

**OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 208Q:  
POLITICAL SCIENCE METHODS  
SPRING 2012**

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

PROFESSOR: DR. KATIE VIGILANTE  
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DROP IN HOURS: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 12-3PM, THURSDAYS 3-5PM  
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CLASS MEETING: SENEY 322 M&W 3:30-4:45PM  
LAB MEETING: FACULTY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, WEDNESDAYS 5-6PM

## **WAYS OF INQUIRY (INQ) COURSE:**

Political science methods is designated as an inq course. As such, it is designed to introduce you to the specific ways knowledge is pursued in political science by actively engaging you in the preferred method of analysis of our discipline: quantitative methods.

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.

AS YOU COMPLETE EACH SECTION, I WILL BE PLACING INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY ON YOU FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT SECTION OF THE REPORT AS WE GO ALONG. YOUR EXPERIENCE IN POLS 208Q SHOULD PREPARE YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND OTHER DISCIPLINES IN THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS WE ASK AND HOW WE GO ABOUT ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Our objective is to give you a foundation in research design and quantitative methods so you can become an informed student of public affairs and specifically, of research reported in major journals in political science.

This type of analysis depends on a dreaded area for many students: **STATISTICS**.<sup>1</sup> 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 association, to a basic introduction to multivariate analysis.

YOU DO NOT NEED ANY MORE MATH BACKGROUND THAN HIGH SCHOOL ALGEBRA.

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

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

Otherwise you will be relying on public computers to complete the homework and research report.

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<sup>1</sup> Also referred to as 'sadistics', 'the things that are 'killing me', 'torture devices' ad infinitum

## REQUIREMENTS

Grades in the course will be based on the following items:

%	Graded Item	Description
20	Homework	Weekly HW—Includes portions of your report
20	Midterm exam	Mar 5 in class
35	Research Report	Aprill 30 in class
25	Final Exam	May 4 9AM-12PM

**YOU MUST TURN IN A SATISFACTORY (ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETE) RESEARCH REPORT TO PASS THE COURSE, PERIOD.**

## READING MATERIALS

- Philip H. Pollock III, *The Essentials of Political Analysis* 4<sup>th</sup> Ed (CQ Press 2012)
- Philip H. Pollock III, *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (CQ Press, 2011)
- All Other Readings are stored on our BLACKBOARD conference under “course documents” in either PDF of linked form.

**READINGS ARE DUE ON THE DAY THEY ARE LISTED ON THE SYLLABUS.**

## READINGS AND TOPICS DUE BY DATE LISTED

Jan 18 (W) Introduction: Political *Science*?

Jan 23 (M) Scientific Method

- Pollock Essentials Introduction
- Chapter 2 Political Science Research Methods (Handout)

Jan 25 (W) Research Questions

- Chapter 3 Political Science Research Methods (Handout)

### **LAB: Researching your interests---Librarians to the rescue!**

Jan 30 (M) Defining and Measuring Concepts

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 1
- Jeffrey J. Mondak, "Newspapers and Political Awareness," *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (May 1995), 513-527
- Jeffrey A. Segal and Albert D. Cover, "Ideological Values and the Votes of US Supreme Court Justices," *American Political Science Review* 83 (June 1989), 557-564

Feb 1 (W) Accuracy and Measurement Error

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 1

### **LAB: Getting to know Stata: Ch. 1 Pollock Stata Companion AND BRING FLASH DRIVE**

Feb 6 (M) Measuring and Describing Variables: Precision

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 2

Feb 8 (W) Measuring and Describing Variables: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion

**LAB: Descriptive Statistics: Ch. 2 Pollock Stata Companion AND Transformation of Variables: Ch. 3 Pollock Stata Companion**

Feb 13 (M) NO CLASS MEETING

Feb 15 (W) Proposing Explanations, Hypotheses, and Comparisons

**LAB: Making Comparisons: Ch. 4 Pollock Stata Companion**

Feb 20 (M) Research Design and the Logic of Control

- Alan S. Gerber and Donald P. Green, "Do Phone Calls Increase Voter Turnout? A Field Experiment," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 65 (Spring 2001), 75-85
- Jeffrey S. DeSimone, "Fraternity Membership and Drinking Behavior," NBER Working Paper 13262 (July 2007)

Feb 22 (W) Literature Review versus Annotated Bibliography

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- The Literature Review: A Few Tips On Conducting It  
Dana Taylor, Health Sciences Writing Centre

**LAB: From annotated bibliography to a literature review: librarians to the rescue!**

Feb 27 (M) Making Controlled Comparisons

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 5

Feb 29 (W) Graphing

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 5

**LAB: Making Controlled Comparisons and Graphing: Ch. 5 Pollock Stata Companion**

Mar 5 (M) **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

Mar 7 (W) Statistical Inference

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 6

**LAB: Hypothesis Workshop**

Mar 12-16 **SPRING BREAK**

Mar 19 (M) Student's t

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 6

Mar 21 (W) Tests of Statistical Significance: Comparing 2 Sample Means

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 7
- Jeffrey J. Mondak, "Newspapers and Political Awareness," *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (May 1995), just pps. 523-525, for a two-sample t-test.
- *See also* Alan S. Gerber and Donald P. Green, "Do Phone Calls Increase Voter Turnout? A Field Experiment," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 65 (Spring 2001), p. 79 for data for a chi-squared test or two-sample test of a proportion.

