PSCI 2702 (Section A)
Quantitative Research Methods in Political Science
Thursdays 11:35 a.m. – 1:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Steve White
Office: Loeb C677
Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course introduces students to the methods political scientists use to gather and analyze evidence; it is designed to furnish students with skills they can use throughout their studies in political science and other disciplines in the social sciences. Unlike other courses that focus on the "stuff" of politics (e.g. the state, authority, legitimacy, citizenship, democracy), the emphasis in this course is on the techniques used to explain how and why things happen in the political world. The course will cover basic approaches to political science, the choices that researchers have to make when designing their research, and basic methods of analysis for both quantitative and qualitative data.

Course Objectives

The course has three primary objectives: to explain the goals of research in the social sciences; to provide students with a toolkit for conducting their own original quantitative empirical research; and to develop students' skills in comprehension and evaluation of the empirical research of other social scientists. By the end of the course, students should be capable of exploring questions that no other political researchers have yet undertaken.

Format

Weekly lectures will focus on topics identified in the schedule. The weekly assigned readings complement the lectures; you are not required to read these in advance of the class, but you are expected to keep up with the weekly readings. Students gain knowledge cumulatively in this course: the course will be much more challenging for students who do not attend lectures regularly and/or do not keep pace with the course reading schedule). Tutorials will be held during weeks identified in the schedule. The tutorials are designed to give you hands-on experience with data analysis using analytical software in order to complete the course assignments.

Tutorials are an essential component of this course. Your TA will help you understand the course material and prepare for assignments by guiding you through online labs.

Course Materials

Required Text

Haan, Michael, and Jenny Godley. 2017. *An Introduction to Statistics for Canadian Social Scientists* (3rd Edition). Oxford University Press. (Available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street, TEL: 613-730-9888, EMAIL: info@havenbooks.ca)

Links to additional, short required readings will be posted on cuLearn.

Evaluation

Overview

Assignment	% Final Grade	Due Date (if applicable)
Data analysis assignment: descriptive statistics	10%	February 2 (submitted on cuLearn)
Midterm test	25%	March 1 (in class)
Data analysis assignment: bivariate analysis	10%	March 16 (submitted on cuLearn)
Data analysis assignment: regression	15%	April 6 (submitted on cuLearn)
Final examination	35%	In the University's Examination Period

Examinations

Midterm test (25%): The midterm test will take place in class on March 1, and will cover all assigned readings and lectures up to and including the February 15 class. Students will be provided with a study guide on cuLearn one week before the test.

Students who miss the midterm test because of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and who have verifiable documentation, will have the opportunity to write a make-up midterm test at a later date to be determined.

Final examination (35%): The final examination will take place in the Examination Period, at a date, time, and location assigned by the University. It will cover all assigned readings and lectures. Students will be provided with a study guide on cuLearn in the final week of classes.

Term Work

Data analysis assignments (35%): The three assignments are designed to give you hands-on experience with quantitative data analysis. Each assignment will ask you to analyze quantitative data and provide brief answers about your methods and results. You will complete most of the work for these assignments using statistical software in tutorials. You will receive the assignment instructions two weeks before their due dates.

Students are strongly advised to save rough and draft work and hard copies of their assignments *before handing them in.* These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned.

The assignments are not a group activity. Students are expected to complete assignments on their own. ***Consult the "policy on collaborative work" located in the Policy and Procedures section of this document.***

Tutorial Attendance (5%): Students are expected to attend all tutorials. Students will be given 0.5% for each full tutorial attended.

Policies and Procedures

Late Penalties: Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. ***All assignments not submitted by the due date will be considered late.*** Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day thereafter. Assignments that are more than two weeks past the due date will not be accepted.

No extensions on assignments will be granted after their due dates. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

Sharing Course Materials: Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Collaborative Work: Two or more students are not permitted to submit the same work for evaluation. ***Submitting the same assignment as another student will be considered plagiarism.***

If you have any questions regarding collaboration or plagiarism in relation to assignments and exams please see the instructor.

E-mail: Students may e-mail the instructor with **procedural** queries not addressed in this document. Substantive queries related to the course material should be raised in office hours or with TAs, not via e-mail.

Schedule*

Date	Lecture Topic	Assigned Reading**	Tutorial Topic
January 11	Introduction	-	-
January 18	Variables and Measurement	Chapters 2-3	Lab 1: Datasets and Recoding
January 25	Descriptive Statistics	Chapters 5-7	Lab 2: Descriptive Statistics
February 1	Statistical Significance I	Chapters 9-10	
February 8	Statistical Significance II	Chapter 11	Lab 3: Statistical Significance
February 15	Bivariate Relationships I: Nominal Variables	Chapter 12	Lab 4: Cross-tabulations
February 22	READING WEEK (NO CLASS)	-	-
March 1	Midterm Test	-	-
March 8	Bivariate Relationships II: Ordinal Variables	Chapter 13	Lab 4: Cross-tabulations
March 15	Bivariate Relationships III: Interval Variables	Chapter 14	
March 22	Multivariate Relationships and Regression I	Chapter 16	Lab 5: Regression
March 29	Regression II	Chapter 18	
April 5	Course Review	-	

*Empty cells (" - ") indicate no assigned reading or no tutorials
**Links to additional, short readings from the popular press will be posted on cuLearn

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course

and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/
or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.