

PSCI 2702A
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Tuesday, Thursday 18:05 - 20:55
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Read this syllabus carefully. This syllabus stipulates class and university policies. Exemptions from these policies are almost never granted.

Instructor:

Mikhail Zherebtsov
A637 Loeb Building
Tel: 613-520-2600 x 1421
Email: mzherebt@connect.carleton.ca

Office Hours:

Tuesday 17.00 – 18.00,
Thursday 17.00 – 18.00

Note. You should try to communicate with the instructor in class, office hours or through electronic mail. The instructor cannot guarantee immediate response to emails, but is usually able to respond within 48 hours. Email communications must be via your Carleton Connect account unless you are told otherwise.

Course Description

The primary objective of the course is to provide students with the practical skills to work with quantitative data and to report the results of the empirical analysis. In order to achieve this goal, students will be engaged in developing their own research projects. These projects will include all major stages of the empirical research design. Students will have an opportunity to practice collecting data and assembling datasets using particular statistics software. Students are expected to develop their own hypotheses and apply selected statistical techniques to test them. Lectures are aimed to assist in the selection of proper statistical techniques, and tutorials are aimed to improve practical skills to apply them. As far as modern quantitative analysis is assisted by various computer software programs, this course will provide theoretical knowledge of and practical skills in using parts of the 'Statistical Package for the Social Sciences' (SPSS) computer program.

The course begins with questions about the role of quantitative empirical research in political science. The initial review will include questions of formal principles and basic concepts of empirical methodology. Then the course proceeds to cover various statistical techniques of analysis. The techniques are grouped in four general clusters:

- 1) Descriptive statistics, that help to summarize, organize and present data;
- 2) Statistical graphics, that are used to visualize quantitative data;
- 3) Inferential & test statistics, that are used to test hypotheses and explain large populations by drawing inferences from samples;
- 4) Correlation & regression analysis.

By the end of the course students should be able:

- to describe and apply principles of research design and methodology, including systematic data gathering;
- to use competently parts of the SPSS statistical software;
- to apply a number of statistical techniques for the analysis of quantitative political data;
- to interpret, discuss and present statistical information on the language as it is used in the study of political science.

Note. This course is aimed to provide practical skills in quantitative research methods. It is a political science, not a math course – you do not require any advanced mathematics training to do well. However, you do need to be able to think systematically through problems and concepts.

Texts

Required

- ❖ Field, Andy (2009). *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*, 3rd edition. London: Sage Publications

Recommended

- ❖ Healey, Joseph H. (2009). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. 8th edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson

The required textbook (Field) should be available for purchase in the Carleton University Bookstore. The book by Joseph Healey and the 2nd edition of Andy Field's textbook are available in Carleton University Library as well (lib-use only). Additional readings that will facilitate coping with the material covered in the required textbooks may be provided throughout the course.

Students may also wish to purchase the student version of the SPSS software. It also should be available in the University Bookstore. *Note.* Computer labs around the university campus are equipped with the up-to-date version of the SPSS that is used in the course; therefore there is no direct need to purchase the software.

Course Format

The course will have two 3-hour classes per week (see the schedule attached for dates and topics). Lectures will cover the most important topics related to the quantitative research project. Upon progression in the course, part of the class will be spent in a computer lab. Computer lab will give students an opportunity to apply the course material covered in the lectures and readings, and to familiarize themselves with SPSS in order to complete assignments and prepare term-papers.

In order to do well in this course, it is necessary (but not sufficient) to attend classes and tutorials regularly, and keep up with the readings. The material is cumulative and will be

presented in a logical sequence. Missing classes or labs may result in difficulty with subsequent material.

Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on the results of your performance throughout the course. The components of the grade are*:

<u>Grading Device</u>	<u>% of Total Course Grade</u>
✓ Lab assignments	25 % (5 assignments 5% each)
✓ 2 in-class quizzes	40 % (2 quizzes 20% each)
✓ Research report	35 % - due August 12

(*) Please confirm the Course Schedule part of this outline for the due dates.

All components (e.g. lab assignments, in-class quizzes, and the research report) are mandatory for students to receive credit for the course. Lab work is based mostly on SPSS exercises and interpretation of data generated through the data analysis program. Lab assignments are due on a weekly basis and are based on the material that was covered in two lectures from the previous week. The questions for the lab assignments will be posted on WebCT at least one week ahead of the due date. Assignments should be in a typewritten form and handed to the course instructor directly in class. Additional instructions about completing specific assignments will be announced in the lectures and will be posted on WebCT. In-class quizzes are aimed at assessing students' understanding of the substantial aspects of statistical techniques presented in the lectures preceding to the quiz. The research report assignment should take the form of an essay. It should be 12-18 pages long (excluding Appendices). Text should be double-spaced (except for indented quotes, footnotes and the bibliography) and the font used should be standard, i.e. Times New Roman, 12pt. The choice of topic is relatively open. However, all papers should be related to the framework of conducting the research projects that will be discussed in the lectures and incorporate statistical analysis to address specific issues and/or questions. Detailed instructions and grading guidelines for assignments will be distributed via WebCT.

