Syllabus Day (i.e. Welcome)

POSC 3410 – Quantitative Methods in Political Science

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Department of Political Science





Familiarize students with the topic of the course and the instructor's expectations.

Course Objectives

- 1. Understand concepts and how we operationalize abstract concepts for the sake of testing.
- 2. Delineate variables among various types, like nominal, ordinal and interval.
- 3. Put together a formal research design to address questions of interest in the study of politics.
- 4. Express why the logic of control is vital to any good research design.
- 5. Understand important elements of data, like central tendency and spread.
- 6. Become familiar with advanced topics like non-normal responses, Bayesian thinking, and post-estimation simulation.
- 7. Learn the R programming language, which should be a major addition to a résumé.

(Recommended) Books

Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten (2013). The Fundamentals of Political Science Research. 2nd. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Pollock, Philip H. (2016). The Essentials of Political Analysis. 5th. Washington DC: CQ

Press.

Grading Policy

Assignment	(Due) Date	Percent of Grade
Participation	N/A	15%
Homework	Periodically	25%
Midterm	before Feb. 24, 3:15 p.m.	20%
Research Paper	before April 23, 10 a.m.	15%
Final Exam	before May 5, 10:30 a.m.	25%

Check syllabus for more information about the homework and paper requirements.

Attendance/Participation Policy

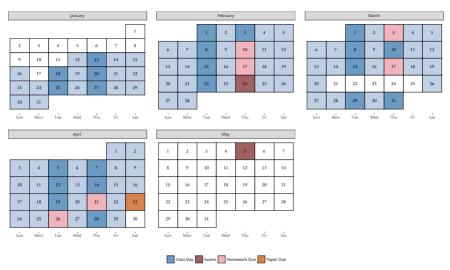
For this semester:

- Attendance is assumed not required.
- Please make it a point to attend lectures.
- Please make it a point to be active on Canvas (for record-keeping).
- Please make it a point to participate to the best of your abilities.



pleased to unveil my 2020 teaching strategy: "don't worry about grades, just learn something and please don't die"

5:32 PM · Aug 18, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Notable dates: MLK Day (17 January), Spring Break (21-25 March)

Contact Policy

Email me: svmille@clemson.edu.

- Please don't email me at svmille@g.clemson.edu, or through Canvas.
- tl;dr: I'll still get it, but it's more hoops in order to respond.
- Simple email to symille@clemson.edu works best.

That said, I will use Canvas for classwide emails.

Office Hours

Email me: svmille@clemson.edu. We'll set something up.

• All "office visits" will be done via Zoom.

Late Work/Make-up Policy

I'm otherwise a hard-ass about make-ups and the like, but... 「_(``ソ)_/¯

- Please make it a point to complete tasks on time.
- Please get tested if you do not feel well.
- Please make-up assignments you miss because of extenuating circumstances, as promptly as you can.

Just please put in an honest effort, and try your best.

Required Materials/Skills

- Ownership of (or access to) a computer/word processing program.
- The R programming language (read syllabus for more)
- Knowledge of getting journal articles from university library service.

Disabilities Policy

I'm more than happy to accommodate, but:

- The student has to take the intiative. I can't.
- Do let me know privately after class if I should expect to hear from SAS soon.

My Contact Information

- Name: Steve Miller (as in the band)
- E-mail: svmille@clemson.edu
- Website: posc3410.svmiller.com

Additional Course Materials

I do like making lectures publicly available, though.

- Check course website at posc3410.svmiller.com
- Check my Github repository (just in case): github.com/svmiller/posc3410

I encourage the student to take initiative to keep track of their grade through the semester.

My Expectations

I come off as a bit cruel in my expectations.

- I expect a lot, and I expect a commitment from you.
- Otherwise, why bother? Your job is to become "pro-ready."

I also expect it to be a bit difficult for you.

- My philosophy: if you 100% understand something the first time you read it, you didn't learn anything.
- Read and re-read if necessary.
- Lectures should help, but they're not sufficient. You need to read.

I take seriously the "science" of political science.

• This may not be intuitive, but I'm also eager to help in-class or office hours.

You Have Homework!

Basically, read these on my website (see course materials):

- A Beginner's Guide to Using R
- Reading a Regression Table: A Guide for Students
- The American Statistical Association's Statement on p-values: Context,
 Process, and Purpose
- Taking Good Notes
- Dos and Dont's of Writing for Students
- Assorted Tips for Students on Writing Research Papers
- Exam Grading Policy
- Writing a Prospectus
- Prospectus Example
- Research Design Paper Instructions
- Fun with Attendance and Grades (i.e. Students Should Attend Class)
- The Educational Power of Discomfort
- Everybody Writes: A Web Content Approach for Students

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