**Quantitative Political Analysis I, Fall 2013**

Background Questionnaire

**Your Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*The purpose of this questionnaire is to ascertain your background in the various tools, skills and knowledge that will be covered in the course. We will be fine-tuning the course accordingly. Please be candid – there are no right or wrong answers!*

1. What is your intended field of specialization in political science? What topics interest you the most?
2. Please list three empirical questions about politics you would like to ask and answer using quantitative analysis.
3. Please list any courses you have taken in statistics or econometrics at the undergraduate level.
4. Please list any courses you have taken in statistics or econometrics at the graduate level.
5. If there is any relevant background you have had in statistics outside of coursework (on the job, writing a thesis, etc.), please list it here.
6. Using the table below, please indicate your degree of familiarity with the topics listed.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Very familiar** | **Somewhat familiar** | **Taken course on it, but don’t know it very well** | **Never seen it in my life!** |
| Scatterplots and histograms |  |  |  |  |
| Probability theory |  |  |  |  |
| Bayes’ Rule |  |  |  |  |
| Probability distributions |  |  |  |  |
| Matrix algebra |  |  |  |  |
| The math of expectations |  |  |  |  |
| Hypothesis testing |  |  |  |  |
| Confidence intervals |  |  |  |  |
| Maximum likelihood estimation |  |  |  |  |
| Bootstrapping |  |  |  |  |
| Correlation coefficients |  |  |  |  |
| Lowess smoothing |  |  |  |  |
| The Rubin Causal Model |  |  |  |  |
| Matching estimators |  |  |  |  |
| Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) |  |  |  |  |
| - Gauss-Markov Theorem |  |  |  |  |
| - Interaction terms |  |  |  |  |
| - Goodness of fit statistics |  |  |  |  |
| Probit/logit |  |  |  |  |
| - Predicted probabilities and first differences |  |  |  |  |
| Statistical software (please list) |  |  |  |  |
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| Microsoft Excel |  |  |  |  |
| LaTeX |  |  |  |  |
| Programming language(s) (please list) |  |  |  |  |
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Anything else we should know?