

POL 3001C/JOUR 3000C: Quantitative Research and Data Analysis/Journalism Research

University of Cincinnati
Departments of Political Science and Journalism
Spring 2020
60 WCHARL 247
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Course overview: This course will expose you to a broad overview of methods for quantitative research and inquiry using a broad array of common approaches for the assessment of relationships between phenomena. My goal for you in this course is to get comfortable with the use of basic data description and estimation techniques, especially as they relate to political outcomes, media coverage of politics, and the assessment of public policy options. In the process, you will become acquainted with the manner in which quantitative research findings are presented for both scholarly audiences and the general reader. The course will also feature extensive discussion of the nature of different types of research design in obtaining causal inference. The topics in this course are pertinent to career preparation for both political science and journalism majors.

Readings: Students are expected to keep up with each week’s reading list, which is detailed in the schedule below. These readings are all located in the course reader *Research Methods for POL 3001/JOUR 3000C* available through Cognella. Ordering info: <https://store.cognella.com/19735>

Assignments: Your grade in this course is based on four major components, which are listed in the following section.

Graded Components:

- 1) Final exam: 20%
- 2) Weekly quizzes (Fridays)/Facebook posts: 25%
- 3) Research paper: 45%
- 4) Resume writing/update: 10%

Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking
Written Expression
Research and Creative Process
Quantitative Reasoning

Course Schedule:

Week of January 13TH: Introductory Discussion

Week of January 20th: Chapter 1: Putting Statistics to Work for You (No class January 20th)

Week of January 27TH: Operationalization and Hypotheses (Quiz 1: January 31st)

Week of February 3rd: Chapter 2: It's Invariably about Variables/Introduction to STATA (see also Chapter 7)

Week of February 10th: Theory and the Research Hypothesis (Quiz 2: February 14th)

Week of February 17TH : Chapter 3: Norms and Numbers, Investigating Causality (Quiz 3: February 21st)

Week of February 24TH : Semester research paper/news story requirements announced (Quiz 4: February 28th)

Week of March 2nd: Chapter 4: Understanding Random Assignment and Experimental Design (Quiz 5: March 6th)

Week of March 9th: Chapter 5: Basic Measures of Description, Central Tendency, and Statistical Inference (Quiz 6: March 13th)

Week of March 23rd: Theory and Hypotheses Paper Section Due by March 27th

Week of March 30th: Chapter 6: All about regression (Quiz 7: April 3rd)

Week of April 6th: Chapter 6: All about Regression (Quiz 8: April 10th)

Week of April 13TH: Visual representation of statistical analysis (Practice Final/Quiz 9: April 17th)

Week of April 20TH: Final preparation of research papers

Week of April 27th: Final Exam and Paper Due by April 30th

Instructor's General Policies

Students are reminded that regular attendance is part of their class participation grade. As adults, you have to make sound judgments as to whether a pressing concern that may cause you to miss class is, in fact, that pressing. Since everyone faces circumstances beyond their control from time to time, I am not going to be rigid with assigning a specific letter grade to a particular number of absences in this syllabus. Be aware, however, that your class participation grade is a subjective evaluation I make concerning your investment in our class discussions and activities. Hence, neither my impression of you, nor the grade I give you on class participation, will be helped by excessive absences.

If you encounter a severe emergency that 1) prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, or 2) requires you to miss a week or more of class time, it is *your responsibility* to be in touch with me about your situation as quickly as humanly possible. Make ups or extended time to submit an assignment will only be considered in cases of medical, family, or legal emergency. In either case, it is *your responsibility* to inform me as to the emergent nature of your situation, and to provide appropriate documentation. (NOTE: only doctor's notes—not receipts, a police report, letter from a court, or specific documentation of a family emergency—accident, death, etc., count as appropriate documentation). Each form of documentation is subject to my approval, in comportment with university policies. Finally, if make-up time is allotted to you, it will not exceed three (3) days from the original due date under most circumstances.

Course Grading

Grades for individual exams/assignments and the final, **weighted (see Graded components section above)** course grade will be based on the following scale:

93-100% A	90-92% A-	87-89% B+	83-86% B	80-82% B-	
77-79% C+	73-76% C	70-72% C-	67-69% D+	60-66% D	0-59% F

Statement on Academic Integrity

You are responsible for knowing and following the university's academic integrity policies. You are also responsible for understanding and following any additional academic integrity policies specific to this class (as outlined by the instructor). Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy. If you are accused of violating this policy and are in the appeals process, you should continue participating in the class.

Audio and Video Recording Course Activity

Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

Dropping a Class

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. If you do not drop the class by the posted drop date, and you have stopped attending class, you will receive an F.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to unilaterally amend or otherwise change any aspect of this syllabus without warning and at my discretion during the course of the Spring 2020 semester. Any such changes will be made in the best interest of the course material and learning time allotted per the university calendar and course general education goals. All changes will be announced on Facebook, in Blackboard, via email, and in class, and will be detailed in a revised syllabus to be posted on the course Blackboard site at the time the changes take effect.

