15, Tuesday Linear algebra and Calculus

- o 10:00am - noon: Vectors and matrices
- o 1:30pm - 3:30pm: Differentiation
- o *Reading: Moore & Siegel, Chapter 5, 6 & 12*

(3) August 18, Friday More Calculus

- o 10:00am - noon: Integration
- o *Reading: Moore & Siegel, Chapter 7*