OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY
POLITICAL SCIENCE 208Q: POLITICAL SCIENCE METHODS
FALL 2013

"Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purpose of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education."

PROFESSOR: DR. KATIE VIGILANTE
OFFICE: 214C SENEY HALL
DROP IN HOURS: TU & TH (4-5PM)
               & BY APPOINTMENT!
PHONE: 770-784-4623
EMAIL: KVIGILA@EMORY.EDU

Course Description & Objectives

POLS 208 is a required course for all students majoring in Political Science or International Studies at Emory University.

The course is designed to introduce students to:

1. *THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD: The style of analytic thinking required for research in the social sciences.*

2. STATISTICS: The concepts and procedures used to conduct empirical research in political science

3. STATA: A common statistical software program used to conduct quanititative political science analysis

WAYS OF INQUIRY (INQ) COURSE:

Political science methods is designated as an **INQ** course. I designed the course to introduce and engage you in one of the primary ways knowledge is pursued by political scientists: the scientific method and the use of quantitative methods.

Specifically, you will employ the scientific method to raise a viable research topic/question; to research, collect, and review timely, scholarly literature that relates ddirectly to your question.

Using quanititative methods, you will organize and analyze data, test hypotheses and write up your findings with respect to how they speak to/contribute to the scholarly literature.

THE ENTIRE COURSE IS DESIGNED TO HAVE YOU COMPLETE A RESEARCH REPORT THAT MODELS A SHORT ARTICLE OR RESEARCH NOTE IN A PUBLISHED JOURNAL.

To accomplish this goal, I work with you from the beginning to the end of the semester to complete each section of the research report:

(1) formulation of viable research question
(2) writing an annotated bibliography and literature review
(3) measurement of key concepts & construction of testable hypotheses
(4) writing a data and methods section
(5) testing of hypotheses using appropriate statistical tests
(6) written analysis of your results.
(7) report of your findings to the class.

YOU MUST TURN IN A SATISFACTORY (C or better)
RESEARCH REPORT
TO PASS THIS COURSE. PERIOD.

GRADES

%	Graded Item	Description
20	Homework	Weekly HW—Includes portions of your report
20	Midterm exam	
25	Final Exam	December 10
35	Research Report	December 16 2-5PM

Reading Materials

- Philip H. Pollock III, The Essentials of Political Analysis 4th Ed (CQ Press 2012)
- Philip H. Pollock III, A Stata Companion to Political Analysis 2nd Ed. (CQ Press, 2011).

All other assigned readings are stored on our BLACKBOARD conference in "course documents"

COURSE SPECIFICS

Once coverig the scientific method, our focus will be on quantitative analysis, which depends on a dreaded area for many students: STATISTICS.[1] That's right, if you want to analyze data you will need to know the variety of techniques used to understand and evaluate those data: statistics.

We focus on a variety of statistics, from simple descriptive statistics and graphs, to tests of bivariate relationships with control, to a basic introduction to multivariate analysis

You do not need any more math background than high school algebra.

---

[1] Also referred to as 'sadistics', 'the things that are 'killing me', 'torture devices' ad infinitem

For statistical software, we will use *Stata©*, perhaps the most popular package among political scientists. We have a license agreement through Emory and Stata Corp. to run 20 stata sessions at a time (from either mac or pc) from any public computer. You can purchase a 6 month license agreement with discount for about 65.00.

To obtain the discount, go to http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-campus.html. Get the stata/1C 12.

Course Outline

August 29	Syllabus: Course Goals
	The Scientific Method and the Study of Politics
September 3	Formulating a Research Question
	Hand out: Examples of Political Science Research
September 5	The Literature Review & Annotated Bibliography
September 10	Meet at Library for Research help-Library Instructional Classroom (201) Mandatory Attendance!
September 12	Defining & Measuring Concepts
	Pollock Essentials Ch. 1
	Jeffrey J. Mondak, "Newspapers and Political Awareness," *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (May 1995), 513-527

September 17   Library 201 Classroom
                                 INTRODUCTION TO STATA
                                 Pollock STATA Companion Workbook Ch. 1-2

September 19   Measuring and Describing Variables
                                 Pollock Essentials Ch. 2

September 24 & 26 Explanations & Hypotheses
                                 Pollock Essentials Ch. 3 (STOP PAGE 58!)
                                 Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 3

October 1 & 3   Making Comparisons, Presenting Data & Data
Distributions

                                 Pollock Essentials Ch. 3 (page 58-76)

                                 Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 4

October 8 & 10   Research Design & Logic of Control*Experimental
                                 versus Non Experimental Designs*

                                 Making Controlled Comparisons

                                 Pollock Essentials Ch. 4 & 5

                                 Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 5

October 15   OFF FALL BREAK

October 17   MIDTERM EXAM

October 22, 29 & 31	Statistical Inference & Hypothesis Testing
	Pollock Essentials Ch. 6
	Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 6

November 5 & 7   Test of Significance & Measures of Association
Pollock Essentials Ch. 7
Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 7

November 12   Bivariate analysis III: Correlation and Regression
Pollock Essentials Ch. 8 (stop p. 199)
Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 8

November 14   Bivariate Analysis: Regression Explored
Pollock Essentials Ch. 8 (stop p. 199)
Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 8

November 19   Multivariate Anaysis: Analysis of Categorical
Data

Pollock Essentials Ch. 8 (from p. 199)
Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 9

November 21   Multiple Regression w/Dummy Variables
Pollock Essentials Ch. 8 (from p. 199)
Pollock STATA Companion Ch. 9

November 24 & 26   **OFF THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

December 3   Multiple Regression and Interaction Effects
Pollock Essentials Ch. 8 (from p. 199)

Pollock Companion Ch. 9

December 5   Multivariate Analysis: Logistic Regression
Pollock Essentials Ch.9
Pollock Companion Ch. 10

December 10   **FINAL EXAM IN CLASS**

December 16   **Research Report Presentations (2-5PM)**

HOMEWORK DUE DATES UNTIL MIDTERM

Sept 3 (TU)   Research Area of Interest
(Post to Blackboard by class meeting)

Sept 5 (TH)   Research Question First Draft
(Post to Blackboard by class meeting)

Sept 10 (TU)   Refined Research Question
(Post to Blackboard by class meeting)

Sept 12 (TH)   Annotated Bibliography first Draft
(Post to Blackboard by class meeting)

Sept 16 (M)   Annotated Final Draft
(Post to Blackboard by 5pm)

Sept 19 (TH)	Pollock Companion (Workbook) Ch. 1 & 2 exercises (Bring to class stapled-submit log file to kvigila@emory.edu)
Sept 20 (F)	Describe Dependent Variable using Simple Univariate Statistics. Paste results in word document, include written description of your results (Post to Blackboard by 5pm)
Sept 23 (M)	Literature Review First Draft (Post to Blackboard by 5pm)
Sept 24 (TU)	Final Draft of Staistical Description of DV (Post to Blackboard by class meeting)
Sept 26 (Th)	Pollock Companion (Workbook) Ch. 3 exercises (Bring to class stapled-submit log file to kvigila@emory.edu)
Sept 30 (M)	Literature Review Final Draft (Post to Blackboard by 5pm)
Oct 3 (Th)	Pollock Companion (Workbook) Ch. 4 exercises (Bring to class stapled-submit log file to kvigila@emory.edu)
Oct 10 (Th)	Pollock Companion (Workbook) 5 exercises (Bring to class stapled-submit log file to kvigila@emory.edu)