

PSCI 2702B
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Wednesday, 6:05 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Owen Temby
Office: C660 Loeb Building
Office Hours: Mondays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Phone: 520-2600, ext 1424
Email: WebCT

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are twofold. First, the course aims to give students an appreciation of the role of statistics in empirical political science research. Second, the course aims to teach students to understand and use some basic statistical methods, both in their own research and in critically reading the research of others in the field.

Some of the techniques to be addressed include:

- a. Descriptive statistics, which are used to help summarize, organize and describe data;
- b. Inferential statistics, which allow us to make generalizations about larger populations by using information from a subset sample (e.g., such as in public opinion polling);
- c. Measures of association, that tell us about relationships between two or more variables or phenomena (e.g., does age influence a person's likelihood of voting or does gender influence a person's political party choice?).

We will examine and apply these techniques in lectures, readings and labs. Lectures will draw upon the assigned readings and introduce examples of research from the field; labs will introduce students to SPSS – a statistical analysis program – in manipulating Canadian federal elections data.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- To describe and apply principles of research design and methodology, including systematic data gathering and analysis;
- To become familiar with and apply a number of statistical techniques for the analysis of social and political data;
- To competently interpret and critically analyze basic statistical information and language as it is used in the study of political science.

Please note that this is *not* a math course – you do not require any advanced mathematics training to do well. You *do* need to be able to think systematically through problems and concepts. In order to do well in this course, it is necessary (but not sufficient) to attend classes and tutorials regularly, and keep up with readings. The material is cumulative and will be presented in a logical sequence. Missing classes or labs may result in difficulty with subsequent material.

COURSE FORMAT

The course will have one two-hour lecture per week, and nine one-hour labs. See attached schedule for dates and topics.

Computer labs will give students an opportunity to apply course material covered in the preceding week's lectures and readings, and to familiarize themselves with SPSS in order to complete assignments. Lab sessions will be held in the computer labs assigned to each section. Changing your lab section requires the permission of your TA *and* the TA whose lab you wish to attend.

Course email policy: All email correspondence regarding the course is to occur through WebCT email and not through any other means. Students are strongly discouraged from emailing the instructor at his Carleton connect account, gmail account, or adding him to Facebook.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only) 	International Student Advisory	501 University Centre 520-6600; www.carleton.ca/isa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> research assistance 	Staff at MacOdrum Library reference desk	520-2735 www.library.carleton.ca
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> statistics/SPSS assistance (by appointment only) 	Data Centre, MacOdrum Library	Statistical Consultant 520-2600 x 2619

PASS PROGRAM

This year, the Student Academic Success Centre will be running Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) for this course. PASS is a series of weekly study sessions for students taking PSCI 2702A and 2702B. PASS is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of course material and improve their grades. Attendance is free, voluntary and anonymous, and sessions are facilitated by former students of 2702. More information about these sessions will be made available in class, and can also be obtained at the PASS website or by email at: pass@carleton.ca

COURSE TEXTS

The following required textbook is available through [Haven Books](#) located at 43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), Ottawa.

- Joseph F. Healey (2007). *The Essentials of Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. Toronto: Thomson
 - Note: this text can also be purchased as a bundle with SPSS Student Version software.

EVALUATION.

Assessments and evaluation of student learning will be done using written assignments and two exams that require students to apply the concepts and statistical techniques taught in the course. The following table provides a breakdown of the weighting and due dates of assignments and the exam:

Item:	Due Dates:	Marks:
Labs (9 @ 5% each)	See schedule below	45%
Midterm Exam	February 11	10%
Essay Assignment	April 1	20%
Final Exam	Final Exam Period	25%
Total:		100%

Labs, essay assignments and the final exam are mandatory for students to receive credit for the course. Lab work is based on SPSS exercises and interpretation of data generated through the data analysis program. Essay Assignments will take the form of short essays (8-10 pages) which require students incorporate statistical analysis to address specific issues and/or questions. Detailed instructions and grading guidelines for assignments will be distributed via WebCT. Every effort will be made to grade and return labs within 1 week and assignments within 2 weeks of their due dates. Grades will be posted on WebCT and assignments can be picked up during TA office hours. The final exam will be cumulative and include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Policy on Late Essay Assignments: Essay assignments are due in regularly scheduled classes. Assignments received after the end of class 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. Extensions will not be granted except on medical grounds, with appropriate documentation. Please note, computer problems or lost data are not valid grounds for extensions.

Policy on Late Lab Assignments: Lab assignments are due in your regularly scheduled lab/tutorial. They are to be handed in to your TA, and will not be accepted late or early.

Policy on Grade Reviews and Appeals: Students are welcome to request a review of a grade on an assignment or exam. This request must be accompanied on a written explanation of why the original grade should be changed.

Policy on Extra Credit and Final Exam re-sittings: The instructor will not offer a re-sit for the Final Exam. If a student has a legitimate excuse or a medical emergency, the student must petition the registrar to re-sit the exam. The instructor will also not offer extra credit work or adjust the weight given to the essays or the exams for individuals or for the class as a whole.

Policy on Collaborative Work: 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.

Lecture Topics and Schedule

The course is organized to enable flexibility in covering the course material. The proposed schedule is to serve as a tentative guide only. Some changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Week	Topics and Readings	Lab and Assignment
Jan 7	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 1 	none
Jan 14	Descriptive Statistics I: Basic Descriptive Statistics and Measures of Central Tendency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapters 2 and 3 	Lab #1
Jan 21	Descriptive Statistics II: Measures of Dispersion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 4 	Lab #2 Assignment #1 due
Jan 28	Probability and the Normal Curve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 5 	Lab #3 Assignment #2 due
Feb 4	Inferential Statistics I: Sampling Distribution, Estimation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 6 	Lab #4 Assignment #3 due
Feb 11	Inferential Statistics II: One Sample Hypothesis Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 7 	Lab #5 Assignment #4 due
Feb 18	Winter break – no class	
Feb 25	Inferential Statistics III: Two Sample Hypothesis Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 8 	Lab #6 Assignment #5 due
Mar 4	Inferential Statistics IV: Analysis of Variance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 9 	Lab #7 Assignment #6 due
Mar 11	Inferential Statistics V: The Chi-square <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 10 	Lab #8 Assignment #7 due
Mar 18	Measures of Association I: Nominal Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 11 	Lab #9 Assignment #8 due
Mar 25	Measures of Association II: Ordinal Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 12 	no lab--TA consultation on essay Assignment #9 due in TA's office
Apr 1	Measures of Association III: Interval-Ratio Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healey, Chapter 13 	no lab essay assignment due in class

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 letter of 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 **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 for April 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. The Department’s Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

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: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. 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: The Department of Political Science only communicates with students via Connect accounts. 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.