Political Science 2072Q: Quantitative Analysis in Political Science
University of Connecticut
Fall 2018
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Room 305F Downtown

Professor: Robert N. Lupton **Office**: 355 Downtown
Email: robert.lupton@uconn.edu **Office Hours**: Wed: 3:0 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 a.m. – noon

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the methods of political analysis. The primary objective of the course is to introduce you to the scientific study of politics and government. You will learn to construct causal theories and develop hypotheses, as well as test them using basic statistical tools. In the process, you will learn the fundamentals of probability, causality and statistical inference.

Throughout the course, we will highlight the distinctions between political science and our ordinary understanding of politics with an aim toward improving your ability to consume critically both scholarly and popular media accounts of political and social events.

A final goal of the course will be for you to formulate an original research question and empirically analyze the relationship among key variables. The ultimate objective of the project is to enhance your knowledge of the logic and practice of systematic political inquiry.

Requirements and Grading

Reading

Our primary textbook for the course is the following:

- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research* 3rd Ed. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Note: I will provide you with required supplemental academic application articles as necessary.

Quizzes

A total of ten pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester at the beginning of class. The quizzes will focus on material included in the assigned reading on the day the quizzes are given.

Thus, in order for you to do well on the quizzes (not to mention understand the lecture), you need to complete the assigned reading for each day before class. The quizzes will account for 10% of your final course grade, and I will drop your two lowest quiz grades.

Exams

There will be three examinations consisting of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions, some of which will require you to solve problems using the methods of statistical analysis introduced in the course. The three examinations combined will account for 55% of your final course grade. The first two examinations are each worth 15% of your final grade, and the cumulative final examination is worth 25% of your final grade.

The first midterm examination will be held on **Thursday, September 27**.

The second midterm examination will be held on **Thursday, October 25**.

The final examination date is TBD.

All examinations will be held in the regular course classroom (305F Downtown).

Research Paper

An important component of the course is an original research paper that you will write regarding a political science question of interest to you. You will develop the paper throughout the semester, and each aspect of the paper will be subject to different deadlines. The project will allow you to write your own academic literature review, develop a theory and present and test a hypothesis on a political science question that you find substantively interesting. **Note that your research paper must incorporate at least five scholarly sources**.

Ideally, you will begin thinking of the question you would like to address very soon, perhaps even later today or right at this very moment! As always, the earlier you begin considering this project, the better your paper will be at each stage of the process, including the final product.

Note that all aspects of the research must be submitted via the course website, as I will not accept any emailed or hard copies of these documents. The paper will account for 35% of your final course grade, and the breakdown for each component of the paper is as follows (due dates for each component are listed in parentheses):

Paper proposal: 5% (September 25)
First draft: 10% (November 8)
Final draft: 20% (December 15)

Summary of Grading

Quizzes: 10%
Research Paper: 35%
Examinations: 55%

Please note that passing this course requires completion of all three examinations!

Grading 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+
63-66% = D
60-62% = D-
<60% = F

Note: I reserve the right to curve assignments, as well as final course grades, as I deem appropriate.

Participation

Although attendance is not formally required, I will note that failing to attend class will make performing well in the course extremely difficult given the importance of lecture and lab time to exam material, as well as the contribution of quizzes to your overall course grade.

Participation also is not formally part of the course grade, but lively and vibrant discussion enhances the learning experience for all students. Actively participating in the course will foster a more enjoyable and productive environment for your peers and you. Respect and consideration for all students will be demanded at all times during class discussions.

Civil Discourse, Rights and Responsibilities

At the University of Connecticut, students and faculty are afforded an academic environment that allows for intellectual expression. Challenging issues and ideas may arise, but none of these should be expressed in an inappropriate manner either verbally or in writing. One of the goals of a university is to challenge us to think again about what we know (and that all that we don't know). This demands that we all share responsibility for creating and maintaining a civil learning environment in our classrooms and in the larger community. We will be conscious of and accept responsibility for what we say and do, how we act, how our words and actions have consequences and how our words and actions affect others.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is critical to every aspect of your performance in this course. I maintain a zero tolerance policy against academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and all forms of plagiarism. Actions such as copying and pasting information from the Internet, using identical language of another author without attribution, assisting another student on an exam or assignment or receiving similar assistance and other egregious forms of cheating should be easily identifiable and preventable — don't cheat! However, other forms of plagiarism are subtler, and it is possible to unintentionally plagiarize if you are not careful. If you have any questions regarding academic honesty, please contact me before you insert questionable material into your work. A student caught cheating on any assignment will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and, depending on the severity of the offense, may receive a zero for the course.

The University of Connecticut uses a specific process for investigating and resolving misconduct concerns. The process is outlined online at the following location:
http://community.uconn.edu/academic-misconduct/

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence

The University of Connecticut is committed to maintaining a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living and working environment for all members of the University community—students, employees, and visitors. Academic and professional excellence can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination, discriminatory harassment or interpersonal violence. The University's full statement can be found online at the following location:
http://policy.uconn.edu/2015/12/29/policy-against-discrimination-harassment-and-relatedinterpersonal-violence/

People with Disabilities Statement

The University of Connecticut is committed to achieving equal educational and employment opportunity and full participation for persons with disabilities. It is the University's policy that no qualified person be excluded from consideration for employment, participation in any University program or activity, be denied the benefits of any University program or activity, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination with regard to any University program or activity. This policy derives from the University's commitment to nondiscrimination for all persons in employment, academic programs, and access to facilities, programs, activities, and services. The University's full statement can be found online at the following location:
http://policy.uconn.edu/2011/05/24/people-with-disabilities-policy-statement/

Course Calendar

Note: The course calendar is tentative, and I reserve the right to alter the calendar at any time depending on our progress.

August 28: **Introduction** (No Reading)

August 30: **The scientific study of politics**
    Chapter 1

September 4: Developing causal theories
    Chapters 2-3

September 6: Research design
    Chapter 4

September 11: Measurement
    Chapter 5

September 13: Measurement, continued
    Readings TBD

September 18: Descriptive statistics and measures of central tendency
    Chapter 6

September 20: Measures of dispersion
    Chapter 6

September 25: First examination review
    Research proposal due

September 27: First examination

October 2: Downloading and coding data
    Chapter 6

October 4: Statistical inference
    Chapter 7

October 9: Statistical inference, continued
    Chapter 7

October 11: Hypothesis testing
    Chapter 8

October 16: Difference of Means and χ2
> Chapter 8

October 18: Correlation coefficient
> Chapter 8

October 23: Second examination review

October 25: Second examination

October 30: Statistical analysis of real data in class

November 1: Bivariate regression
> Chapter 9

November 6: Bivariate regression, continued
> Chapter 9

November 8: Bivariate regression applications
> Research paper rough draft due

November 13: Multiple regression
> Chapter 10

November 15: Multiple regression applications
> Lewis-Beck and Lewis-Beck (2015), selected chapters

November 20 and 22: No class due to Thanksgiving break!

November 27: Dummy variable interaction effects
> Chapter 11
> Brambor, Clark, and Golder (2006)

November 29: Introduction to logit and probit
> Chapter 12

December 4: In-class research project work

December 6: Final examination review

Final Examination: TBD

Final research paper draft due date: The final paper is due electronically via the course website no later than Saturday, December 15, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. I will not accept emailed or hard copies of the final paper.