**LAB: Making Inferences about Sample Means: Ch. 6 Pollock Stata Companion**

Mar 26 (M) Tests of Statistical Significance: Chi Square

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 7
- Roy Licklider, "The Consequences of Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars, 1945-1993," *American Political Science Review* 89 (September 1995), 681-690.

Mar 28 (W) Measures of Association based on Chi Square

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 7

## **LAB: Chi Square and Measures of Association: Ch. 7 Pollock Stata Companion**

April 2 (M) Measures of Association: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 8 (stop page 187)
- Amy Caiazza, "Does Women's Representation in Elected Office Lead to Women-Friendly Policy?", Institute for Women's Policy Research Publication I910 (May 2002).

April 4 (W) **PROFESSOR OUT**

**LAB: Stata Help with Wenhao**

April 9 (M) **PROFESSOR OUT**

April 11 (W) Bivariate Regression

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 8 (stop page 195)

## **LAB: Correlation and Linear Regression: Ch. 8 Pollock Stata Companion**

April 16 (M) Multivariate Regression and Dummies Introduced

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 8 (from 195 to end of chapter)
- Ebonya Washington, "Female Socialization: How Daughters Affect Their Legislator Fathers' Voting on Women's Issues," *American Economic Review*

April 18 (W) Dummy Variables and Interaction Effects

- David Brule, "Congressional Opposition, the Economy, and US Dispute Initiation, 1946-2000," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50 (August 2006), 463-483.

## **LAB: Dummies and Interaction effects: Ch. 9 Pollock Stata Companion**

April 23 (M) Logistic Regression

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 9

- D. Sunshine Hillygus and Todd G. Shields, "Moral Issues and Voter Decision Making in the 2004 Presidential Election," *PS* (April 2005), 201-209.

April 25 (W) Logistic Regression

- Pollock Essentials Chapter 9

### **LAB: Logistic Regression: Ch. 10 Pollock Stata Companion**

April 30 (M) Research Reports Presented in Class

May 4 (F) **FINAL EXAM 10AM-12PM**

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is a very important part of this class. Homework includes portions of your research report as well as exercises from the Pollock's Stata Companion Workbook.

Pollock HW is usually due the Monday\* in class after the Wednesday lab covering the material. Lab time is an excellent time to begin these exercises and receive help from Dr. Vigilante and the TA: Wenhao Lu.

All Pollock exercises must include a log file that is submitted to Dr. Vigilante via email [kvigila@emory.edu](mailto:kvigila@emory.edu) before class the following Monday *for full credit*. **THUS ALWAYS HAVE LOG FILES!**

Except the FINAL Draft, all sections of the research report are to be submitted electronically to Dr. Vigilante [kvigila@emory.edu](mailto:kvigila@emory.edu) and to the Research Report forum in the relevant section *for full credit*.



## GRADING OF HOMEWORK

Pollock Exercises:

- Completed and Correct HW will receive a score of 100.
- Completed but incomplete HW or HW needing correcting (correct and resubmit) will receive a score of 50 until it is completed and resubmitted by the following class after receipt. At this point the score will be increased to a maximum of 90 points

Research Report Sections:

- All relevant portions of the research report will be checked in blackboard under the safe assign feature that checks your submissions against the entire academic universe for duplication.
- All sections are to be submitted electronically to [kvigila@emory.edu](mailto:kvigila@emory.edu) and to blackboard (research report forum) for full credit
- All sections are considered drafts and will be corrected by Dr. Vigilante. Corrected drafts will receive full credit. Thus, make suggestions and resubmit in a timely manner for full credit.

\*EXCEPT FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>TH</sup>

## HOMEWORK DUE DATES

Jan 30 (M)	3 AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST EACH FRAMED INTO QUESTION
Feb 1 (W)	BRING FLASH DRIVE AND CHAPTER 1 POLLOCK EXERCISES
Feb 13 (M)	DATA SET IDENTIFIED. DEPENDENT VARIABLE IDENTIFIED
Feb 15 (W)	CHAPTERS 2 AND 3 OF POLLOCK EXERCISES

Feb 20 (M)	FINAL RESEARCH QUESTION, DATA SET, DEPENDENT AND 3 EXPLANATORY VARIABLES
	CHAPTER 4 POLLOCK EXERCISES
Feb 27 (M)	ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (OF 10 ARTICLES FROM SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AND IDENTIFY 5 OF THESE ARTICLES FOR LITERATURE REVIEW
Mar 5 (M)	CHAPTER 5 POLLOCK EXERCISES (MIDTERM THAT DAY!)
Mar 7 (W)	3 TESTABLE HYPOTHESES
Mar 19 (M)	LITERATURE AND FINALIZED HYPOTHESES, DATA, AND VARIABLES
Mar 26 (M)	CHAPTER 6 POLLOCK EXERCISES
April 2 (M)	CHAPTER 7 POLLOCK EXERCISES
April 9 (M)	DATA AND METHODS SECTIONS (HYPOTHESES, VARIABLES, STATISTICAL TESTS TO BE USED)
April 16 (M)	CHAPTER 8 POLLOCK EXERCISES
April 18 (W)	DATA AND ANALYSIS SECTION (CONDUCT ALL ANALYSIS, PRESENT FINDINGS AND WRITE UP RESULTS)
April 23 (M)	CHAPTER 9 POLLOCK EXERCISES
April 30 (M)	FINAL RESEARCH REPORTS PRESENT TO CLASS & CHAPTER 10 POLLOCK EXERCISES