

POLITICAL SCIENCE 201
Spring Semester 2007
Hall of the States
Tues 6:30-8:30

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The purpose of this course is to provide a graduate level introduction to political analysis. During the course of the semester we will cover philosophy of science, research design, measurement and data collection, and introductory descriptive and inferential statistics. In terms of the statistical component, no formal mathematics training beyond high school algebra is expected.

There are two texts available in the GW bookstore:

Russell K. Schutt, Investigating the Social World
Herbert Asher, Polling and the Public

Additional readings will be distributed in class.

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

40% Exam I
40% Exam II
20% Homework Assignments

The exams will be in-class, closed book exams. Both exams will consist of two parts. Part one will be short answer definitions and discussion questions. Part two will consist of computational exercises. You may use one page of formulae and/or notes for part two of both exams. The second exam will not be cumulative. I will distribute study guides before each exam.

Homework assignments will include simple exercises applying the concepts we discuss in class.

CLASS POLICIES

While I do not take attendance, I operate on the assumption that you have heard all announcements made in class with respect to assignments and/or changes in schedule.

Class attendance and participation will be taken into account in determining final grades “on the margin.” You do not need to contact me if you will not be in class. You do need to contact a classmate for class notes, handouts, and announcements.

I do not give extra credit assignments.

Each assignment will have a specified due date. No assignment will be accepted for credit if it is submitted more than one week late except in the event of extenuating circumstances. **Please do not send assignments as e-mail attachments.**

You will need an inexpensive calculator for the mid term and the final exams. You may not use your cell phone, an IPOD, or a PDA on the exams. Also, cell phones must be turned off in class.

I expect you will complete your own original work for this class. Do not submit for credit any work completed by another individual or submitted for credit in another class. All examinations and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity.

If you are having a problem with either the readings or the class assignments please inform me when the problem arises, i.e., do not wait until the day of the exam. My office and home phone numbers and my E-mail address are at the top of the syllabus. Please feel free to contact me when the need arises. (Please do not call my home number after 10:00 pm).

In the event of inclement weather on any Tuesday during the semester, please contact me before coming to campus

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE OUTLINE

Note: The Schutt readings correspond to edition 5.

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|---------|---|
| Jan. 16 | Introduction
Brief Overview
Science as Method |
| Jan. 23 | Issues in Logic
Conceptual Foundations of Research
Measurement

Schutt: Chapters 1, 3, and 4 |
| Jan. 30 | Sampling

Schutt: Chapter 5
Asher Chapter 4 |
| Feb. 6 | Generalization and Explanation: Experimental Correlational and Quasi-experimental Designs

Ansolabehere, et. al., "Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate?" <i>American Political Science Review</i> 88/4: 829-838
Schutt: Chapters 6 and 7 |
| Feb.13 | Univariate Descriptive Statistics
Standard Normal Curve

Schutt: Chapter 14, pages 441-465
Blalock: <u>Social Statistics</u> , Chapter 7 |
| Feb. 20 | Bivariate Description: Contingency Tables for Nominal and Ordinal Variables

Schutt: Chapter 14, pages 466-473
White: <u>Political Analysis</u> , Chapter 11 pages 305-324 |
| Feb 27 | Review for Exam I |

- Mar 6 Exam I (will cover material through Feb 13)
- Mar 13 Spring Break
Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- Mar 20 Bivariate Description: Linear Regression
Multivariate Analysis
Statistical Inference
- White: Political Analysis, Chapter 11
pages 324-332
Blalock: Social Statistics, Chapter 8
White: Political Analysis, Chapter 12
Schutt: Chapter 14, pages 474-483
- Mar 27 Complete Inference
Confidence Intervals
- Apr. 3 Survey Research: Mechanics of Public Opinion Polling, Polling
and the Democratic Process
- Schutt: Chapter 8
Asher: Entire
- Apr. 10 Complete Polling
Secondary Analysis, Focus Groups, Content Analysis, Ethics in
Research
- Schutt: Chapter 13
- Apr. 17 Review for final
- Apr. 24 Exam II (Tentative date)