Early feedback on student progress will be provided by July 27th and will include grades for two lab assignments and the first quiz. All grades will be posted on WebCT and assignments can be picked up in the class (one week after they were submitted) or during instructor's (or teaching assistants', if applicable) office hours.

Policy on Late Assignments: the *lab assignments* are due in regularly scheduled classes. They will not be accepted late. Failure to submit them on time, without a doctor's written note that the student was unable to show up in the class and do the work will result in a mark of zero. Assignments received after the end of tutorial on the due date will be

considered late. Assignments placed in the department’s Drop Box on the due date will also be considered late. If you need to use the Drop Box, you must submit your assignment at least one day *before* the due date in order to avoid the late penalty. Late penalties shall be assessed on a daily basis, including weekends.

The *research report* is due in the last class of the course. Any research report submitted after that day will be considered late. **Please be advised that there is one letter grade per day penalty for the late submission of papers.** [ex., a B+ paper submitted 2 days after the due date will be reduced to a B-]. Weekend submissions will be counted as three days late, as a consequence. Extensions will not be granted except on medical grounds, with appropriate documentation.

Policy on Collaborative Work: Students are encouraged to participate in discussions about the nature of the course research project and appropriateness of various statistical techniques. However, given the nature of assignments in this course (where all students work with the same data sets, and answer the same sets of questions), there may be ample opportunity to copy the work of fellow students. Discussing assignments with your colleagues is encouraged, but students are not permitted to submit the same work for evaluation. Therefore, those who copy and those who share their work will both be considered guilty of academic dishonesty. Any written assignments deemed by the instructor to be too similar will be given a grade of 0. Therefore, to prevent the possibility of getting a zero, please:

- DO NOT collaborate with other students when writing your assignments;
- DO NOT share your written work with anyone else;
- DO NOT ask someone else to print your assignment;
- DO NOT ask someone else to hand in your assignment.

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

Course Schedule

Week	Topics & Readings	Assignments & quizzes
July 6	Introduction to the course & SPSS environment <i>Field, Andy – Chapter 3</i>	
July 8	Quantitative methods in Political Science: basic principles and concepts <i>Field, Andy – Chapter 1</i>	
July 13	The Basics of Descriptive Statistics <i>Field, A. – Chapters 2 & 5.</i> <i>*Healy, J. – Chapters 2, 3, 4.</i>	Assignment #1 due

July 15	Statistical Graphics <i>Field, A. – Chapter 4.</i>	
July 20	Intro to Inferential Statistics (samples and sampling) <i>Healy, J. – Chapters 5, 6, 7.</i> <i>*Field, A. – Chapter 2 (pp. 40 – 51)</i>	Assignment #2 due
July 22	Correlation <i>Field, A - Chapter 6</i>	1 st in-class quiz
July 27	Regression Analysis I (basics & bi-variate) <i>Field, A - Chapter 7, pp. 197-209</i>	Assignment #3 due
July 29	Regression Analysis II (multivariate) <i>Field, A - Chapter 7 pp. 209 – 263</i>	
August 3	Hypothesis testing: comparing two means <i>Field, A - Chapter 9</i> <i>Healy, J. – Chapters 8 & 9</i>	Assignment #4 due
August 5	Comparing several means (ANOVA) <i>Field, A - Chapter 10</i> <i>*Healey, J. – Chapter 10</i>	2 nd in-class quiz
August 10	Analyzing Categorical Data <i>Field, A - Chapter 18</i> <i>*Healey, J. – Chapters 13 & 14</i>	Assignment #5 due
August 12	Conclusive remarks	Term-paper due in class

Note. Readings marked with (*) are considered supplementary and recommended. In all other cases readings are required.

Academic Resources

If A Student Needs Assistance With...	Refer To...	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ understanding academic rules and regulations ⊙ choosing or changing their major ⊙ finding a tutor ⊙ academic planning guided by an Academic Advisor ⊙ polishing study skills 	Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)	302 Tory Building 520-7850 www.carleton.ca/sasc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ a learning disability 	Paul Menton Centre	500 University Centre 520-6608; www.carleton.ca/pmc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ developing writing skills 	Writing Tutorial Service	229 Paterson Hall 520-6632; www.carleton.ca/wts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ assistance with math 	Math Tutorial	www.math.carleton.ca/student

© polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only)	International Student Advisory	501 University Centre 520-6600; www.carleton.ca/isa
© research assistance	Staff at MacOdrum Library reference desk	520-2735 www.library.carleton.ca
© statistics/SPSS assistance (by appointment only)	Data Centre, MacOdrum Library	Statistical Consultant 520-2600 x 2619

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **June 11 2010 for early summer examinations and July 30 2010 for late summer examinations.**

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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.