

## **PSCI 2702 (Section A)** **Quantitative Research Methods in Political Science**

Tuesdays 10:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor:** Steve White  
**Office:** Loeb D696  
**Office Hours:** Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Oxford University Press. (Available at the Carleton University Bookstore, University Centre, TEL: 613-520-2600, ext. 3862, EMAIL: 0936mgr@follett.com)

All additional course material will be posted on cuLearn.

## Evaluation

### Overview

Assignment	% Final Grade	Due Date (if applicable)
Dataset assignment	10%	January 22 (submitted on cuLearn)
Data analysis assignment: descriptive statistics	10%	February 6 (submitted on cuLearn)
Quiz 1	2.5%	Administered on cuLearn February 10-12
Midterm test	20%	February 25 (in class)
Quiz 2	2.5%	Administered on cuLearn March 16-18
Data analysis assignment: cross-tabulation OR correlation	15%	April 3 (submitted on cuLearn)
Final examination	35%	In the University's Examination Period
Tutorial attendance	5%	Throughout the course

### Examinations

**Midterm test (20%):** The midterm test will take place in class on February 25, and will cover all assigned readings and lectures up to and including the February 11 class.

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.

### 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. Assignment instructions and rubrics will be posted on cuLearn.

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.

**Quizzes (5%):** Two short, multiple choice quizzes (2.5% each) will be conducted on cuLearn. Students will have a period of 72 hours to take each quiz. Students will have 15 minutes from the time they begin to complete the quiz and submit their responses.

**Worksheets (no credit):** Students will be provided problem worksheets to allow them to practice the application of concepts and methods learned in the course. Students will work through these in tutorials, and on their own time. These worksheets prepare students for the midterm test and final examination.

## **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 5% per day thereafter, with a maximum late penalty of up to 25%. 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.

**Accommodations:** Students requiring accommodations other than those outlined in the “Academic Accommodations” section of this document should speak with the instructor in the **first week** of the course.

**Appeals:** A grade appeal form will be provided on cuLearn. Students who wish to appeal a grade should fill out the form and submit it to their teaching assistant within one week of receiving the grade. If a student is not satisfied with the response to their appeal, they should resubmit the appeal to the course instructor.

**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).

**Recording Lectures:** Students are not permitted to record lectures or tutorials without the consent of the instructor.

**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 7	Introduction	-	-
January 14	Variables and Measurement	Chapters 1 & 2	Lab 1: Datasets
January 21	Descriptive Statistics I	Chapters 3 & 4	Lab 1: Datasets (cont'd)
January 28	Descriptive Statistics II	Chapters 5-7	Lab 2: Descriptive Statistics
February 4	Statistical Significance I	Chapters 8 & 9	Worksheet 1
February 11	Statistical Significance II	Chapters 10 & 11	Worksheet 2
February 18	READING WEEK (NO CLASS)	-	-
February 25	Midterm Test	-	-
March 3	Bivariate Relationships I: Cross-tabulation	Chapter 12	Lab 4: Cross-tabulations
March 10	Bivariate Relationships II: Measures of Association	Chapter 13	Worksheet 3
March 17	Bivariate Relationships III: Interval Variables	Chapter 14	Lab 5: Correlation
March 24	Regression I: Multivariate Relationships	Chapter 16	Worksheet 4
March 31	Regression II: Diagnostics	Chapter 18	Course Review
April 7	No lecture	-	-

\*Empty cells (" - ") indicate no assigned reading or no tutorials

\*\*Chapters in the Haan and Godley text.

## Academic Accommodations

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### Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

#### Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

## **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

## **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

## **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

## **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:

Percent age	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percent age	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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

### Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.